

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump confirms he called off Iran strikes

The Washington Post

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — President Donald Trump ordered an attack on Iran on Thursday in retaliation for the downing of a surveillance drone in the Strait of Hormuz but called off the operation just before it was due to occur because it would have caused extensive casualties, he said Friday.

In a series of morning tweets, Trump said he called off strikes on three Iranian sites minutes before they were to be launched because he was informed of the likely loss of life among Iranians.

“We were cocked & loaded to retaliate last night on 3 different sights when I asked, how many will die,” Trump tweeted. “150 people, sir, was the answer from a General. 10 minutes before the strike I stopped it.”

Such a death toll was “not proportionate to shooting down an unmanned drone,” Trump wrote, adding: “I am in no hurry, our Military is rebuilt,

new, and ready to go, by far the best in the world. Sanctions are biting & more added last night. Iran can NEVER have Nuclear Weapons, not against the USA, and not against the WORLD!”

Iran said Friday the U.S. had “no justification” for a retaliatory strike and vowed to respond “firmly” to any U.S. military action.

Trump administration officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive national security decisions, said the president approved the strikes after Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps earlier in the day shot down a Navy RQ-4 Global Hawk operating off Iran’s southern coast, a move Trump described as a “very big mistake.”

But he later changed his mind, the officials said. The decision was first reported by *The New York Times*.

The commander of the Revolutionary Guard’s aerospace division said Friday that Iran had sent “warnings” to the drone

before shooting it down. In an interview with Iran’s state-controlled broadcaster, Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh said a final warning was sent at 3:55 a.m. local time Thursday.

“When it did not redirect its route and continued flying toward and into our territory, we had to shoot it at 4:05 a.m.,” he said. “Our national security is a red line.”

He also said that a U.S. P-8 patrol aircraft, with 35 people on board, had accompanied the drone into Iranian airspace. His claim could not immediately be verified.

“We could have downed it, too,” Hajizadeh said of the plane, the Fars News Agency reported. “But we did not.”

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject, said Friday morning the Pentagon had Navy assets poised to strike in Iran if directed, including ships accompanying the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

Those attacks could have included airstrikes with jets or Tomahawk cruise missiles, the official said.

Among the ships that could have been involved were the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf and the destroyer USS Bainbridge, the official said. Both vessels can carry Tomahawk missiles.

The official said he could not say whether Iran considered shooting down a Navy P-8 Poseidon surveillance plane.

Iranian officials told the Reuters news agency Friday that Tehran received a message from Trump through Oman overnight warning that a U.S. attack was imminent.

“Trump said he was against any war with Iran and wanted to talk to Tehran about various issues,” Reuters quoted one official as saying. “He gave a short period of time to get our response.” The official added that it was up to Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to decide whether to respond.

Prosecution witness says he, not SEAL on trial, killed Iraqi

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — When the prosecution called a special forces medic to testify, they expected him to bolster their murder case against a decorated Navy SEAL accused of stabbing an Islamic State fighter in his care.

Special Operator 1st Class Corey Scott delivered on that count, saying Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher unexpectedly plunged a knife into the adolescent detainee after treating his wounds in 2017 in Iraq.

The government was stunned by what came next: Scott took the blame for the killing, say-

ing he suffocated the boy shortly after Gallagher stabbed him. Scott called the asphyxiation an act of mercy.

It was a stunning twist in a tumultuous case that illustrates the challenges of prosecuting war crimes cases, especially those involving members of the secretive special forces, and the risks of granting immunity.

Scott wanted to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination when called by the prosecution. But he was granted immunity and ordered to testify.

“You’re assuming a certain amount of risk that you know what they’re going to say and

that what they’re going to say is truthful,” said retired Army Maj. Gen. John Altenburg Jr., who handled or oversaw about 1,000 military trials. “If you get surprised, you get surprised. That’s what can happen when you have cases like this.”

A visibly angry prosecutor accused Scott of lying, saying he had told investigators a different story several times and changed it only after he was granted immunity and ordered to testify.

“So you can stand up there and you can lie about how you killed the ISIS prisoner so Chief Gallagher does not have to go to jail,” John said. “You

don’t want Chief Gallagher to go to jail, do you?”

“He’s got a wife and family,” Scott said. “I don’t think he should be spending his life in prison.”

The testimony is the latest setback for prosecutors and a big boost for Gallagher, who is fighting charges of premeditated murder in the boy’s death and attempted murder in the shooting of civilians. The defense has said Gallagher only treated the prisoner for a collapsed lung and that disgruntled sailors fabricated the murder accusations because he was a demanding leader and they didn’t want him promoted.

Report: Bad spending hinders Afghan troops

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A lack of coordinated oversight of America's spending in Afghanistan has led to a waste of funds and hampered training and development of the country's security forces, according to a watchdog group that monitors billions of dollars in U.S. aid to the country.

The U.S. has so far spent more than \$84 billion on Afghan forces over the last 17 years but those forces continue to suffer staggering losses and bleed personnel. Soldiers go home on leave and never return.

