

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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DOD pushing drone swarm technology

The Washington Post

Flying aircraft carriers that launch and recover fleets of small, inexpensive drones could soon be part of the U.S. military arsenal as the Pentagon works with private technology partners to engineer that vision into reality.

In late April, the Pentagon's advanced research-and-development arm, known as DARPA, awarded a 21-month, \$38.6 million contract to Dynetics, a Huntsville, Ala.-based company, to work on the software and technology. San Diego-based Kratos, a venture-funded tech company that specializes in cheap drones used for target practice, joined as a subcontractor and will build a new class of drones whose wings can be folded up for easier storage in the belly of a plane.

For the U.S. military, gaining the ability to have multiple drones quickly and reliably take off from a plane and return to it would be a big step forward, aviation experts say. The goal is to build the technology and know-how needed to apply hordes of small drones on the battlefield.

The program, code-named "Gremlins," calls for the two companies to demonstrate the safe and reliable aerial launch and recovery of multiple unmanned aircraft. Having completed the technical designs for the small drones and the complex sensor systems that will enable them to fly in tandem, the companies are now working on the software that will allow for safe takeoff and landing.

Next, they will have to show that they can launch a pack of four drones from the body of a C-130 cargo plane, sending them out to fly on their own for 30 minutes and then to fly back into the plane.

Border Patrol eyes deported vets' murals on Mexico border wall

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Navy veteran Amos Gregory, a muralist working in San Francisco, was inspired in 2013 to paint an upside-down flag on the border wall dividing San Diego and Tijuana — a distress signal that Gregory described as the perfect symbol to represent the plight of deported veterans.

Over the years, the mural has become a backdrop for their fight to return to the U.S.

Nearly five years after Gregory, 48, and a group of deported veterans finished the mural, U.S. Border Patrol has taken renewed interest in it. The agency is taking stock of paintings on the border wall because of complaints from the public about "graffiti," said William Rogers, the supervisory border patrol agent in San Diego.

A few weeks back, the chief patrol agent for Border Patrol's San Diego office called a group of deported veterans in Tijuana, named the Unified U.S. Deported Veterans, and Hector Lopez answered the phone. Lopez, 54, is one of the veterans who helped paint the mural with Gregory.

"He told me that it was U.S. government property and that we need to either cover it up or paint [the flag] the right way," Lopez said. "And if we didn't do it, then they would come across and do it themselves."

Based on that phone call, Gregory believes Border Patrol is specifically targeting the mural of the American flag.

"There's a focus on that particular mural and the message," Gregory said.

However, Rogers said the agent contacted Lopez and artists who worked on other

murals to "offer them a voice" before the chief patrol agent decides whether to remove the paintings from the wall.

The murals were painted on the Mexico side of the border near Friendship Park, where friends and family members from opposite sides of the border often gather to talk through a mesh-linked fence. The area is under enforcement of the U.S. Border Patrol.

"The Chief Patrol Agent for San Diego Sector decided to reach out to the groups and artists that created these murals and engage them in conversation before making any final decision on remediation or preservation," Rogers said in a statement. "Part of this process is simply trying to figure out what is truly graffiti and what should be classified as an intentional mural."

"It is also important to understand that this is U.S. government property and that all of the graffiti and/or paintings were applied without permission," he said.

Rogers did not offer a time frame for when the Border Patrol would decide whether to remove any murals.

Gregory criticized the agency's interest in the paintings.

"When did Border Patrol get in the business of curating artwork?" he said.

The timing of the call from Border Patrol and its review are bewildering and disheartening, Gregory said.

In mid-April, one of the veterans who helped paint the American flag mural rocketed to national prominence when he obtained U.S. citizenship 14 years after he was deported to Mexico. Hector Barajas-Varela, 40, became the first known deported veteran to be natural-

ized as a U.S. citizen.

In 2016, a photo of Barajas-Varela standing in front of the mural was used as the cover for "Discharged, Then Discarded," a report from the American Civil Liberties Union about deported veterans. Stars and Stripes profiled Barajas-Varela in 2016.

"Here's this uplifting moment for deported veterans worldwide, and then this symbol, they call about taking it down just before?" Gregory said. "That really sucks."

According to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, there are about 3,000 cases of veterans who have been deported to countries around the world, though it's difficult to know an exact number because the U.S. government doesn't specifically track them.

Noncitizens who serve in the U.S. military are granted the right to citizenship, but they must apply for it — a requirement some advocates and lawmakers believe isn't made clear to servicemembers. Veterans who haven't attained citizenship can be deported if they are convicted of certain infractions, including drug crimes, domestic violence and voter fraud.

Some lawmakers have been working to secure more rights for noncitizens who serve in the military and grant access to VA services for those already deported. Next week, Barajas-Varela is expected to be part of a forum about deported veterans on Capitol Hill.

To Gregory, Border Patrol's scrutiny of his mural sends a deeper message about how the government views deported veterans.

"That symbol will change when the situation for deported veterans changes," Gregory said. "Until they're not in dis-

US, Philippines begin multinational drills

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The United States and the Philippines have begun their largest multinational drills under President Rodrigo Duterte, who sought to scale down America's military presence in his country after taking office in June 2016.

