

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Navy will keep hospital ships despite talk of scrapping one

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Navy now says it will retain both of its hospital ships following objections from legislators after the service discussed decommissioning one of the 1,000-patient vessels earlier this year.

Created to serve as floating hospitals during times of war, the USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort are devoted during peacetime to humanitarian efforts such as the Mercy's biennial Pacific Partnership mission and the Comfort's deployment to Puerto Rico after last year's Hurricane Maria. They are the largest hospital ships of any military in the world.

But the Mercy and Comfort are aging. Navy leaders floated the idea of cutting one to save money but encountered resistance at a March hearing before the House Armed Services Committee.

"While the Chinese are making a strategic shift to not just pay off the leadership of countries but to provide services to the citizens of the countries, for the U.S. to pull back on that soft power side, I think it's just a strategic mistake for us," Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., said at the hearing, referencing recent humanitarian work in Africa by China's hospital ship, Peace Ark.

The Navy now says it will keep its hospital ships in service — and even plans to make about \$6.4 million in improvements to the Mercy, according to a fiscal year 2019 budget submission.

"At this time, USNS Mercy

and USNS Comfort are not scheduled for deactivation," Navy spokeswoman Lt. Lauren Chatmas told Stars and Stripes on Thursday. "The (proposed FY 2019) budget includes plans to extend the service life of USNS Mercy."

While the ships are safe for now, the Navy is still looking at ways to better serve patients while taking into consideration its modern warfare techniques, Vice Adm. Bill Merz, deputy chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems, told legislators during a House Armed Services hearing in April.

"We have made plans to do a service life extension of both ships ... " he said. "The problem with those ships is, there's only two of them and they're big, and we're moving to a more distributed maritime operations construct."

To consider their options, the Navy commissioned a "requirements evaluation team" this past spring. Merz said at the April hearing that one of the requirements under consideration was mandating the ships to support V-22 Ospreys, which can accommodate nearly 20 more seated passengers than an SH-60 Seahawk.

"There's no lack of commitment," he said during the hearing. "As a matter of fact, we're taking a look at the capabilities and whether they are in line with the way we plan to fight our future battles."

Discussions have varied on how to fill the new requirements, including whether the Navy should employ several smaller hospital ships instead of — or in conjunction with — the two large ships, Rep. Rob

Wittman, R-Ga., said at the hearing.

Capt. Lynelle Boamah, the Mercy's executive officer, told Stars and Stripes during the ship's recent visit to Yokosuka that the flight deck will be modified to support tilt-rotor Osprey aircraft by 2020.

The Mercy now deploys with two SH-60 Seahawks helicopters, but the changes would allow the ship to welcome two Ospreys on board instead.

"[The flight deck] will be restructured — lengthened — and prepared to receive the Osprey helicopter," Boamah said. "We are really looking forward to that because it's really going to increase our capability and capacity to do even more good for the warfighter and also in support of citizens from the host nations that we would service."

The Mercy finished the last of its five-country Pacific Partnership 2018 port calls last week in Japan, where it hosted citizens for ship tours and conducted professional exchanges with members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. It was the first time the vessel had visited the country in its more than three decades of service.

The Mercy will next participate in the multinational Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii before returning to its San Diego homeport.

It is unclear when the ship will undergo its planned service-life extension. The USNS Comfort remains at its Norfolk, Va., homeport in reduced operating status.

Space Force inspires wave of military jokes, memes

BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — President Donald Trump's plans for a Space Force have spawned a healthy crop of online jokes and memes about the futuristic service branch.

Someone created a photo of the starship USS Enterprise under construction at a Boeing factory. Another joker speculated that there won't be physical training for space troops because it's impossible to be overweight in zero gravity.

Many of the Space Force jokes contain nuggets of truth about life in today's military.

One meme shows an airman checking identification cards in front of a "Stargate." A humorous "Space Force Creed" mimics the Air Force Creed but includes quotes from science fiction movies, and a mock space rank structure looks like it's also inspired by the Air Force.

"I've seen lots of funny Space Force memes," said Air Force Staff Sgt. David Garza, an information technology specialist at the American Forces Network, as he waited at the exchange on Yokota Air Base, Japan.

"My favorite was an expectations versus reality where the expectation was a scene from 'Halo: ODST' (a popular video game featuring troops who sky-dive into battle from orbit) and the reality just showed Zapp Brannigan (the incompetent cartoon starship commander from 'Futurama')," he said.

Military personnel have a history of making fun of each other's service branches, and service-related memes have populated social media for years. It appears that the Space Force will be no different.

Navy makes parental leave more flexible

BY WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

Navy couples will now decide which parent gets primary caregiver leave under a new parental and adoption leave policy.

The rules announced Thursday allow six weeks of maternity convalescent leave for sailors giving birth, beginning after they leave the hospital, along with six weeks leave for the primary caregiver. Secondary caregiver leave has risen from 10 to 14 days, according to a Navy statement.

Birth mothers received a block of 12 weeks maternity leave prior to the change.

The policy consolidates adoption, paternity and maternity leave into a Military Parental Leave Program planned for future release.

All leave periods are nonchargeable and must be used all at once within the first year

of a birth or adoption, according to a Navy statement.

Sailors on or within three months of an operational deployment can defer their leave period until after the deployment. Deployed time will not be counted against them for the one-year expiration date, the statement said.