The report from Washington's Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, or SIGAR, released late Thursday

presented a troubling picture of a costly Afghan security development scheme, with multiple supervising U.S. and NATO departments that don't coordinate with one another.

The report said the "security sector assistance mission in Afghanistan lacked an enduring and comprehensive plan" from the start.

It also was critical of the U.S.'s seeming reluctance to involve Afghans in key decisions before implementing systems and constructing military facilities. The report quoted a former member of the U.S. team, tasked with advising and training Afghanistan's security institutions, as saying: "The Afghans were informed

and directed, not asked or consulted."

Previously, The Associated Press reported that Afghan military commanders in southern Helmand province complained that their U.S. advisers ignored their guidance. In one example, the U.S. ignored requests to scale back a military facility that required three generators to power. The advice was ignored and the facility is often in the dark because of a lack of fuel to fire up the generators.

The SIGAR report pointed out the folly of ignoring Washington's Afghan partners, saying "the United States has implemented systems that the Afghans will not be

able to maintain without U.S. support."

The U.S. has already spent nearly a trillion dollars during its 17-year engagement in Afghanistan, yet the Taliban control or wield significant influence in nearly half of the country, carrying out increasingly frequent and deadly attacks against Afghan security personnel. As a result, the Afghan and U.S. governments have declared military casualty figures confidential. However, it is estimated that hundreds die each week, even as Washington holds talks with insurgents to find a negotiated exit the lengthy war, America's longest running conflict.

Trump to get his military Independence Day parade

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will get the military parade that he has long sought as part of a shakeup of Washington's long-standing Independence Day celebrations in two weeks.

The parade of military units, musicians and drill teams — as well as floats, horses and giant balloons — will step off at 11:45 a.m. on July 4, traveling down Constitution Avenue N.W. from 7th Street to 17th Street, Trump's Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced Thursday in a statement.

The 10-block march through the nation's capital is expected to last about two hours and 15 minutes.

Trump will address the nation from the Lincoln Memorial during a subsequent event, "A Salute to America," at about 6:30. That event will include music, military demonstrations and flyovers of military aircraft, according to the Interior Department.

Bernhardt said it is all meant to honor the U.S. armed forces.

"There is no more appropriate place to celebrate the anniversary of American independence than among the nation's

monuments on the National Mall and the memorials to the service men and women who have defended the United States for the past 243 years," he said in the statement.

The event will continue with the long-held concert, "A Capitol Fourth," from the U.S. Capitol and a fireworks display.

Another change for 2019 will stage the fireworks display from West Potomac Park, south of the National Mall, instead of the Reflecting Pool area. Bernhardt said it means the national memorials to servicemembers and the Reflecting Pool will be open to the public to view the fireworks for the first time in years.

President shifts talk at meeting to Air Force One plans

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When President Donald Trump and Canada's prime minister sat down in the Oval Office to discuss trade, Iran and other pressing matters, a model airplane dominated the coffee table in front of them.

Before Trump would answer reporters' questions about Iran's downing of a U.S. drone on Thursday, he made an aereo-

nautical detour.

"This is the new Air Force One," he offered, explaining that the model represents an updated version of the presidential airplane that will cost taxpayers less money and offer more new features than originally planned, thanks to his intervention. "It's going to be terrific," he added.

Long fascinated by airplanes, Trump has always fancied him-

self as something of an aviation expert. He's intent on putting his stamp on the next version of the decades-old modified Boeing 747s that only the president gets to fly — right down to the paint job.

Trump took great pride during the 2016 presidential race in using his personal plane, a Boeing 757 with Rolls-Royce engines and gold fixtures, to whisk him to campaign events

and back to New York. So fond was Trump of the plane that he mused about continuing to use it after he took office, which was not a realistic option for security and other reasons.

His affection shifted to Air Force One, perhaps the biggest perk of being president, but he had no affection for the plane's iconic, Kennedy-era blue and white design that is known the world over.

Migrant children tell of neglect at facility

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — A 2-year-old boy locked in detention wants to be held all the time. A few girls, ages 10 to 15, say they've been doing their best to feed and soothe the clingy toddler, who was handed to them by a guard days ago. Lawyers warn that kids are taking care of kids, and there's inadequate food, water and sanitation for the 250 infants, children and teens at the Border Patrol station.

The bleak portrait emerged Thursday after a legal team interviewed 60 children at the facility near El Paso that has become the latest place where attorneys say young migrants are describing neglect and mistreatment at the hands of the U.S. government.

Data obtained by The Associated Press showed that on Wednesday, there were three infants in the station, all with

their teen mothers, along with a 1-year-old, two 2-year-olds and a 3-year-old.

There are dozens more under 12. Fifteen have the flu, and 10 more are quarantined.

Three girls told attorneys they were trying to take care of the 2-year-old boy, who had wet his pants and had no diaper and was wearing a mucus-smear shirt when the legal team encountered him.

"A Border Patrol agent came in our room with a 2-year-old boy and asked us, 'Who wants to take care of this little boy?' Another girl said she would take care of him, but she lost interest after a few hours and so I started taking care of him yesterday," one of the girls said in an interview with attorneys.