About 8,000 U.S. and Philippine troops on Monday kicked off the 34th iteration of the annual Balikatan exercise — which means “shoulder to shoulder” in Tagalog — that runs through May 18 in the Philippines.

The U.S. has sent 3,000 servicemembers to this year's

drills — about the same number as last year — while the Philippines has increased its participation to 5,000 personnel from the 2,800 who participated in 2017.

The drills come a week after CNBC reported that China had deployed surface-to-air and anti-ship missiles on disputed South China Sea islands, and a month after The Wall Street Journal said electronic jamming equipment on those islands was targeting U.S. Navy planes in the area.

The U.S. and the Philippines have clashed with China over access to disputed South China Sea waters. In 2016, the Per-

manent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands, ruled in the Philippines' favor in a dispute with China over fishing access to Scarborough Shoal. China has ignored the ruling, and Duterte sidestepped the issue in a bid to establish closer relations with Beijing.

China's missile deployment could change the Philippines' approach to the South China Sea, which has involved moving exercises away from Scarborough Shoal, said Collin Koh, a research fellow for the Maritime Security Programme at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

“The Armed Forces of the

Philippines have been willing to obey the instructions of the president in terms of de-escalating, but now the military might want a much harsher stance,” he said. “That could mean forces deployed to Palawan or amphibious landing exercises near Scarborough Shoal.”

Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Gregory Cronen, a spokesman for the exercise, said Balikatan is not tied to any current events.

“This year's exercise focuses on improving the effectiveness of U.S.-Philippine humanitarian aid and relief and counterterrorism efforts in response to a scenario-based crisis,” he said in an email.

CENTCOM's Stearney takes helm of 5th Fleet

By JASON BEHNKE
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — After only eight months on the job, Vice Adm. John Aquilino on Sunday turned over command of the U.S. 5th Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command to Vice Adm. Scott Stearney.

“I'm very grateful, thankful and I'm humbled for the opportunity to lead the maritime forces in the region,” Stearney

said during a change-of-command ceremony at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, where the 5th Fleet is based. He last served as director of operations at U.S. Central Command.

Several regional leaders attended the event, including Bahrain Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. Aquilino asked the Bahrainis to thank the king for the “wonderful friendship” they shared while he was stationed there.

The prime minister praised Aquilino's efforts in strengthening friendship and cooperation between the United States and the island kingdom, the Bahrain News Agency reported.

Aquilino served only eight months in the position because of his promotion to admiral earlier this year and his selection to take command of the Hawaii-based Pacific Fleet.

“As many of you know from working with him, [Aquilino] is

the perfect fit for a command that is so important to our nation and to many of our allies,” Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command, said during the ceremony. “We are proud to say he was ours for at least a while.”

Aquilino is expected to relieve Adm. Scott Swift later this month in Hawaii. Swift announced his retirement last September.

Military seeks solution to United's pet shipment limits

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. military agencies are working on a solution for military families affected by United Airlines' new pet transportation policy, called “PetSafe,” Navy officials in Japan said Monday.

Twenty-one breeds of dogs and four breeds of cats are banned under the new United policy announced last week. The airline is also barring carriers taller than 30 inches re-

quired for most Labradors, golden retrievers and German shepherds.

A message posted Monday on Sasebo Naval Base's Facebook page said U.S. Forces Japan, the services and U.S. Transportation Command “are working together on potential solutions.”

“USFJ is gathering information about service members and their pets who are affected by recent changes in pet travel policy on commercial airlines,” Maj. John Severns, a USFJ spokesman, told Stars and Stripes on

Monday in an email.

“We understand that pets are part of our military families, and we are committed to working with others across the Department of Defense to identify potential solutions to this problem.”

United spokesman Charles Hobart said last week that the new rules are aimed at improving the safety of pets while traveling.

The ban includes breeds with short and snub noses — such as bulldogs, boxers and pugs — as

well as Himalayan and Persian cats because research shows they have trouble breathing on planes.

It also targets “strong-jawed” dogs, such as mastiffs, Malinois, and pit bulls.

The change will be “catastrophic for pet owners,” especially military families overseas who already have few options, Leo Mendoza, owner of a pet shipment company in South Korea, told Stars and Stripes last week.

Kabul police foil suicide bombing attempt

BY ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
AND CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Kabul police foiled an attempted attack on civilians gathered for a blood-collection drive in a park about a mile from the U.S. Embassy and NATO headquarters, officials said Monday.

The blood drive Monday was organized for the victims of a deadly twin bombing last week that killed dozens of Afghans, including nine reporters who had rushed to the scene.

Many others were wounded

in the dual bombing, which was claimed by the Islamic State affiliate in the country.

A suicide bomber was walking toward a tent in Shar-e Naw Park where blood donors had gathered when police ordered him to stop shortly after 11 a.m., police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said. “As police started shooting at him, he detonated the explosives,” he said. There were no other casualties.

The park is in a busy district of the city that is home to many restaurants and shops as well as several fortified compounds housing international

aid groups and government agencies.