Commanding officers can authorize sailors to take parental leave while deployed for extenuating circumstances and where operational requirements may allow.

All active-duty sailors, reserve sailors in active-duty assignments or mobilized for more than 12 continuous months and parents of a qualifying birth or adoption on or after Dec. 23, 2016, can utilize the new leave rules.

In 2016, then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced a Defense Department-wide 12-week maternity leave policy.

The Air Force and Marines updated their policies earlier this month, while the Army last updated its policy in 2016.

Soldiers can receive up to a total 12 weeks of maternity leave, more than double the previous policy, and birth mothers become nondeployable for six months. Secondary caregivers are still allowed only 10 days of nonchargeable administrative leave.

Airmen had their maternity leave cut in half from 12 to six weeks, but are now allotted an additional six weeks of leave for the primary caregiver and three weeks for the secondary caregiver.

Marines also had their maternity leave reduced from 12 to six weeks but gained six weeks of primary caregiver leave, which they can delay for up to a year. Secondary caregivers received an increase from 10 to 14 days.

GAO urges study on retiring pilots

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The military needs to get a better handle on why pilots are leaving the military and how many are leaving for jobs with commercial airlines, a new Government Accountability Office report said.

The report, which was released Thursday, comes as the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the Navy grapple with a pilot shortage, especially in the fighter-pilot community, where there are shortages of up to 27 percent, according to the GAO.

The GAO found the Air Force, the Navy and the Marine Corps monitor pilot retention through loss rates, but they don't track how many pilots leave the military for the airlines, a shortcoming that could hinder pilot retention if the services pursue the wrong incentives for pilots to remain on duty.

The Defense Department lacks "data to understand the full range of pilots' post-service career preferences," the report said, despite requesting increases to aviation retention bonuses to be more competitive with the airlines. "This limits DOD's ability to more fully understand pilots' decisions to remain in or leave the military," the report concluded.

DOD officials told the GAO "that there is an assumption that military pilots join the mainline airlines, but there is no data to support it."

The report focused on pilots of fixed-wing aircraft. The Army was not included because its fixed-wing positions make up less

than 7 percent of its aviation force, according to the GAO.

A 2016 Rand Corp. study on Air Force pilot retention identified a correlation between major airline hiring and active-duty Air Force pilot separations from 1996 to 2013, according to the report. Rand wasn't able to get data on officers who become pilots for large airlines, what aircraft they flew and how long they remained on active duty because that information is not routinely collected, the GAO said.

Jeff Myer, 47, a former Air Force pilot who retired as a lieutenant colonel, has been flying for United Airlines for four years. He said in an interview Friday that no one from the Air Force followed up with him about his post-service career plans.

"In my case, when you put in the retirement paperwork, the Air Force ... says, 'Thank you for your service,' but at that point, they're worried about the folks that are on active duty, and understandably so," said Myer, who flew the C-141 and KC-135.

"There was never a follow-up, 'Hey, what are you doing in your after-life? Did you go to the business (world) or did you go to the airlines?'"

After 22 years of service, Myer said, he had met his goals with the Air Force and wanted to keep flying instead of moving into another staff job. "If the opportunity had been presented to me (to keep flying), I probably would have given it strong consideration to stay on" and retire as a colonel, he said.

Lasers target US flights over the East China Sea

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — U.S. Indo-Pacific Command is confirming that its aviators are employing required eye protection after aircraft flying over the East China Sea have been targeted by high-powered lasers multiple times since last summer.

"The units fly with laser eye protection," said Maj. Cassandra Gesecki, a spokesperson for INDOPACOM in Honolulu. "So right now, we're just doing an assessment that they have all the equipment they need to protect themselves." Gesecki confirmed crews have been targeted more than 20 times in the region by lasers.

The laser beams have originated from both shore and fishing vessels, but exactly who is responsible for the actions, which can temporarily blind aviators and endanger flights, has not been conclusively determined, she said.

Gesecki confirmed the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Army all operate aircraft in the East China Sea, but declined to specify what types of aircraft were targeted.

Standard operating procedures for flying in the vicinity of the sea have not been altered as a result of the laser incidents, she added.

Recent media reports citing unnamed U.S. sources indicate the lasers were controlled by the Chinese. China's Foreign Ministry called the allegations "untrue."

White House press secretary asked to leave restaurant

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was booted from a Virginia restaurant because she works for President Donald Trump, setting off a fierce debate about whether politics should play a role in how administration officials are treated in public.

Sanders tweeted that she was told by the owner of the Red Hen in Lexington, Va., that she had to “leave because I work for @POTUS and I politely left.” She said the episode Friday evening said far more about the owner of the restaurant than it did about her.

“I always do my best to treat people, including those I disagree with, respectfully and will continue to do so,” Sanders said in the tweet from her official account, which generated 22,000 replies in about an hour.

The restaurant’s co-owner Stephanie Wilkinson told The Washington Post that her staff had called her to report Sanders was in the restaurant. She cited several reasons, including the concerns of several restaurant employees who were gay and knew Sanders had defended Trump’s desire to bar transgender people from the military.

“Tell me what you want me to do. I can ask her to leave,” Wilkinson told her staff, she said. “They said, ‘Yes.’”

Wilkinson said that she talked to Sanders privately and that Sanders’ response was immediate: “That’s fine. I’ll go.”