Law professor Warren Binford, who is helping interview the children, said she couldn't learn anything about the toddler, not even where he's from

or who his family is. He is not speaking.

Binford described that during interviews with children in a conference room at the facility, "little kids are so tired, they have been falling asleep on chairs and at the conference table."

She said an 8-year-old taking care of a very small 4-year-old with matted hair couldn't convince the little one to take a shower.

"In my 22 years of doing visits with children in detention, I have never heard of this level of inhumanity," said Holly Cooper, who co-directs University of California, Davis' Immigration Law Clinic and represents detained youth.

The lawyers inspected the facilities because they are involved in the Flores settlement, a Clinton-era legal agreement that governs detention conditions for migrant children and

families.

Many children interviewed had arrived alone at the U.S.-Mexico border, but some had been separated from their parents or other adult caregivers, including aunts and uncles, the attorneys said.

Government rules call for the children to be held by the Border Patrol for no longer than 72 hours before they are transferred to the custody of Health and Human Services, which houses migrant youth in facilities around the country.

Government facilities are overcrowded, and five immigrant children have died since late last year after being detained by Customs and Border Protection. A teenage mother with a premature baby was found last week in a Texas Border Patrol processing center after being held for nine days by the government.

Trump claims his support among Latinos is rising

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is claiming that his policies to stop illegal immigration are helping his standing with Latino voters, and he is taking undue credit for uniting families who were separated at the border.

Trump made the statements in a sometimes combative interview Thursday on the Spanish-language network Telemundo.

Trump said Hispanics want toughness at the border, and his poll numbers with the important voting bloc have "gone way up" because he's delivered.

"They don't want people coming and taking their jobs," Trump said.

The most recent AP-NORC poll conducted in mid-June showed Trump with 26% support among Hispanics. The White House did not provide supporting polls for Trump's

claim.

The president also said his administration inherited a practice of separating families from the Obama administration. "They separated. I put 'em together," Trump said.

"You did not," replied Telemundo anchor Jose Diaz-Balart. Diaz-Balart then said 2,800 children were united with their families after the administration instituted a zero-tolerance policy, prompting Trump to interrupt and state, "because I put 'em together."

Trump began separating families on a large scale in 2017 and made it general practice under a "zero tolerance" policy that was announced in May 2018 to criminally prosecute every adult who crossed the border illegally. More than 2,700 children had been separated from families when a federal judge halted the practice the following month.

Ala. man denies feeding meth to 'attack squirrel'

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — An Alabama man wanted on drug and weapons charges has posted a video denying he fed methamphetamine to a so-called "attack squirrel" that he considers a pet.

Mickey Paulk posted the video on his Facebook page Tuesday night as authorities continued searching for him. It shows him stroking a rodent that he indicates was the same one seized during a search and then released by authorities.

"You can't give squirrels meth; it would kill 'em, I'm pretty sure, (but) I've never tried it," he said.

He said the squirrel, which he kept as a pet, was safe and not a threat to anyone.

"The public isn't in danger in any kind of way from the methed-out squirrel in the neighborhood," Paulk said with

a laugh.

Paulk told The Associated Press that a friend gave him the animal shortly after it was born, and he named it "Deeznutz."

Stephen Young, a spokesman for the Limestone County Sheriff's Office, said Wednesday investigators were still looking for Paulk, 35, who has an extensive criminal record.

Police said they were warned about a meth-fueled, trained attack squirrel before conducting a drug search at a rural home near Athens, Ala., on Monday. One man was arrested at the home, and police said they released the caged squirrel.

In the video, Paulk denied living at the home but said he went there after the raid and saw the pet squirrel in a treetop. The animal scampered down and hopped on his shoulder, he said.

Johnson and Hunt are UK PM finalists

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's next prime minister will be a man in his 50s who went to Oxford University — either Boris Johnson or Jeremy Hunt, the two finalists selected Thursday in a race to lead the governing Conservative Party.

Johnson, a flamboyant former foreign secretary and ex-mayor of London, topped a ballot of 313 Conservative lawmakers with 160 votes and is runaway favorite to become the party's next leader. He has led in all five voting rounds of a contest that began last week with 10 contenders.

Hunt, Britain's current foreign secretary, came a distant second with 77 votes and will join Johnson in a runoff decided by 160,000 party members across Britain.

Johnson tweeted that he was honored to

have gotten more than half the votes cast by party lawmakers. He said, "I look forward to getting out across the U.K. and to set out my plan to deliver Brexit, unite our country, and create a brighter future for all of us."

Hunt said on Twitter that he knew he was the underdog "but in politics, surprises happen."

The winner of the runoff, due to be announced the week of July 22, will become the new Conservative leader and the country's next prime minister, replacing Theresa May.

This time around, many in the party doubt that anyone can beat 55-year-old Johnson, a quick-witted, Latin-spouting extrovert admired for his ability to connect with voters but mistrusted for his erratic performance in high office and his long re-

cord of inaccurate, misleading and sometimes offensive comments.