Activists said Sunday that the blood donations would support Afghan security forces and civilians.

Kabul, once a relatively safe city in the beleaguered country, has become increasingly dangerous in recent years as insurgent groups have conducted several successful attacks.

The latest attempt comes as Taliban guerrillas are expected to intensify their activity as part of their spring offensive.

Also on Monday, a blast went off inside a school in a refugee

settlement in the capital of eastern Logar province, damaging the building, which also served as a voter registration center.

It’s among the latest in a string of threats and attacks against election facilities. It detonated before children or teachers arrived, and no one was hurt, local media reported.

A day earlier, a bombing in Khost province killed 17 people and wounded 37 others at a mosque that was serving as a voter registration center in a busy part of the provincial capital.

UN: Afghan air raid in April killed 30 kids

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — An Afghan airstrike in Kunduz province last month killed 30 children and wounded 51, the United Nations mission to Afghanistan said Monday.

The U.N. said in a report that the children were among 36 people killed and 71 wounded in the April 2 attack in the Dashti Archi district of the northern province. It said the casualty toll may have been even higher.

Afghan defense officials initially said the attack targeted about 30 Taliban leaders who were taking part in a military parade. They said the strike was on a Taliban training camp, with foreign fighters from across the border in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan among the dead.

The U.N. launched its probe after an outcry from locals who said the gathering was largely a civilian one. A local official said the air raid hit a graduation ceremony at a religious school and that the dead included both civilians and militants.

The U.N. said in its report it

was unable to confirm that all casualties were civilians or that Taliban leaders were present. In a statement, the world body said the key finding was that the government fired “rockets and heavy machine gun fire on and around a religious gathering, killing and injuring civilians, the majority of whom were children.”

The findings were based on more than 90 interviews with victims, witnesses, government officials and medical personnel as well as three large community meetings in the provincial capital and a fact-finding mission to the site.

A spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry declined to comment on the findings.

The U.S. military was not involved in the strike, officials have said. But the U.S.-led coalition has been building up the government’s air force, and officials have touted it as a success of the NATO train-advise-assist mission.

NATO trainers have said Afghan pilots have shown judgment and restraint in their use of weapons, calling off strikes when civilian casualties seemed likely.

Saudi coalition airstrikes hit presidency building in Yemen, killing at least 6

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen’s Shiite rebels targeted the presidency building in the heart of the Yemeni capital on Monday, leaving at least six people dead and 30 wounded, according to health officials.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said the six killed were all civilians. It was not known if there were any Houthi rebel leaders inside the building at the time of the airstrikes in Sanaa or if there were any casualties among them.

The three-floor presidency building was completely flattened, while surrounding buildings in the city’s busy Tahrir district — including a famous five-star hotel — were heavily damaged. Cars were charred and pools of blood covered the pavement.

Many were believed to have been buried under the rubble.

Ambulances rushed to the area to retrieve the casualties.

The Saudi-led coalition has

been at war with the Houthis since 2015 to restore the country’s internationally recognized government to power. The war has killed more than 10,000 people and driven 3 million from their homes.

Last month, the coalition killed a top Houthi leader, Salah al-Sammad, in the Red Sea port city of Hodeida. Al-Sammad was also the acting president of the territory under rebel control, while the Houthis’ leader, Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, has mostly kept out of the public eye, addressing Yemenis only in occasional newscasts on rebel-run outlets.

Monday’s airstrikes appeared to have targeted al-Sammad’s successor, Mahdi al-Mashat.

Security forces cordoned off the area and forced journalists away from the site.

The sprawling presidency compound in Tahrir consists of several buildings walled off from the rest of the district.

Images that surfaced on social media in the aftermath of the strikes show bloodied faces of the wounded and columns of smoke rising over Sanaa.

26 homes destroyed by lava from Hawaii volcano

Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii — Hawaii's Kilauea volcano destroyed 26 homes and spewed lava hundreds of feet into the air, leaving evacuated residents unsure how long they might be displaced.

In revised figures Sunday, Hawaii County officials said another four unspecified structures were covered by lava.

Hawaii officials said the decimated homes were in the Leilani Estates subdivision, where molten rock, toxic gas and steam have been bursting through openings in the ground created by the volcano.

Some of the more than 1,700 residents who have been evacuated were allowed to briefly return to gather medicine, pets and other necessities.

Officials said residents would be able to do so each day until further notice as authorities monitor which areas are safe.

Amber Makuakane Kane, 37, a teacher and single mother of two, said her three-bedroom house in Leilani Estates was destroyed by lava.

The dwelling was across from a fissure that opened Friday when "there was some steam rising from all parts of the yard, but everything looked fine," Makuakane said.

On Saturday, she received alerts from her security system

that motion sensors throughout the house had been triggered. She later confirmed that lava had covered her property.

Makuakane grew up in the area and has lived in her house for nine years. Her parents also live in Leilani Estates.

"The volcano and the lava — it's always been a part of my life," she said. "It's devastating ... but I've come to terms with it."

Lava has spread about 387,500 square feet surrounding the most active fissure, though the rate of movement is slow. There was no indication when the lava might stop or how far it might spread.