Employees at the restaurant told The Associated Press that Wilkinson wasn’t available for further comment.

In Nevada, Trump hypes tough immigration stance

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Eager to keep the Republican Party in control of the Senate, President Donald Trump pressed his tough anti-illegal immigration stance before supporters Saturday, saying “we have to be very strong” as he sought to help boost the candidacy of a onetime critic.

Trump was in Las Vegas to assist Sen. Dean Heller, the only Republican U.S. senator seeking re-election in a state that Democrat Hillary Clinton won in 2016. Trump and Heller have papered over their once-prickly relationship to present a united front in their shared goal of helping Republicans maintain, if not expand, their 51-49 majority in the Senate in November’s congressional elections.

Heller was among the officials waiting on the sweltering airport tarmac to greet Trump.

In remarks to several hundred often-cheering attendees at the Nevada GOP Convention, Trump portrayed himself as the toughest against illegal immigration, saying at one point, “I think I got elected largely because we are strong on the border.”

But he excluded any mention of the fact that a massive public outcry, including from members of his own family, forced him to reverse course last week and to end the practice of separating children from families after they illegally cross the southern border into the U.S.

“On immigration, we have to be very

strong,” Trump said, saying the immigration problem should have been solved years ago and blaming Democrats for causing it. “The fact is we need more Republicans because the Democrats are obstructionists.”

Trump said Republicans are for “strong borders, no crime” and called it a winning issue for the party. He alleged that Democrats are for “open borders and MS-13 all over our country,” referring to the violent street gang, adding that stance is a losing issue for the opposition.

Trump praised Heller for voting to cut taxes, and said U.S. Rep. Jacky Rosen, Heller’s Democratic opponent, would vote to raise them.

The president noted that Rosen was in Reno with Democratic U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren for the state Democratic Party convention. He again referred to Warren as “Pocahontas” to ridicule her claims of Native American ancestry. “Wacky Jacky is campaigning with Pocahontas. Do you believe this?” Trump said.

Rosen responded quickly, first on Twitter, then saying in a statement that Trump’s visit was Heller’s “reward” for his loyalty to Trump.

“The President is attacking me with lies and petty insults because I’m not afraid to stand up to him,” she said. “Dean Heller has been a rubber stamp for Donald Trump in Washington, caving to the President’s divisive agenda at Nevada’s expense.”

Congress gets new documents on Russia probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department said it has given House Republicans new classified information related to the Russia investigation after lawmakers had threatened to hold officials in contempt of Congress or even impeach them.

A spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Saturday that the department has partially complied with subpoenas from the House Intelligence and Judiciary committees after officials turned over more than a thousand new documents last week. House Republicans had given the Justice Department and FBI a Friday deadline for all documents, most of which are related to the origins of the FBI’s Russia investigation and the han-

dling of its probe into Democrat Hillary Clinton’s emails. Ryan spokeswoman Ashlee Strong said the department asked for more time and they will get it — for now.

“Our efforts have resulted in the committees finally getting access to information that was sought months ago, but some important requests remain to be completed,” Strong said in a statement Saturday. “Additional time has been requested for the outstanding items, and based on our understanding of the process we believe that request is reasonable. We expect the department to meet its full obligations to the two committees.”

The efforts by the Justice Department during the past week to deliver documents to the House Republicans appear to have

defused at least temporarily a monthslong standoff with Congress. Democrats have criticized the multiple document requests, charging that they are intended to discredit the department and to distract from or even undermine special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into the Trump campaign’s Russia ties and whether there was obstruction of justice.

In a letter sent to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., late Friday, the Justice Department said it had provided a classified letter to his panel that day regarding whether the FBI used “confidential human sources” before it officially began its Russia investigation in 2016.

Trump hinders GOP on immigration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican apprehension over President Donald Trump's next tweet and fear of riling conservative voters is undermining GOP leaders' election-year struggle to shove an immigration bill through the House this week, leaving their prospects dubious.

Party leaders are trying to finally secure the votes they need for their wide-ranging bill with tweaks they hope will goose support from the GOP's dueling conservative and moderate wings. More importantly, wavering Republicans want Trump to provide political cover for immigration legislation that's despised by hard-right voters. His recent statements on their bill and history of abruptly flip-flopping on past health care and spending measures have not been reassuring.

Last Tuesday, he privately told House Republicans that he backed their legislation "1,000

percent" and would protect them during their campaigns, lawmakers said. By Friday, he was tweeting that "Republicans should stop wasting their time on Immigration" and wait until after the November elections, when he said the GOP would approve tougher legislation because it will gain strength in Congress. That proposition is dicey at best.

"I think that the best way to pass legislation is to consistently support a position and help move it forward," Rep. Greg Walden, of Oregon, a senior House Republican. Asked if Trump was doing that, Walden pivoted toward a door and said, "I'll leave it at that."

The bill would make citizenship a possibility for "Dreamer" immigrants brought illegally to the U.S. when young. It would also finance Trump's aspirational \$25 billion wall with Mexico and curb government agencies from wrenching migrant children from detained parents.

The measure is the product of weeks of bargaining between party conservatives and moderates. Even so, the two GOP factions have been unable to resolve their final differences and vote-counters have yet to round up a majority. Republicans are getting no help from Democrats, who uniformly oppose the legislation.

The GOP divisions come at a bad time for the party. Elections are approaching and immigration has riveted public attention for months. Republicans who are battling to retain House control have hoped to focus this fall's campaigns on the economy and tax cuts.