"Boris will say absolutely anything in order to please an audience," historian Max Hastings told the BBC on Thursday. "Boris would have told the passengers on the Titanic that rescue was imminent."

Hunt, who has been culture secretary and health secretary, is considered an experienced, competent minister, but unexciting. The 52-year-old politician bills himself as the "serious" candidate, in an implicit contrast to Johnson. He will try to halt Johnson's momentum by picking away at his rival's plans for Brexit as the two speak to party members at meetings across the country over the next few weeks.

Both Johnson and Hunt vow they will lead Britain out of the European Union, a challenge that defeated May.

Unmet demands prompt Hong Kong protests

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Several hundred protesters, mainly students, gathered Friday outside Hong Kong government offices, with some blocking traffic on a major thoroughfare and others occupying the lobby of a government tax office.

The new protest actions came after a deadline passed for the government to meet demands over highly unpopular extradition bills that many see as eroding the territory's judicial independence.

Police called for the demonstrators to disperse but did not immediately take firm action to remove them.

While the protest began peacefully, the presence again of demonstrators on busy Harcourt Road and in the lobby of the Revenue Tower raised the possibility of violent confrontations.

"I now appeal to the members of the public to leave as soon as possible," police spokeswoman Yolanda Yu said at a news conference.

Outside, activist Joshua Wong called on police to answer demands over heavy-handed tactics used during a mass protest on June 12, including the firing of 150 rounds of tear gas, rubber bullets and beanbag rounds and the beating of unarmed protesters by police with truncheons.

"We ... urge police to apologize to the people" over the use of such tactics and their labeling of the gathering as a riot, Wong said.

Protest leaders have said they are determined to keep up the pressure on Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, who has shelved but not abandoned the extradition legislation. She has insisted the bills are needed to uphold justice, but critics see them as part of a campaign by Beijing to diminish Hong Kong's democratic institutions.

"I myself am not the type to get involved in violence," student protester Brian Chow said. "I'll just carry on sitting here, sing some Christian hymns, show our resistance and keep the government paralyzed until it responds to us."

Another student, who would only give her first name, Yvonne, said she was determined to maintain the movement's momentum.

"I'm going to carry on coming out and carry on protesting," she said.

Many protesters have been wary of giving their full names, and some have obscured their features with facemasks to guard their identities against potential retribution from government or school authorities.

Government offices were ordered closed Friday "due to security considerations," and hearings at the Legislative Council of Hong Kong were suspended.

Since the confrontations June 12, police have eased their approach, hoping to avoid a replay of 2014 protests when officers unleashed 87 rounds of tear gas at protesters in the same location as the current protests. When the smoke from that response cleared, bigger crowds returned, angrier than before, and didn't leave for nearly three months.

Veterinarians extract 19 pacifiers from bulldog's stomach

Associated Press

BOSTON — A Boston veterinary hospital got quite a surprise recently when a family brought in their bulldog after he stopped eating.

The Angell Animal Medical Center found 19 baby pacifiers in the dog's stomach.

It started in April, when the Wellesley family noticed that their 3-year-old dog, Mortimer, started getting nauseous before meals. His owner, Emily Shanahan, brought Mortimer to the vet, who prescribed medicine to take care of the issue.

But it didn't help, and Mortimer eventually stopped eating entirely.

Shanahan went to Angell, where they took an X-ray and discovered the pacifiers.

Vets think Mortimer had been taking the pacifiers from Shanahan's two children over the course of months.

The pacifiers were removed using a medical scope that did not require surgery. Mortimer recovered and is back at home.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Baby' found 'dead' near park is actually a doll

NY NEW YORK — Horror and alarm over the discovery of what appeared to be the body of a dead baby at a New York City park turned to relief, and probably some embarrassment, Tuesday when the blue-skinned corpse was later revealed to be a realistic-looking doll.

Police and paramedics rushed to Crocheron Park in the Bayside neighborhood of Queens at around 7:40 a.m. after a woman out for a morning jog found the "baby" lying face-down in the grass.

Detectives descended on the park in droves to look for evidence. A crime scene tent was set up. Yellow tape blocked off the area where the discovery was made.

Police initially reported the child was 3 months old and had been pronounced dead at the scene of an undetermined cause. At some point, though, a closer inspection showed the object in the grass was a doll or some sort of theatrical prop, with its skin apparently purposely colored to resemble decomposing skin.

One giveaway was the baby's T-shirt, which read, "the crawling dead."

Lion kills peacock that flew into its enclosure

NY UTICA — A peacock at an upstate New York zoo was killed by a lion after it flew over a fence into the African Lion enclosure.

Utica Zoo officials said the white peacock named Merlin was captured by a lion Wednesday morning after being unable to fly back out of the exhibit.

Zoo officials wrote in a Facebook post that Merlin came there in 2006 as an adult and spent his days roaming the

grounds. Merlin was described as a visitor favorite who would relax in the bamboo gardens and call out from treetops. Administrators said "Merlin will be dearly missed by everyone" at the zoo.

Police: Hello? Have you lost an ear? We have it.

FL HOLMES BEACH—A Florida police department is trying to locate the owner of a prosthetic ear that was found on a beach after a competition.