"There's more magma in the system to be erupted. As long as that supply is there, the eruption will continue," U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist Wendy Stovall said.

About 250 people and 90 pets spent Saturday night at shelters, the American Red Cross said.

The number of lava-venting fissures in the neighborhood grew overnight from eight to as many as 10, Stovall said, though some have quieted at various points. USGS scientists expect fissures to keep spewing.

Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, has been erupting continuously since 1983.

Ill. counties declare 'sanctuary' status for owners of guns

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Several rural Illinois counties have taken a stand for gun rights by co-opting a word that conservatives associate with a liberal policy to skirt the law: sanctuary.

At least five counties recently passed resolutions declaring themselves sanctuary counties for gun owners — a reference to so-called sanctuary cities such as Chicago that don't cooperate with aspects of federal immigration enforcement.

The resolutions are meant to put the Democratic-controlled Legislature on notice that if it passes a host of gun bills, including new age restrictions for certain weapons, a bump stock ban and a size limit for gun magazines, the counties might bar their employees from enforcing the new laws.

"It's a buzzword, a word that really gets attention," said David Campbell, vice chairman of the Effingham County Board. "With all these sanctuary cities, we just decided to turn it around to protect our Second Amendment rights."

He said at least 20 Illinois counties and local officials in Oregon and Washington have asked for copies of Effingham County's resolution.

County officials fear their state legislators won't be able to stop the passage of the gun restrictions because they are outnumbered by lawmakers from in and around Chicago, where the vast majority of the more than 650 homicides last year involved guns. Co-opting the sanctuary title is also a way of drawing attention to the rural-urban political divide that was so stark in the last general election, when "downstate" areas of Illinois backed Donald Trump while Chicago backed Hillary Clinton, who grew up in the suburbs.

Not lost on them is that Chicago lawmakers were instrumental in turning Illinois into what they derisively call a "sanctuary state" by passing recent legislation that prohibits local law enforcement from arresting or detaining people based solely on their immigration status. Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner signed it into law.

Putin is sworn in for 4th term as Russia's president

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Vladimir Putin took the oath of office for his fourth term as Russian president on Monday, promising to pursue an economic agenda that would boost living standards across the country.

In a ceremony in an ornate Kremlin hall in Moscow, Putin said improving Russia's economy following a recession partly linked to international sanctions would be a primary goal of his next six-year term.

"Now, we must use all existing possibilities, first of all for re-

solving internal urgent tasks of development, for economic and technological breakthroughs, for raising competitiveness in those spheres that determine the future," he told thousands of guests standing in the elaborate Andreevsky Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace and two adjacent halls.

"A new quality of life, well-being, security and people's health — that's what's primary today," he said.

Although Putin has restored Russia's prominence on the world stage through military

actions, he has been criticized for inadequate efforts to diversify Russia's economy away from its dependence on oil and gas exports and to develop the country's manufacturing sector.

"Russia should be modern and dynamic; it should be ready to accept the call of the times," he said.

In his speech, he made only brief reference to Russia's international role, saying "Russia is a strong, active, influential participant in international life. The security and defense capa-

bility of the country is reliably ensured. We will give these matters the necessary constant attention."

He acknowledged that the challenges facing Russia were formidable "but we all remember well that, for more than a thousand years of history, Russia has often faced epochs of turmoil and trials, and has always revived as a Phoenix, reached heights that others could not."

Putin has effectively been the leader of Russia for all of the 21st century.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Baby owl falls from nest twice, gets rehab

IL KANKAKEE — A baby eastern screech owl that fell from its nest twice is getting some recuperative assistance.

The (Kankakee) Daily Journal reported that volunteers took the baby owl to Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation in Barrington after it was discovered on the ground Thursday for a second time.

Dawn Tutt, founder of 3D Wildlife Rescue and Rehab, said the second fall appeared to injure the bird.

The Kankakee Fire Department offered its ladder so Tutt could put the owl back in its nest. The owl's parents returned that night.

House where Borden lived is opening

MA FALL RIVER — The mansion where Lizzie Borden lived after she was acquitted of the ax murders of her father and stepmother will soon be open for overnight stays and tours.

The Herald News reported that crews are finishing renovations and the owners of the Fall River home known as Maplecroft hope their bed-and-breakfast opens for business within a month or so.

The home retains some features from Borden's time, including floral wallpaper in the dining room and a tin ceiling in the kitchen.

Maplecroft is not the house where Andrew and Abby Borden were slain in 1892. That home is now the Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast Museum.

Miniature pony helps pediatric patients

OH AKRON — A new miniature pony is

helping pediatric patients at two northeast Ohio hospitals.

The Akron Beacon Journal reported Willie Nelson made his official debut May 1 at the Akron Children's Hospital. The miniature pony is replacing longtime favorite Petie the Pony. Petie died in October after nearly two decades of service.

Willie will make weekly visits to Akron Children's Hospital and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland.

The mini horse trained for months at Victory Gallop to prepare for his role.

Carver alma mater to be rehabilitated

MO NEOSHO — A Missouri school that noted scientist and inventor George Washington Carver attended as a child is undergoing rehabilitation to return it to its original condition.