Instead, Republican blockades against ending deportations of young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children were major news earlier this year.

In recent days, the focus has shifted to the Trump administration's wrenching of migrant children from their parents.

Erdogan on a quest to keep power

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey held high-stakes presidential and parliamentary elections on Sunday that could consolidate President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's grip on power or could curtail his vast political ambitions. Opposition leaders cast their ballots vowing to be vigilant against voting fraud.

The elections will complete Turkey's transition to a new executive presidential system, a move approved in a controversial referendum last year.

Erdogan, 64, is seeking reelection for a five-year term with hugely increased powers under the new system, which he insists will bring prosperity and stability to Turkey, especially after a failed coup attempt in 2016 that has left the country under a state of emergency. His ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, is hoping to retain its majority in parliament.

Erdogan, who has been in power since 2003, is facing a more robust, united opposition this time. Opposition candidates have vowed to return Turkey to a parliamentary democracy with strong checks and balances and have decried what they call Erdogan's "one-man rule."

"With these elections, Turkey is achieving a virtual democratic revolution," Erdogan told reporters after voting in Istanbul. He said turnout appeared to be high and that "no serious incidents" had occurred.

Five candidates are running against Erdogan in the presidential race. Although Erdogan is seen as the front-runner, he must secure more than 50 percent of the vote Sunday for an outright win. If that does not happen, a run-off would be held July 8.

Erdogan's main challenger is former physics teacher Muharrem Ince, 54, who is backed by the center-left opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP. Ince has wooed crowds with an unexpectedly engaging campaign, drawing massive numbers at his rallies in Turkey's three main cities.

Mattis to visit China amid tensions

Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who has accused China of "intimidation and coercion" in the South China Sea, is visiting Beijing this week as the countries increasingly spar over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and Beijing's expanding military presence overseas.

Mattis will be the first defense secretary in President Donald Trump's administration to visit China. His trip highlights the need for the U.S. and its chief rival in East Asia to engage each other despite increasingly stark differences and mutual suspicion.

Mattis' mission comes at a difficult time as the Trump administration is set to start taxing \$34 billion in Chinese goods in two weeks while Beijing has vowed to retaliate with its own tariffs on U.S. products. The U.S. appears likely to rely on China for help getting North Korea to deliver on denuclearization

promises made at a summit in Singapore between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Here are some of the thorny issues:

■ **South China Sea sparring.** The South China Sea will likely be near the top of the agenda in discussions between Mattis and Chinese officials, with the U.S. issuing threats against Beijing for its continued militarization of the waters. "There are consequences that will continue to come home to roost, so to speak, with China, if they don't find a way to work more collaboratively with all of the nations who have interests," Mattis said earlier this month.

■ **Korean Peninsula.** China was seen as taking home a major win when Trump announced at the summit with Kim that the U.S. would suspend joint U.S.-South Korea war games that North Korea and China have long opposed. Both Mattis and South Korea were seen as caught off-guard by the decision. U.S.

and South Korean officials now see the pledge as helping advance nuclear negotiations with North Korea. China welcomed the move, and Kim met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last week but no new measures toward denuclearization have been announced.

■ **Tangling over Taiwan.** China's complaints about U.S. contacts with Taiwan have grown louder as the U.S. has sought to increase exchanges with the self-ruled island Beijing claims as its territory and sells more weapons to it. Mattis likely will hear those arguments made even more forcibly after Trump this year signed the Taiwan Travel Act encouraging high-level visits between the two sides, and the Department of Defense agreed to give American contractors marketing licenses for diesel-electric submarine technology sought by Taiwan's armed forces. The U.S. government also approved a \$1.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan last year.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman who took from exhibit gets probation

OH CINCINNATI — A woman who took a dead butterfly from an Ohio botanical garden pleaded guilty to misdemeanor theft.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that Jaime Revis, 36, was sentenced to six months on probation after entering the plea. She was arrested in April for taking a blue morpho butterfly from the Krohn Conservatory in Cincinnati.

Revis' lawyer said she had previously been told by a conservatory employee that she could take dead butterflies that would otherwise be thrown away.

Pigeon nursed back to health by inmates

CA SAN DIEGO — An injured pigeon is walking again thanks to inmates at the Donovan Correctional Facility near San Diego.

KFMB-TV reported the inmates said in a letter that they found Donovan the pigeon badly injured when it was 4 months old. The bird was bloody, could not fly and its right leg was broken.

The inmates said they cleaned the bird up and nursed it back to health.

Amid fears that Donovan might get hurt in the prison yard, the bird was sent to Project Wildlife to complete its recovery.

'Buzzsaw shark' fossil donated to museum

ID POCATELLO — A fossil of the lower jaw containing the spiraling rows of teeth of an ancient "buzzsaw shark" was donated to the Idaho Museum of Natural His-

tory at Idaho State University.

KTVB-TV reported that the fossil spiral of teeth is from a Helicoprion, a sharklike creature that lived 270 million years ago.

Monsanto donated the fossil to the museum after finding it during mining operations in the Soda Springs area. The fossil is about 8 inches in diameter.

Experts say the shark grew up to 25 feet long and swam in oceans that once covered eastern Idaho.

3 accused of making fake money for shoes

KS WICHITA — Federal prosecutors said three Kansas men allegedly made counterfeit money to buy Jordan brand athletic shoes.