The Holmes Beach Police Department posted a photo of the rubber ear found in the sand after the "World's Strongest Man" contest on Anna Maria Island, south of Tampa Bay. Officials told local media on Wednesday that a local resident found the left-sided ear, and they waited a couple of days after the Saturday event to post it on Facebook. Prosthetic ears can cost thousands of dollars.

The social media announcement says anyone who knows the owner can contact the police department.

Woman dies from snake bite while gardening

GA WAVERLY—A Georgia woman who was bitten by a rattlesnake while gardening has died.

News outlets reported Priscilla Meridith, 62, was bitten last month and suffered an allergic reaction and heart attack that left her in a medically induced coma she never woke up from.

Meridith's family said she suffered the heart attack and organ failure while she was hospitalized. She died last week.

Relatives said Meridith wasn't given anti-venom while treated at the Southeast Georgia Health System Brunswick Campus, as hospital staff said

Meridith was allergic. The hospital's emergency medical director, Dr. Mohsen Aklaghi, said staff followed Georgia Poison Control recommendations.

Woman trapped in jail stairwell for 2 1/2 days

MO ST. LOUIS — Authorities said a woman was trapped in a St. Louis jail stairwell for more than two days after not understanding how to get out of the building.

St. Louis Corrections Commissioner Dale Glass said the woman didn't appear to be suffering when she was found and refused to go to a hospital.

Glass told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch that the woman was leaving the St. Louis Justice Center on June 5 after being arrested when she went through a fire exit door, which caused all doors on all floors to lock.

Although the woman made noises, staff couldn't find her because she moved from floor to floor. They didn't search the fire stairs.

Staff finally saw her on June 7 looking through a window of one of the doors.

Urn with man's ashes stolen after funeral

PA YORK—Family members said someone stole an urn with a man's ashes after his funeral in Pennsylvania.

A service for Sam Abrecht, 42, was held over the weekend at the Salvation Army in York. His cremains were divided into three urns, one of which was to go to his mother.

Family friend Sherrie Ritz tells WGAL-TV most people gathered in a backroom after the funeral and that's when the urn was taken. Ritz is asking the person to return it.

Police are checking pawn shops.

Surveillance camera theft is livestreamed

LA HAUGHTON — Louisiana authorities said a burglar effectively caught himself red-handed, unwittingly livestreaming his theft of a neighbor's new surveillance camera.

The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office said the neighbor watched the crime unfold in real time, and recognized the culprit as Franklin Welzbacher Jr.

A sheriff's statement says the stolen camera also showed things inside Welzbacher's house.

Sheriff's spokesman Bill Davis said Tuesday that Welzbacher, 43, told deputies he had permission to borrow a paint brush, but had nothing to say when asked about the camera.

Lottery winner in midst of divorce must share

MI PONTIAC — A suburban Detroit man who was in the middle of a divorce when he won more than \$30 million must share the lottery windfall with his ex-wife.

The Michigan appeals court said a marriage isn't over until it's over. It means Mary Beth Zelasko can keep \$15 million awarded by an arbitrator, although she and Rich Zelasko had been separated for two years when he bought the Mega Millions ticket in 2013. Their divorce wasn't final until 2018.

In a court filing, an attorney for Rich Zelasko said, "Rich was lucky, but it was his luck, not Mary's, that produced the lottery proceeds." But arbitrator John Mills said the ticket was marital property. The couple had agreed to have Mills make certain decisions during the divorce case.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Duke's Williamson goes first in NBA Draft

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Zion Williamson plays with force and ferocity, a Hulk in hightops who looks as though he'd never show a soft side.

Draft night proved otherwise.

Williamson was the No. 1 pick of the New Orleans Pelicans — a surprise to nobody who watched basketball this past season. But afterward he couldn't hide his emotions, even though he along with everyone else knew what would happen Thursday night.

"Because I love the game of basketball," he said. "You can hear people say things like, oh, that it was likely I was going to go No. 1. But I guess you don't know until you actually go through it. Hearing my name called and I was able to make it on stage without a tear, shake the commissioner's hand, but in the interview, my mom was standing beside me, and my emotions just took over."

There might be tears of joy in New Orleans, too, after the Pelicans were able to get the Duke powerhouse who is considered one of the most exciting prospects in years.

The 6-foot-7, 285-pounder compiled a college career worth of highlights into just one season, becoming the third freshman to be voted player

of the year by The Associated Press.

His assault on the rims made him a favorite of college basketball fans, but his game is more than just dunks. Williamson averaged 22.6 points and 8.9 rebounds while shooting 68% from the field.

Wearing a white suit, he hugged members of his family and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after his name was called first at Barclays Center.

Williamson will step into an open position in New Orleans, which recently agreed to trade All-Star Anthony Davis, the last freshman to win the AP award, to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I'm going to do anything to win. I'm just going to do anything to win," Williamson said.

The Memphis Grizzlies also quickly addressed a positional need by taking Murray State's Ja Morant with the No. 2 pick. The Grizzlies agreed to trade Mike Conley, their longtime point guard, to Utah a day earlier.