The Neosho Colored School is being moved so the Carver Birthplace Association can rebuild and stabilize the structure, the Joplin Globe reported. The school building was built in 1872.

Carver used to walk 10 miles to Neosho to attend the all-black school. The school gave Carver his first formal education. It operated from 1872 to 1891.

Man splashing near manatees is charged

FL STOCK ISLAND — A Florida man who allegedly slapped the water near a group of mating manatees has found himself being slapped with a harassment charge.

A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission report identifies the culprit as Luis Miguel Perez, 49, a fisherman in the Key West chain.

The Miami Herald reported

that Officer Glen Way used his phone to record the fisherman. It's illegal to poke, prod, pursue or feed manatees in Florida.

According to the April 30 arrest report, there were 16 manatees in the group. The fisherman was charged with a second-degree misdemeanor.

Man charged with carjacking semis

NC RALEIGH — Federal prosecutors say a botched effort to hijack a tractor-trailer on Interstate 95 in North Carolina temporarily blocked part of the major East Coast highway.

U.S. Justice Department prosecutors in Raleigh are charging Raymond Lee Bryant Jr., of Roseboro, with carjacking and using a firearm during a series of attempted armed robberies Thursday on I-95 in Dunn.

Prosecutors contend Bryant pointed a gun and fired a shot to force a driver and passenger out of one truck. But he jackknifed the truck while backing up to make his getaway, blocking I-95's northbound lanes.

Officials allege Bryant tried to strong-arm another semi-truck, but the driver bailed out as the gunman approached. Bryant then confronted the two occupants of a third vehicle and he sped from Harnett County.

County celebrating its 200th birthday

OH SPRINGFIELD — An Ohio county is celebrating its 200th birthday, and it's not just a one-day party.

The Springfield News-Sun reported the Clark County Commission held its first meeting April 25 in 1818 that established the 10 townships of the county. The county held a Bicentennial Bash on April 27.

Officials say that was just the beginning, and more events will celebrate the milestone throughout the year.

Drug deal leads to machete attack

NM LAS VEGAS — A northern New Mexico man is facing charges after police say he struck a woman with a "rusty machete" over a botched \$30 drug deal.

The Las Vegas Optic reported that Erminio Duran recently was arrested following an argument that turned violent at his Las Vegas home.

Police said the victim told officers that Duran, 44, hit her on the head more than once with a rusty machete-style knife.

Police said the woman was requesting more money than she'd originally been loaned by Duran to buy methamphetamine and he became angry.

The victim received lacerations on her hands from attempting to block the machete.

Statue of heroic war horse to be unveiled

KY LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Horse Park plans to unveil a statue of a horse that became a hero during the Korean War.

A statement from the park said the 1,000-pound statue of Sgt. Reckless will be unveiled Saturday.

The small mare had a racing background and was purchased by the U.S. Marines to carry ammunition. In a 1953 battle, she carried more than 9,000 pounds of ammunition on her back and made 51 trips to gun sites.

She was wounded twice, but carried on. She also helped evacuate dead and wounded soldiers.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Harvick dominates at Dover for 4th win

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Kevin Harvick was flanked by his Stewart-Haas Racing team on the victory lane stage when a photographer yelled at the group, "What are you holding up?"

"Four!" they shouted in unison.

Harvick, team owner Tony Stewart and the rest flashed their fingers Four Horsemen-style and let out a "Wooo!" before they uncorked the champagne and sprayed anyone in their sights.

The checkered flag collection keeps growing at SHR, and Harvick is leading the way.

Harvick dominated a race interrupted by rain and drove to his Cup Series-high fourth victory of the season Sunday at Dover International Speedway.

"I feel like we're playoff-racing on a weekly basis," Harvick said.

He reeled off three straight wins at Atlanta, Las Vegas and Phoenix earlier this season and now has the 60-pound Miles

the Monster trophy to add to his collection.

He brought the trophy home following his first win at Dover in October 2015, only to have his young son break the arm on the fiberglass creature that was never cleaned from the victory celebration.

"I'm bringing it home but do not break the arm off of this one," Harvick said he told his son. "It's hard to explain to people why his playroom smells like beer."

Harvick swept the first two stages and easily chased down SHR teammate Clint Bowyer in the third for the lead after a 41-minute delay. Bowyer, who won this season at Martinsville to snap a 190-race losing streak dating to 2012, had asked for a rain dance when the race was stopped with 80 laps left.

Once it resumed, Harvick waltzed his way into victory lane in the No. 4 Ford. He led 201 of 400 laps and stormed past Bowyer and took the lead for good with 62 laps left.

"You knew he was going to be the one that you were going to have to beat for the win," Bowyer said.

Harvick's 41st career Cup victory gives him a stout nine top-10 finishes and eight top-fives in 11 starts this season. He held four fingers out the window as he took a victory lap on the mile concrete track and won at Dover for the second time.

Bowyer was second. Daniel Suarez, Martin Truex Jr. and Kurt Busch rounded out the top five.

SHR had three cars in the top five with Harvick, Bowyer and Busch.