U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister said in a news release that Douglas Blocker, 21; Cornelius Wilson, 22; and Traevon McGairty, 22, all of Wichita, were indicted last week. They allegedly used a photocopy machine to make counterfeit money.

Prosecutors allege Blocker paid one person at a shopping center \$480 in fake bills for four pairs of Jordan shoes. The indictment alleges all three men paid a second person \$520 in fake bills for three additional pairs of shoes.

The three are charged with counterfeiting and passing counterfeit currency.

Hailstorm kills hundreds of fish

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — Officials said hundreds of fish were killed recently during a devastating hailstorm that hit areas near Colorado Springs.

The Gazette reported the storm roared through El Paso County early on June 13, damaging windshields, roofs, trees

and wildlife.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials estimated the storm killed hundreds of fish after they assessed the aftermath in Duckwood Pond at Fountain Creek Regional Park.

Officials said the fish didn't die from the impact of hail but from the storm's quickly changing temperatures.

Rat-sniffing dogs help protect seabirds

HI HONOLULU — Hawaii has deployed two rat-sniffing dogs to help remove invasive rodents from a seabird sanctuary on Lehua.

Border terriers Henry and Reese recently located possible rat burrows on the small island off Niihau's north shore. The rats feed on chicks, eggs and native plants.

The rugged island is home to several seabird species considered threatened or near-threatened, according to the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The dogs sniff out the rats and their handlers mark the spot for additional eradication efforts and rat bait application.

Group to relocate WWI memorial

IN ANDERSON — An Indiana group is working to preserve and relocate a World War I memorial.

The 7-foot granite obelisk is inscribed with the names of six Anderson High School students who died while serving in the war, The Herald Bulletin reported. It was gifted to the school by the 1920 graduating class.

Local preservationists have grown concerned about the monument's fate as its surroundings change. A fire destroyed the school building in 1999 and its historic arena was

repurposed in 2011 to become a nonprofit clinic.

Cecilia Calvert, the regent of the Kikthawenund Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is leading the effort to relocate the memorial from the former high school's lawn to Maplewood Cemetery.

Sinkhole opens up, swallows 3 cars

NH MANCHESTER — Crews in New Hampshire are working to once again fill a sinkhole that previously opened up last year.

A broken water pipe created a hole directly underneath cars parked on a road in Manchester. WMUR-TV reported a crane was called in to remove three cars from the sinkhole before crews could start filling it in again.

A sinkhole previously opened on the same stretch of road in November and also pulled down a car. Both sinkholes were caused by pipe issues.

Museum dedicated to history of haircuts

NY NEW YORK — A new museum in New York City is dedicated to the history of barber shops — offering a shave and a haircut alongside its tour.

Arthur Rubinoff, owner of the Barber Shop Museum on the Upper West Side, said he designed the museum in memory of his father, who was also a barber.

The museum showcases antiques and artifacts from more than 100 years of barbering, including blades and razors, barber poles, vintage barber signs and a barber chair dating to 1929.

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Kane's hat trick gives England a rout

Associated Press

NIZHNY NOVGOROD, Russia — With the country's most one-sided World Cup victory, England advanced to the last 16 with a game by spare.

Harry Kane scored a hat trick in Sunday's 6-1 rout of Panama, giving England its biggest victory margin at the World Cup in its highest-scoring game since 1966.

That previous high-scoring affair turned out well, too, with England beating Germany 4-2 to win its only World Cup title.

Four years ago, England failed to win a match and was eliminated in the group stage.

On Sunday, England was taking on a weaker team: a Panama side making its World Cup debut. The loss eliminated Panama and Tunisia, while putting Belgium into the round of 16.

Kane's three goals moved him into the lead with five at this year's tournament, one more than Cristiano Ronaldo and Romelu Lukaku after two games.

John Stones headed in two

goals and Jesse Lingard curled in another to ensure England goes into its Group G finale against Belgium level on points and with the same goal difference.

In Russia, England has been trying to cast aside the negativity of the past while remolding the image of the team on and off the field. Even locals were supporting the team in Nizhny Novgorod, despite the bitter diplomatic relations between Russia and Britain.

The egos who dominated in England's celebrity-obsessed, underperforming Golden Generation in the first decade of century have gone. The joy and togetherness in the squad — the second-youngest in Russia — becomes clear in the goal celebrations.

Where past England teams might have wilted in warm temperatures, this one pressed with high-tempo intensity to ensure there was no need to scrape a victory like on Monday against Tunisia.

England picked up where

it left off in Volgograd, with a corner from Kieran Trippier headed into the net in the eighth minute. It wasn't Kane on the end this time but Stones, who was left unmarked to score his first international goal.

Kane didn't have to wait long to add to his tally, converting from the penalty spot in the 22nd after Lingard was brought down by Fidel Escobar.

Lingard did get on the scoresheet in the 36th with the pick of the goals. The Manchester United forward played a 1-2 with Ashley Young and exchanged passes with Raheem Sterling before shifting the ball across and bending it into the top corner.

The fourth goal was the culmination of a well-worked free kick with Sterling's close-range header parried by goalkeeper Jaime Penedo. Stones was primed to follow-up, giving the defender his second.

However much they tried, Panama struggled to block England's route to goal. Anibal Gody resorted to trying to

wrestle Kane to the ground, only to concede a penalty that was converted by the Tottenham striker.