They got a good replacement in Morant, who led Division I with 10 assists per game as a sophomore while averaging 24.5 points.

"I have some big shoes to fill in Mike Conley," Morant said. "He's a great player. I wish him the best. Like I said before, it just means the Grizzlies see a lot in me."

RJ Barrett then made it two Duke freshmen within the top-three picks when the New York Knicks took the guard who actually edged out Williamson to lead the Atlantic Coast Conference in scoring. Knicks fans hoped they would get Williamson after finishing with the worst record in the league but seemed happy to end up with Barrett, loudly cheering and chanting "RJ! RJ!" when the pick was announced.

"That was great," Barrett said. "I'm glad that the city wants me here as much as I want to be here."

De'Andre Hunter of national champion Virginia was taken fourth but won't be teaming up with Williamson. The Pelicans acquired the rights to the pick in the Davis deal but agreed to trade it shortly before the draft to Atlanta. The original trade can't be official until July 6, so Hunter was outfitted with a Lakers hat and the draft board behind the stage listed the pick as belonging to the Lakers.

The Cleveland Cavaliers then took Vanderbilt guard Darius Garland, who played in just five games because of a knee injury.

Then it was another pick who won't be playing for the team that made it, with Jarrett Culver taken at No. 6 by Phoenix with a pick that the Suns agreed to trade to Minnesota

for the No. 11 pick.

That turned out to be Cameron Johnson, the second North Carolina player to be drafted after Chicago took Coby White at No. 7.

Kentucky then had two straight picks, with PJ Washington going 12th to Charlotte and Tyler Herro 13th to Miami.

Duke did even better by placing three in the top 10. Cam Reddish went 10th to the Hawks, making the Blue Devils the only team to pull off that feat since Florida placed Al Horford third, Corey Brewer seventh and Joakim Noah ninth after winning the 2007 national championship.

The trades caused some confusion in Barclays Center beyond just players wearing hats of teams whose uniforms they won't wear. A brief "Brooklyn! Brooklyn!" chant broke out when the Nets were on the clock at No. 17, but the Nets had already agreed to deal that pick to Atlanta in yet another trade that won't become official until July 6.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker, Brandon Clarke and Mfiondu Kabengele followed Barrett into the NBA, giving Canada its best showing with four first-round picks. The overall record for draft picks from outside the U.S. was set when France had five players selected in 2016.

Miami halts Bol's slide, then trades him to Denver

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bol Bol started the night high-fiving children as he walked across the stage as part of the festivities, being introduced with Zion Williamson, Ja Morant, RJ Barrett and others expecting to hear their names called early in the NBA Draft.

The other players were long gone by the time Bol heard his name called.

It was an uncomfortably long wait for the 7-foot-2 Oregon freshman as NBA Commis-

sioner Adam Silver rattled off the names of Bol's peers and the green room emptied out. The first round had come to an end and Bol — who was projected as a possible lottery pick — was still undrafted.

The agony ended when Miami selected him with the 44th overall pick.

Not that Bol is heading to South Beach. Nope, the Heat traded his draft rights to the Denver Nuggets in exchange for a future second-round pick and financial considerations.

Bol averaged 21 points, 9.6 rebounds and 2.7 blocks while shooting 56% from the field and 52% from three-point range with a rangy game and an unusual skillset, though there were concerns after he played just nine college games due to a foot injury.

"I just want to prove everyone wrong and just come out and be the best player I can be," Bol said on ESPN's draft broadcast.

The wait was a big fall for the son of late NBA player Manute Bol.

He found himself sitting in the green room as the last player there as the draft moved into the second round.

While it probably wasn't how Bol envisioned being drafted, his selection drew loud cheers from the fans who stuck around to watch the second round. They seemed to be happy for him that the awkwardness was ending.

The reaction prompted Bol to say: "It feels pretty good. I didn't know I had that many fans until right now."

Women's World Cup roundup

After 3 games, US as good as advertised

Associated Press

LE HAVRE, France — Maybe they are as good as they say they are.

The United States is moving through the World Cup field like sharks through the Atlantic.

"The message is that we're on our game, that we're building momentum, that we've gotten some good results, we've scored some good goals and we haven't let any goals in," defender Becky Sauerbrunn said after Thursday night's more dominating than it appeared 2-0 win over Sweden completed a record-setting group phase. "So I hope the teams that are preparing for us are getting ready for what's going to be a really, really tough match."

The American Outlaws supporters in red, white and blue filled the trains north from Paris. As gulls flew overhead on a mild and breezy afternoon, they walked the streets and museums of this coastal Normandy town with their "Tour de Four" T-shirts, signifying the fourth title they hope the U.S. brings home on July 7.

They were still in their throaty, start-of-game chants when Lindsey Horan scored 2 minutes, 40 seconds in, the

fastest goal of the tournament. By the time Tobin Heath's 50th-minute shot deflected off Jonna Andersson for an own goal, the Outlaws' "We are the U.S.!" chant had been met by a playful "You are the U.S.!" response from the ever-polite Swedes at the other end of the Stade Oceane.