"Three cars in the top five says a lot about where we are as a company," Harvick said. "It's fun racing your teammate."

SHR has five wins this season and has never won more than six in its 10-year history.

"It's days like today that builds momentum for the organization," Stewart said. "It's about evolution."

NASCAR waits another week for its own transformation to happen.

The ballyhooed youth movement that was supposed to usher in NASCAR's rebirth continues to fizzle. The Dover race program had a photo of seven drivers with one career Cup win on the cover, yet the 42-year-old Harvick continues to hold off the so-called "young guns."

Harvick, Truex and Bowyer — all winners this year — are over 35.

One highlight, Suarez, NASCAR's first Mexican champion in the Xfinity Series, did match his career-best finish while driving with a broken left thumb.

"I feel like I was putting a lot of pressure on myself earlier in the season, trying to put a lot of pressure on the team to get the results," he said.

Up next: The series shifts to Kansas Speedway, where Truex is the defending race winner.

Late birdies help Day hold on at Wells Fargo

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jason Day birdied two of his final three holes Sunday for a 2-under 69 and a two-shot victory over Aaron Wise and Nick Watney in the Wells Fargo Championship, his second victory this year.

After squandering a three-shot lead on the back nine, Day rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole and then effectively won the tournament when his tee shot on the 230-yard 17th hole crashed into the flagstick and settled 3 feet away. He was the only player to make birdie on No. 17 at Quail Hollow in the final round, and it staked him to a two-shot lead.

Wise, a PGA Tour rookie, saved par on his last two holes for a 68. Watney made a 59-foot birdie putt on the last hole for a 69 and his best finish in three years.

Day finished at 12-under 272 and returns to the top 10 in the world.

He called it "one of the best wins I have ever had."

"I felt like I went 10 rounds out there just fighting against myself," Day said.

■ PGA Tour Champions: Bernhard Langer won his first PGA Tour Champions event of the year when he saved par on the final hole and closed with a 2-under 70 for a one-shot victory in the Insperity Invitational at The Woodlands, Texas.

Langer had to rally from as many as four shots behind in the final round at the The Woodlands Country Club. He birdied two straight holes around the turn, added birdies on both par 5s on the back nine and then had to scramble for par on the 18th hole.

He was right of the fairway among pine trees blocking his path over the water to the green. Langer was behind a TV structure, however, and chose to take relief to the right away from the trees. It left him a blind shot, but without pines in his way. He went just right of the green, hit a delicate chip to just under 4 feet and made the putt.

Paul Goydos (68) led for much of the back nine until a bogey on the 18th hole. He tied for second with Jeff Maggert and Bart Bryant, who each had a 69.

Langer, 60, won for the 37th time on the PGA Tour Champions, which trails only Hale Irwin's 45.

■ LPGA Tour: Sung Hyun Park chipped in from behind the green for birdie on the final hole for a 5-under 66 and a one-shot victory in the LPGA Texas Classic at The Colony, a tournament cut to 36 holes because of rain.

Because of the rain delays and stop-and-start nature of the tournament, Park was part of a five-way tie for the lead going into the second and final round. However, she finished 90 minutes before the tournament ended because groupings were not changed from the opening round.

Park finished at 11-under 131.

Lindy Duncan birdied her last three holes for a 64 to finish one shot behind. Yu Liu of China had a 66 and was another shot back.

Park was the LPGA Tour rookie of the year and shared the LPGA player of the year award with So Yeon Ryu last year. This was her first victory of the year, and she was the 11th winner in 11 tournaments on the LPGA Tour this year.

With a 36-hole event that began with a full field, some players went 35 holes on Saturday and returned to play one hole on Sunday.

NBA roundup

Durant nets 38 as Warriors top Pelicans

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Kevin Durant made his approach to taking over a pivotal NBA playoff game sound so simple — and look that way, too.

“I just try to tell myself that I’m at my best when I don’t care what happens after the game, the outcome or anything,” Durant said. “That’s when I’m free and having fun out there, and forceful. That was thing — just try to play with force no matter if I missed shots or not, just keep shooting, keep being aggressive.”

Durant scored Golden State’s first two baskets on pull-up jumpers of 21 and 15 feet before a minute-and-a-half had elapsed in Game 4 of the Warriors’ Western Conference semifinal series against New Orleans on Sunday. He finished with 38 points on 15-for-27 shooting to go with nine rebounds, and Golden State soundly beat the Pelicans 118-92 to take a commanding 3-1 series lead back to the West Coast.

Warriors guard Stephen Curry said it

was apparent early that getting the ball to Durant would be wise.

“Just find ways to get him in scoring positions,” Curry said. “Sometimes, that’s not really hard to do — just throw it to him.

“Just keep the game simple at that point because he’s such a great scorer, you don’t have to really overthink things.”

The Warriors lost by 19 in Game 3 Friday and the Pelicans were looking to even the series. Instead, the Warriors responded with a resounding effort that produced a wire-to-wire win with leads as large as 26 points. Curry scored 23, Klay Thompson added 13 and Quinn Cook, who was a Pelicans reserve earlier this season, contributed 12 points.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans, but the Pelicans hit only 36 percent (32-for-88) of their shots, missing 22 of 26 three-point attempts.