England was merciless. At 5-0, the job was complete by halftime.

Chasing the golden boot, Kane relied on his heel to complete his hat trick by getting the faintest of touches to divert Ruben Loftus-Cheek's shot into the net.

England could afford to ease up and preserve energy but it cost the team first place on goal difference. Felipe Baloy slid to meet Ricardo Avila's free kick and score Panama's first World Cup goal.

Panama, beaten by Belgium 3-0 in the opening game, finally had something to celebrate, briefly.

England had spells of sloppy defending that could be punished by stronger teams, like Belgium. But by taking their chances and exploiting a porous defense, England showed what it is capable of.

Japan, Senegal draw Who's in and who's out

Associated Press

YEKATERINBURG, Russia — Senegal twice took the lead. Japan tied it up both times.

Keisuke Honda came off the bench in the second half and scored in the 78th minute, giving the Japanese a 2-2 draw with Senegal on Sunday at the World Cup.

The 32-year-old Honda, a former AC Milan forward, became the first Japanese player to score at three World Cups.

The draw keeps the two teams at the top of Group H ahead of their final matches.

Sadio Mane gave Senegal the lead in the 11th minute with his first World Cup goal.

Moussa Wague crossed from the right, but Genki Haraguchi failed to properly clear the ball. Youssouf Sabaly then sent a shot toward goal that Eiji Kawashima was unable to control

and Mane tapped it into the net.

Japan struck back in the 34th minute when Takashi Inui scored with a low shot from inside the area after receiving a pass from Yuto Nagamoto on a quick counterattack. It was Japan's first shot on goal in the match, and it changed the run of play.

Japan started to use its speed to control the middle of the field and open spaces in Senegal's defense, but it was the African team that again took the lead.

Sabaly crossed the ball for Mbaye Niang, who backheeled it toward Wague. The 19-year-old forward restored the lead with a shot high into the net in the 71st minute.

A minute later, Japan coach Akira Nishino sent on Honda and striker Shinji Okazaki, a move that paid off.

Possible scenarios for advancing from the group stage:

GROUP A: Russia and Uruguay have clinched berths in the round of 16, and play each other Monday to determine who wins the group. Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been eliminated.

GROUP B: Morocco has been eliminated, leaving Portugal and Spain (four points each) and Iran (three) to compete for two spots. Spain plays Morocco on Monday, when Portugal meets Iran.

GROUP C: France has advanced and leads with six points. Denmark is second with four after a 1-1 draw against Australia, which has one point. Peru has been eliminated. Denmark plays France on Tuesday, when Australia takes on Peru.

GROUP D: Croatia has secured a trip to the second round and tops the group with six points. Nigeria (three points) will advance with a win over Argentina (one point) on Tuesday, when Iceland plays Croatia. But Iceland (one point) or the last-place Argentines could survive with a win and a Nigeria loss or tie, depending on goal differential.

GROUP E: Brazil and Switzerland have four points apiece. Serbia has three, and any of them could grab one of the group's two spots in the knockout stage. Serbia meets Brazil on Wednesday, likely needing a win. Switzerland plays Costa Rica at the same time. Costa Rica has been eliminated.

GROUP F: Mexico avoided a letdown

Saturday after upsetting Germany to start the tournament, handling South Korea by a 2-1 score. But Mexico (six points) isn't safe yet. A dagger by Toni Kroos deep into extra time gave Germany (three points) a 2-1 win over Sweden (three points) in Saturday's late game. If the defending champion beats South Korea on Wednesday and Sweden simultaneously tops Mexico, three teams would finish with six points, sending it to tiebreakers that start with the best goal differential. On the other hand, if Mexico and South Korea win, Mexico would win the group and every other team would be tied.

GROUP G: Both Belgium and England cruised to emphatic wins in their second group games and advanced to the knockout round. They meet on Thursday in Kaliningrad, and the winner will win Group G. In the event of a draw, it could come down to which team has fewer yellow cards.

GROUP H: Japan and Senegal, the top teams in the group after surprising victories in the opening matches, played to a draw on Sunday, a result that will keep the two underdogs atop the group and could end up benefiting both.

That tie was not beneficial for the teams playing the late match on Sunday. Poland is eighth in the FIFA rankings, Colombia is 16th, but the loser will be eliminated.

— Associated Press

Oregon State earns spot in CWS finals

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Kevin Abel and Jake Mulholland made it look easy for Oregon State.

Until it wasn't.

Abel turned in the Beavers' best start of the College World Series and the usually reliable Mulholland came on in the eighth inning with a four-run lead and retired the first five batters he faced.

But Mississippi State proved to be no easy out this postseason and, suddenly, the Bulldogs were down three runs with the bases loaded and Jordan Westburg — founder of the team's Rally Banana and hitter of a grand slam four days earlier — at the plate.

The Beavers could breathe again after Westburg grounded to shortstop Cadyn Grenier, who double-clutched before throwing to second to finish the 5-2 win that secured Oregon State's spot in the best-of-three CWS finals against Arkansas, which advanced by beating Florida on Friday.

"Mully is a drama queen. He likes to make things fun," Abel said, drawing laughs. "We never doubted him. We know he's been

phenomenal all year coming in at the end of games when we're up 10 runs or in a one-run ball game. He's been lights out. And he got a little tired and made a couple of mistakes, but he got the job done."