Now the route through the field is clear and the heat really will be on for Monday's round-of-16 match against 13th-ranked Spain at Reims — where the temperature is expected to be in the 90s. The winner meets host France or Brazil in a quarterfinal in Paris, and possible semifinal opponents include England, Australia, Norway or Cameroon.

A few numbers to digest:

The U.S. set a record with 18 group phase goals, one more than Norway in 1995. The Americans ended the group stage unscored on for the first time in team history. They started 3-0 for the first time since 2003.

Despite the relative ease of passage, coach Jill Ellis insisted complacency is not a concern.

"This team is firmly rooted on the ground," she maintained. "These players have played this

game long enough to know you have to earn every result."

At least for three games, the Americans routed rivals in the same manner Barcelona beats up La Liga opponents. The U.S. had an 83-9 advantage in shots in the three games and had 75% possession against Thailand, 68% vs. Chile and 58% against the Swedes.

Alyssa Naeher — remember her? — had to make just four saves over the three matches, getting only infrequent tests in her first World Cup succeeding Hope Solo as the Americans' No. 1 goalkeeper.

"I don't think the first two games sent a message. They weren't great teams to be honest. With that said, you have to go out and perform," midfielder Megan Rapinoe said, laughing. "I feel like we have a big target on our back already. So I don't know how much bigger it can get with the performance."

Eight players produced 17 goals (plus there was an own goal), led by Alex Morgan with five, Carli Lloyd with three, and Horan, Rose Lavelle and Sam Mewis with two apiece.

Cameroon 2, New Zealand 1: At Montpellier, France, Ajara Nchout Njoya scored the

second of her two goals in the fifth minute of stoppage time and Cameroon beat New Zealand to advance to the round of 16.

Nchout Njoya slipped past New Zealand defender Ria Percival to curl the winning goal into the bottom right corner. She had also scored in the 57th minute to give Cameroon a 1-0 lead.

Cameroon's Aurelle Awona made it 1-1 in the 80th minute when she turned the ball into her own goal.

Both teams came in needing a victory to have any chance of finishing as one of the top four third-place teams.

Chile 2, Thailand 0: At Rennes, France, Chile missed a penalty that would have sent it through to the round of 16.

Chile, scoreless in this tournament before the Thailand match, needed to win by three goals to advance as a third-place team.

Chile was ahead 2-0 when it was awarded a penalty in stoppage time after video review showed Thailand goalkeeper Waraporn Boonsing had committed a foul.

The kick failed when Francisca Lara hit the crossbar.

Louisville rallies from 3 down to oust Mississippi State

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Louisville was down three runs and its offense was doing next to nothing through six innings against Mississippi State. And the Cardinals' dismal history at the College World Series didn't portend a comeback, either.

They were still down a run going to the ninth and facing a veteran closer who hadn't given up a run in his last seven appearances.

No matter.

"It was good energy," outfielder Drew Campbell said. "Everybody had positive things

to say in the dugout. Just going around the dugout, everybody was picking each other up. We weren't done. We were just pushing."

Campbell's single off Cole Gordon drove in Danny Oriente for the winning run in the bottom of the ninth, and Louisville eliminated Mississippi State with a 4-3 walk-off victory Thursday night.

The Cardinals (51-17) advanced past a third game for the first time in their five CWS appearances. They played No. 2 national seed Vanderbilt in the Bracket 2 final on Friday.

Mississippi State (52-15) had

been 47-0 when leading after eight innings. Louisville entered the night 1-16 when trailing after eight.

The Cards, borrowing from "Game of Thrones," lived their "Not Today" mantra to the hilt.

"We keep using that line," coach Dan McDonnell said. "Not today. Today is not going to be the last day."

Mississippi State had a walk-off win of its own Sunday, rallying from a three-run deficit in the ninth inning to beat Auburn 5-4. The Bulldogs led the nation with 28 come-from-behind wins.

"That's kind of how you had

to beat us — on the last swing — because our guys just have that never-die attitude," MSU coach Chris Lemonis said.

The Cards tied it at 3 when Jake Snider walked leading off the ninth against Gordon (5-1) and took second on the reliever's pickoff attempt in the dirt. Oriente singled into left center, and Jake Mangum came up throwing. Snider slid in head-first ahead of Dustin Skelton's tag attempt and the Mississippi State catcher couldn't hold onto the ball. Oriente took second on the throw home.

Campbell then sent Gordon's 2-2 pitch into center field.

MLB roundup

A's stun Rays on Chapman's walk-off HR

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning and the Athletics stunned the skidding Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 on Thursday.

Frankie Montas pitched eight innings of one-run ball for the A's, who rallied for their fourth straight win and seventh in eight games after Tampa Bay took a 4-1 lead with three in the top of the ninth.

Tommy Pham homered in the sixth for the Rays, who lost their fourth consecutive game and eighth in 10.

Chapman's 17th homer and second game-ender came on a 1-0 slider from Diego Castillo (1-5), handed his first blown save in eight chances.

Lou Trivino (3-5) got one out for the win. Jurickson Profar hit a solo homer in the fifth to put the A's ahead.