Rockets 100, Jazz 87: Chris Paul had 27 points and 12 rebounds while James Harden scored 24 points to power the Houston to a win over host Utah, taking a

3-1 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

Paul, playing the sidekick to Harden for most of his first season in Houston, took center stage, controlling the tempo and getting to his favorite spots as the Rockets led from start to finish.

Donovan Mitchell scored 25 before fouling out and Joe Ingles had 15 for the Jazz.

Mitchell started finding lanes to the basket late and got the Jazz within 85-80 after he fueled a 10-2 run. But Paul, who matched his scoring high for this playoff run, hit a pull-up jumper and found Trevor Ariza for a 3-pointer to put the Rockets back up by double digits and they never looked back.

Houston, which has been known for their offensive firepower, put forth a disruptive defensive effort.

Clint Capela, the anchor of the Houston defense, had 12 points, 15 rebounds and six blocks, one of which featured a Dikembe Mutombo-like finger wag in the fourth quarter.

NHL roundup

Expansion Golden Knights head to conference final

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves in his fourth shutout of the playoffs and the expansion Vegas Golden Knights are headed to the Western Conference Final in their inaugural season after beating the San Jose Sharks 3-0 in Game 6 of their second-round series Sunday.

Jonathan Marchessault opened the scoring, Nate Schmidt added an insurance goal that was only detectable by replay and Cody Eakin sealed it with an empty-netter to help Vegas become just the third team in NHL history to win multiple series in its first season. The Toronto Arenas won the Stanley Cup in the first postseason in league history in 1918 and St. Louis won two rounds to win the all-expansion West Division in 1968.

The Golden Knights relied

on a crew of castoffs, led by a goalie who was part of three Stanley Cup-winning teams in Pittsburgh before headlining a new team. Fleury posted shutouts in Games 1 and 6 against the Sharks and was also spectacular in an overtime win in Game 3. Next up for Fleury and Vegas will be the Western Conference Final against either Winnipeg or Nashville. The Jets lead that series 3-2 heading into Game 6 on Monday night.

The Sharks had numerous opportunities all night but were thwarted by a couple of shots that hit the iron, some acrobatic saves from Fleury and other chances that trickled just wide. This marked the fourth straight postseason for the Sharks that ended with a loss on home ice.

Lightning 3, Bruins 1: Brayden Point and J.T. Miller scored second-period goals, helping host Tampa Bay beat Boston and advance to the

Eastern Conference final for the third time in four years.

Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 27 shots — 14 in the final period — for the Lightning, who rebounded from losing the series opener at home to eliminate the Bruins in five games.

David Krejci scored on the power play in the final minute of the first period to give Boston a 1-0 lead that Point erased with his unassisted goal at 10:43 of the second.

Miller’s power-play goal broke the tie less than four minutes later, and Anton Stralman added an empty-netter with 1:29 remaining to end any chance for a Boston comeback.

One day after being put “on notice” by the NHL for licking Lightning forward Ryan Callahan during Friday night’s overtime loss in Game 4, there were no more such incidents involving Bruins winger Brad Marchand, who also made

headlines after appearing to lick Toronto’s Leo Komarov in the first round.

Marchand was given an edict Saturday to stop licking opponents or face a possible fine or suspension for future incidents. Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy said before the game that he talked with Marchand, delivering a simple, straight-forward message: “We need you on the ice, we need you playing. If part of his M.O. is to annoy people, find a different way to annoy them. Preferably by scoring some goals, that would be the best way.”

The Lightning once again did a good job of containing Boston’s top line of Patrice Bergeron, David Pastrnak and Marchand. Although the trio combined for 23 points in the series (seven goals, 16 assists), about half that production (11 points) came in the Bruins’ 6-2 win in Game 1.

Fowler lifts St. Louis over Cubs in 14th

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Dexter Fowler had a flair for the dramatic during his two seasons with the Chicago Cubs, from game-winning home runs early in his first year at Colorado to the leadoff blast in Game 7 of the World Series in 2016.

The St. Louis Cardinals outfielder was up to his old theatrics early Monday morning, putting the finishing touch on a Cardinals sweep of the Cubs with a two-out, two-run home run in the bottom of the 14th inning.

Fowler's blast lifted St. Louis to a 4-3 victory over Chicago in a twice rain-delayed game that appeared to be all but finished when Javier Baez put the Cubs up by a run with his solo homer in the top of the 14th.

That is, until Fowler reminded his old

teammates of the excitement they've been missing since he departed Chicago following its World Series championship in favor of a four-year contract in St. Louis.

"It's always something special if you do it against them," Fowler said.

The Cardinals matched their season-best winning streak with their fifth consecutive victory. They improved to 4-1 this season against the rival Cubs, a year after Chicago won 14 of 19 between the two.

After Chicago took a 3-2 lead on Baez's solo shot in the top of the 14th, Luke Farrell (1-2) struck out the first two Cardinals he faced before allowing an infield single to Harrison Bader. Fowler then lifted a 2-2 pitch down the right-field line and just over the glove of Chicago's Jason Heyward.