Abel and Mulholland combined on a four-hitter and Tyler Malone hit his third home run of the CWS as the Beavers cleared the hurdle they couldn't last year when they brought a 56-4 record to Omaha but lost twice to LSU in the bracket final.

As they did in 2006, when they won the first of two straight national titles, the Beavers came back from losing their CWS opener to win four straight and make the finals.

"Our guys, you could see, were running on fumes," OSU coach Pat Casey said.

Mississippi State played from behind in four of its eight wins in the NCAA Tournament and had made comebacks in 21 of its 39 wins this season. The Bulldogs' head coach was fired, they were a sub-.500 team in late March, and they sneaked into the tournament as an at-large selection after sweeping SEC champion Florida to end

the regular season.

There were three walk-off wins, and Westburg came up with the Rally Banana good-luck charm that spawned all kinds of memes and unified the team and fan base.

There was to be no rally Saturday, however, in what was their sixth elimination game since the regionals started.

Abel allowed three singles, walked three and struck out five in seven innings as Oregon State (53-11-1) held down Mississippi State's offense for the second straight day. Beavers pitchers gave up five hits in a 12-2 win Friday that forced the Bracket 1 final rematch.

Mississippi State (39-29) mostly shut down an Oregon State offense that came into the game batting .377 and averaging 10.8 runs in four games in Omaha. All of the Beavers' runs came in the third inning.

"If you told me we would throw up eight zeroes, I would have taken that. Certainly not the five-spot," Bulldogs interim coach Gary Henderson said. "We really didn't get to a spot we could solve Kevin Abel. Give the Beavers a lot of credit

for their pitching the last two days."

Five of the Beavers' eight hits in the game came in succession in the third after Bulldogs starter Ethan Small (5-4) got two quick outs. Adley Rutschman and Michael Gretler had RBI singles before Malone's three-run homer barely cleared the fence in right center.

Abel (6-1) retired the first six batters he faced, striking out three of them, and took a one-hitter into the fifth. A baserunning blunder by Jake Mangum got Abel off the hook in the fifth, and an inning-ending double play got him out of trouble in the sixth when the Bulldogs had runners on second and third with one out.

"I was extremely impressed with Kevin tonight," said Rutschman, the catcher. "Just the strides he's made over the season. At the beginning of the season, no one would have said he would have been starting in the College World Series. But here he is on the biggest stage there is, and just being a competitor out there. I was fortunate to be able to catch him and see him work tonight."

Flames come away as biggest winners

Associated Press

DALLAS — Having no picks in the first three rounds made it look as though it would be a quiet, boring and ineffective weekend for the Calgary Flames.

Instead, they became one of the biggest winners at the NHL Draft by acquiring 23-year-old forward Elias Lindholm and 21-year-old defenseman Noah Hanifin in a five-player trade with Carolina on Saturday. It cost the Flames defenseman Dougie Hamilton, winger Michael Ferland and prospect Adam Fox, but they got younger and may have restored their lineup to its rightful order.

Lindholm is a natural center, but could be the perfect fit on

Calgary's first line alongside Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan. Moving Hamilton will allow T.J. Brodie to slide back on to the first defensive pairing with Mark Giordano, while Hanifin could benefit from playing with those veterans on the blue line.

"I think Noah is just scratching the surface," general manager Brad Treliving said. "We've got some guys on the blue line who can produce. We also want guys who want to be in Calgary. Both players talking today, in Elias and Noah, they're excited to get out there."

Beyond the Flames, here are some more winners and losers from the NHL Draft:

Winner: Philipp Grubauer.

After lifting the Stanley Cup with the Washington Capitals, Grubauer was traded to the Colorado Avalanche where he'll initially split time with Semyon Varlamov but should take over as the starter after next season. Grubauer signed a \$10 million, three-year contract in the biggest payday of his career.

Loser: New York Islanders.

They got strong value in first-round picks Oliver Wahlstrom and Noah Dobson, but didn't agree to terms on a new deal with John Tavares before he could begin meeting with other teams Sunday. Tavares will host five teams in the coming days and could become a free agent July 1, which would be devastating for the Islanders.

Winner: Ilya Kovalchuk. The

Kontinental Hockey League's leading scorer and Olympic MVP had plenty of suitors and wound up agreeing to a three-year deal with the Los Angeles Kings worth \$6.25 million a season. The 35-year-old is returning to the NHL on the same deal Patrick Marleau got from the Toronto Maple Leafs a year ago, which is a coup for Kovalchuk.

Loser: Montreal Canadiens.

Rumors persisted about Montreal trading captain Max Pacioretty or even acquiring center Ryan O'Reilly from Buffalo. Neither move happened, leaving Marc Bergevin with a lengthy to-do list after already trading Alex Galchenyuk to Arizona for Max Domi.

Kemp's slam lifts LA; Kershaw returns

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Clayton Kershaw felt strong — if not quite effective — in his return from the disabled list.

That was good enough for the Los Angeles Dodgers. They had muscle to spare against the New York Mets.

Kershaw and Jacob deGrom stumbled in an unexpected ace showdown, Matt Kemp hit a pinch grand slam and the Dodgers won 8-3 on Saturday night.

The Dodgers have won 11 straight against the Mets dating to May 2016, matching their best run in the rivalry. Los Angeles beat New York 11 straight times in 1963-64.