Yankees 10, Astros 6: Gary Sanchez, Gleyber Torres and DJ LeMahieu homered in a hurry, connecting in a six-run fourth inning that powered host New York past Houston for its sixth straight win.

Edwin Encarnacion hit his AL-leading 23rd home run, and second since being acquired by New York from Seattle, as the Yankees handed the Astros their season-worst fifth loss in a row.

The Astros dropped a matchup of division leaders despite Jake Marisnick's two home runs and solo drives by Alex Bregman and rookie Yordan Alvarez.

Reds 7, Brewers 1: Jose Iglesias homered and drove in four runs, Tanner Roark allowed one run — a homer by major league

leader Christian Yelich — over six solid innings and Cincinnati won at Milwaukee for its fifth straight victory.

Iglesias followed a two-out triple by Yasiel Puig with his fifth homer to put the Reds up 5-1 in the fifth. He also singled in two runs in the first. Nick Senzel hit his seventh homer for the Reds.

Roark (5-6), who had lost three consecutive starts and five of his last six, allowed three hits, struck out seven and hit three batters. Jared Hughes followed with two scoreless innings and Zach Duke finished.

Cubs 7, Mets 4: Top pitching prospect Adbert Alzolay tossed four innings of dazzling relief in his major league debut and host Chicago's offense broke through with a six-run third to beat New York.

Javier Baez homered and tripled, and Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run double.

Marlins 7, Cardinals 6 (11): JT Riddle hit a two-run homer in the 11th, Zac Gallen was effective in his major league debut and Miami won at St. Louis.

Brian Anderson also went deep and drove in two runs for the Marlins, who earned a split of the four-game series.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 4 (10): Chris Iannetta's two-run, bases-loaded single in the 10th lifted Colorado to a three-game sweep at Arizona.

Iannetta, a former Diamondbacks catcher, singled off the center-field wall against Yoshihisa Hirano (3-4) with one out to drive in Ian Desmond and Brendan Rodgers. The Rockies had tied it at 4 on Tony Wolters' pinch-hit RBI single in the ninth.

Blue Jays 7, Angels 5 (10): Billy McKinney's two-run homer in the bottom of the

10th lifted host Toronto over Los Angeles to avoid a four-game sweep.

Randal Grichuk singled with one out and McKinney, who entered the game as a pinch-runner in the eighth inning, went deep off Ty Buttrey (4-4) in his first at-bat since being recalled from Triple-A Buffalo on Tuesday. It was McKinney's fourth homer of the season.

Dodgers 9, Giants 8: Kyle Garlick, Austin Barnes and Joc Pederson each hit a two-run homer to help host Los Angeles hold off San Francisco.

Pederson's insurance homer ended up saving the Dodgers, who had a 9-4 lead going into the ninth before the Giants rallied. Their first five batters got on, including a two-run double by Brandon Crawford and RBI singles by Mike Yastrzemski and Stephen Vogt to get San Francisco within a run.

Rangers 4, Indians 2: Elvis Andrus homered and had an RBI triple to back another impressive home start by Mike Minor as host Texas earned a series split.

Royals 4, Twins 1: Alex Gordon had a two-run double and Lucas Duda added an RBI single as host Kansas City jumped on Jake Odorizzi in the first inning and beat Minnesota.

Mariners 5, Orioles 2: Domingo Santana hit his third home run in two days, Wade LeBlanc gave host Seattle a boost on the mound after another rough outing by an opener.

Santana's homers helped the Mariners win back-to-back games for the first time since May 13-14 against Oakland.

Nationals power their way to sweep of Phillies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three home runs. Solid work from the bullpen. Strong defense, highlighted by two runners being thrown out at the plate.

At long last, the Washington Nationals are finally starting to look like a baseball team capable of making some noise in the NL East.

Anthony Rendon and Victor Robles homered in a four-run sixth inning, and the Nationals beat the Philadelphia Phillies

7-4 Thursday night to complete a sweep of their rain-shortened series.

Rendon led off the sixth with a tiebreaking drive against Nick Pivetta (4-2), and Robles made it 7-3 with a three-run shot off Edubray Ramos.

Kurt Suzuki also went deep for the Nationals, who earned their first three-game sweep of the season. This victory followed a doubleheader win over their division rivals on Wednesday and postponements Monday and Tuesday.

"Throughout the weather, throughout all the hoops that we went through, the boys came to play," manager Dave Martinez said.

After sinking to 19-31 on May 23, Washington has used a 17-7 surge to get within two games of .500 (36-38) for the first time since April 28.

"This is gratifying to see," Martinez said. "They made some really good plays on defense today. We're playing good baseball all the way around — getting big hits when we need

them, our bullpen's stepped up, starting pitching has been good."

Javy Guerra (1-0) worked the sixth to earn his ninth win in 222 career games. Sean Doolittle got three outs for his 16th save.

Jean Segura and Jay Bruce hit solo homers for the Phillies, who have lost four straight and eight of 10. Playing at NL West-leading Atlanta and Washington in succession, Philadelphia went 1-5.