"I said to myself, 'If you catch this, I'm going to cry,'" Fowler said. "He jumped and I thought he caught it. So I stopped. Then, I saw it bounce and I was like, 'Oh, my gosh.' Words can't even explain it."

Mike Mayers (1-0) earned the win in relief for St. Louis, allowing one run in three innings.

The game, which ended at nearly 1 a.m. local time, was delayed twice by rain, a 30-minute delay in the first inning and then 29 minutes during the third. It was also matched the longest game between the Cubs and Cardinals in nearly 12 years, equaling a 14-inning Chicago win over St. Louis on June 2, 2006.

"I can't think of one more exciting," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said.

MLB roundup

Torres HR in 9th gives Yanks 15th win in past 16 games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Move over, Mickey Mantle.

Gleyber Torres is the latest Yankees phenom earning his pinstripes right off the bat.

On a day when hits were hard to come by in the Bronx, the rookie second baseman became the youngest Yankees player to hit a walk-off homer, a three-run shot in the ninth inning that gave New York a 7-4 win over the Cleveland Indians on Sunday for its 15th victory in 16 games.

At 21 years and 144 days, Torres bettered Mantle, who was 21 years and 185 days when he hit a three-run, ninth-inning drive off Boston's Ellis Kinder in a 6-3 victory on April 23, 1953.

"He's been special," smiling manager Aaron Boone said about Torres.

After managing only one hit against Mike Clevinger, the Yankees fought back to win their sixth straight and finish a three-game sweep. New York also took the final three games of last year's playoff series between the teams.

Clevinger went 7¹/₃ innings in his first start against the Yankees, setting career highs with 10 strikeouts and 116 pitches. He issued two of his four walks in the eighth as New

York rallied.

Short in the bullpen, Cleveland manager Terry Francona called on closer Cody Allen, looking for a five-out save. Allen gave up a two-out RBI single to Brett Gardner and an opposite-field, two-run double to right by Aaron Judge before retiring Gary Sanchez with two on.

Aaron Hicks and Neil Walker, who began the day batting .182, opened the ninth with consecutive doubles to tie it and chase Allen (2-1). One out later, pinch-hitter Giancarlo Stanton was intentionally walked, and Torres drove a full-count pitch from Dan Otero over the right-center fence and into the Yankees' bullpen.

Diamondbacks 3, Astros 1: Matt Koch outpitched Justin Verlander to become the first pitcher to beat MVPs in consecutive starts in at least 71 years, lifting host Arizona past Houston.

Koch (2-0) outlasted Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw in his previous start and faced Verlander to become the first pitcher since the Chicago White Sox's Ed Lopat in 1947 to face MVPs in consecutive starts.

Verlander (4-1) took the loss, ending his 11-game regular season winning streak.

Nationals 5, Phillies 4: Max Scherzer struck out 15 in 6¹/₃ innings, and host Washington rallied for two runs in the ninth to beat Philadelphia. Scherzer and Phillies starter Jake Arrieta, who have combined to win the past three NL Cy Young Awards, kept things close before both bullpens faltered.

Angels 8, Mariners 2: Shohei Ohtani (3-1) returned from a sprained ankle and took a shutout into the seventh inning while outpitching Felix Hernandez, Mike Trout hit his 12th homer and Los Angeles beat host Seattle.

Red Sox 6, Rangers 1: Chris Sale (3-1) struck out 12, J.D. Martinez homered and Boston beat host Texas.

Blue Jays 2, Rays 1: Kevin Pillar scored the tiebreaking run on Alex Colome's wild pitch in the ninth inning, and visiting Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

Twins 5, White Sox 3: James Shields took a no-hitter into the seventh inning before Minnesota rallied past host Chicago.

Royals 4, Tigers 2: Kansas City won a series for the first time in 11 tries this season, beating visiting Detroit as Mike Moustakas drove in three runs.

Rockies 3, Mets 2: Ian Desmond hit two solo homers, including a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning that sent visit-

ing Colorado over sagging New York for its season-high fifth consecutive victory.

Giants 4, Braves 3: Andrew Suarez outpitched Mike Soroka in a rookie matchup, and San Francisco survived a ninth-inning rally for its first series sweep of host Atlanta in four years.

Pirates 9, Brewers 0: Chad Kuhl and Richard Rodriguez combined on a two-hitter as Pittsburgh beat host Milwaukee.

Athletics 2, Orioles 1: Andrew Triggs allowed two hits over seven innings, Khris Davis and Matt Olson drove in runs and host Oakland rallied to victory, extending Baltimore's losing streak to six games.

Padres 3, Dodgers 0: Eric Hosmer hit a go-ahead, two-run homer for the second consecutive day, rookie Eric Lauer got his first major league win and San Diego beat Los Angeles to take two of three in Major League Baseball's first regular-season series in Mexico since 1999.

Marlins 8, Reds 5: Starlin Castro drove in three runs for the second consecutive game, Cameron Maybin added two hits and two RBIs and visiting Miami won its fourth series in a row.