Kershaw gave up two runs over three innings in a surprise return from a lower back strain. He threw 55 pitches, starting out strong before laboring through his final inning.

“Good to be back,” Kershaw said. “Now I can focus on getting better.”

Left-handed rookie Caleb Ferguson (1-1)

replaced him and escaped a couple tight situations over four scoreless innings for his first major league win.

DeGrom (5-3) allowed three earned runs in six innings, including Max Muncy's 14th home run in the first. He entered the game with a major league-leading 1.51 ERA and hadn't allowed three earned runs in a game since April 16 against Washington.

New York has lost five straight overall and 12 of 13 at home. The Mets have scored four or fewer runs in 15 straight home games dating to May 20. Some fans at Citi Field were wearing paper bags over their heads by the end of the game.

“It was tough tonight,” said Brandon Nimmo, who had three hits for New York.

Kemp cleared the bases during a five-run eighth inning with his eighth career slam and 13th home run this season. Chris Taylor had a key two-run pinch double, and Los Angeles won for the 24th time in 33 games.

Kershaw building up. Kershaw was scheduled to make a rehab start with Tri-

ple-A Oklahoma City at Omaha, but Los Angeles decided Friday to have him pitch in New York because of precarious weather in Nebraska. The lefty ace had been sidelined since June 1.

Kershaw was electric in the first inning, freezing leadoff man Nimmo on a curveball for a three-pitch strikeout and catching Todd Frazier looking for a five-pitch K.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner wasn't as sharp after that. Michael Conforto and Jose Bautista lined consecutive doubles in the second inning to tie it at 1, and Kershaw threw 25 pitches in the third inning, including an RBI single by Wilmer Flores to put New York ahead 2-1.

Kershaw struck out four, walked one and allowed five hits before Taylor hit for him in the fourth. Kershaw was expected to be limited to roughly 60 pitches, and he threw an extra simulated inning inside after being replaced.

“The most important thing, he came out of it feeling good, feeling strong,” manager Dave Roberts said.

MLB roundup

Pitcher DeSclafani grand in win over Cubs

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The last-place Cincinnati Reds slammed the Chicago Cubs — again.

Anthony DeSclafani hit the first grand slam by a Cincinnati pitcher in 59 years, helping the Reds beat the Chicago Cubs 11-2 on Saturday for their sixth consecutive victory.

It was Cincinnati's third slam in five days and major league-leading seventh of the season, two short of the record set in 2002. Jesse Winker hit one in the series opener against Chicago on Thursday night.

The last Reds pitcher to hit a grand slam was Bob Purkey against the Cubs on Aug. 1, 1959.

Tucker Barnhart and Joey Votto also went deep in front of a crowd of 36,818, Cincinnati's largest since opening day. Votto hit a three-run shot off backup catcher Chris Gimenez in the eighth.

“We're playing clean baseball,” interim manager Jim Riggleman said. “We've

strung some good ballgames together.”

The Reds matched their longest win streak of the season and won a third straight game against the Cubs for the first time since winning five in a row in 2014.

“They definitely have played much better,” Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. “They deserved all three. Our pitching was in disarray, and they took advantage of it.”

Willson Contreras and Ben Zobrist homered for Chicago, which has lost three straight games for the first time since a five-game slide from May 1 through May 6. Zobrist and Ian Happ each had two of the Cubs' six hits.

Rays 4, Yankees 0: Wilmer Font worked into the sixth inning to get his first major league win, Willy Adames homered and host Tampa Bay beat New York.

Mariners 7, Red Sox 2: Mike Leake pitched eight shutout innings, Mitch Haniger drove in three runs and

visiting Seattle snapped a season-high five-game losing streak with a victory.

Rangers 9, Twins 6: Adrian Beltre and Robinson Chirinos homered to help Yovani Gallardo win for the first time since last July as visiting Texas beat Minnesota.

Orioles 7, Braves 5: Mark Trumbo hit a first-inning grand slam, Chris Davis doubled in three runs and host Baltimore beat the Braves.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 2: Yadier Molina homered twice to back a strong start by Miles Mikolas and lift visiting St. Louis to a victory.

Indians 4, Tigers 1: Trevor Bauer struck out 11 in 6¹/₃ innings to beat visiting Detroit for the fourth time this season, leading the Indians past the Tigers for their sixth straight win overall.

Athletics 7, White Sox 6: Pinch-hitter Nick Martini drove in the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning with his first major league hit and visiting Oakland came back from an

early five-run deficit to edge the White Sox.

Marlins 6, Rockies 2: J.T. Realmuto hit his second career grand slam during a five-run seventh and the Miami Marlins beat host Colorado to stop a three-game skid and end the Rockies' winning streak at four.

Diamondbacks 7, Pirates 2: Zack Greinke pitched six scoreless innings, staying in through two rain delays, and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Pirates for their third consecutive win.

Phillies 5, Nationals 3: Maikel Franco went 4-for-4, Carlos Santana homered and visiting Philadelphia won.

Giants 5, Padres 3: Slumping Brandon Crawford doubled twice, tripled and drove in three runs, leading the host Giants.

Astros 4, Royals 3 (12): Carlos Correa hit a game-ending RBI single in the 12th, lifting host Houston.

Blue Jays 4, Angels 1: Steve Pearce hit a three-run homer in the ninth and Toronto ended a five-game road losing streak.