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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Newly named INDOPACOM gets new leader

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Since taking charge of U.S. Pacific Command in 2015, Adm. Harry Harris has given “277 speeches, large and small — or one speech every four days,” the four-star said Wednesday during a change-of-command ceremony here.

And just as he did during his first speech as PACOM commander “three years and three days” earlier, Harris hammered on the region’s four greatest challenges: North Korea, China, jihadi extremism and a revanchist Russia.

“I’ve reiterated these things over and over again, and I see no reason to change today, on what will be my last speech in uniform,” said the retiring Harris, who has been nominated to become ambassador to South Korea.

Harris passed command Wednesday to Adm. Philip Davidson, who most recently served as commander of U.S. Fleet Forces and U.S. Northern Command.

Davidson’s assignment was not the only new development for the Pacific combatant command; it has been renamed U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, or INDOPACOM, reflecting the rising strategic importance of the Indian Ocean, India and Sri Lanka.

Harris has been a vocal critic of China’s militarization of disputed areas of the South China Sea, where the nation has built artificial islands and erected on them

runways, hangars and other facilities useful only for military purposes.

“We should cooperate with Beijing where we can but stand ready to confront them when we must,” Harris said.

At the end of a 40-year Navy career, Harris had garnered the titles of Gray Owl and Old Goat, the former for being the longest-serving active-duty naval flight officer, the latter for being the oldest Naval Academy graduate still on active duty.

“Adm. Harris’ Naval Academy class of 1978 produced 31 flag and general officers, including four four-star admirals, attesting to the talent, commitment, service and devotion of that group,” said Adm. John Richardson, chief of Naval Operations, during the dockside ceremony.

Richardson said Harris’ Navy career was characterized by “adaptability and innovation in out-thinking any adversary and working his way through the most challenging situation.”

The son of a Navy chief petty officer who survived the sinking of the USS Lexington during World War II, Harris was virtually “predestined” to end up in the Navy, Richardson said.

Harris racked up 4,000 flying hours on the P-3 Orion surveillance plane, with 400 hours of combat time, he said. Harris pioneered the use of the maritime P-3 for surveillance overland.

“He’s a warrior-diplomat if there ever was one,” Richardson said.

“Here at Pacific Command, he’s trav-

eled the equivalent of 37 trips around the globe — 76 total days in the air to build and strengthen, expand and deepen our relationships with our key allies and partners in this fundamentally important part of the world,” he said.

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis described the command as “our primary combatant command, standing watch and intimately engaged with over half of the Earth’s surface.”

Mattis was in Hawaii while on his way to the annual Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. He touted the updated U.S. National Defense Strategy released in January as a road map for the American military that takes a “clear-eyed look at the world as it is, not how we would wish it to be.”

Without naming China, Mattis criticized that nation’s increasing use of economic leverage and naval might to dominate the region’s nations, particularly through its One Belt One Road initiative to fund and build infrastructure.

America’s vision for the future of the Pacific region “is shared by most nations in the region, where every state’s sovereignty is respected, no matter the size,” Mattis said. “It’s a region open to investment and free, fair and reciprocal trade not bound by any nation’s predatory economics or threat of coercion — for the Indo-Pacific has many belts and many roads.”

Harris called Davidson “a battle-tested leader” with experience and expertise from around the world.

Navy: China out, Vietnam and Israel in for RIMPAC 2018

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — China is out, but Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Brazil and Israel are in for this summer’s Rim of the Pacific naval exercise in Hawaii.

The Navy announced Wednesday that 26 nations, 47 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national land forces and more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel will participate in the biennial RIMPAC being held June 27 to Aug. 2.

This would mark the first time Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Brazil and Israel have joined

the drills, the Navy said.

Last week, the U.S. rescinded its invitation to RIMPAC for China, which had participated in 2014 and 2016, bringing several ships and personnel.

Marine Lt. Col. Christopher Logan, a Defense Department spokesman, told reporters the move was a first step in protesting China’s actions in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. China has expanded those islands through dredging, then built infrastructure upon them, some of which is useful only for military operations.

“China’s behavior is inconsistent with

the principles and purposes of the RIMPAC exercise,” Logan said in a statement. “We have strong evidence that China has deployed anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missile systems and electronic jammers to contested features in the Spratly Islands region of the South China Sea.”

The other countries participating in RIMPAC are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, South Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga and the United Kingdom.

Official: Talk to save summit with N. Korea 'went well'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's meetings Thursday with a top North Korean official ended more than two hours earlier than expected because the talks "went well" and "made progress" in salvaging an on-again, off-again summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a U.S. official said.

Earlier, Trump told reporters that North Korean officials could come to Washington on Friday with a letter from Kim. The adversaries are eyeing the first summit between the U.S. and North Korea after six decades of hostility.

The U.S. official said the high-stakes discussion in New York lasted a little more than two hours, until 11:25 a.m., well before the scheduled end at 1:30 p.m. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the details of the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Pompeo met with Kim Yong Chol, one of the North Korean leader's closest aides. He is the highest-ranking North Korean official to visit the U.S. in 18 years.

Study cites rate of noncombat injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

More than a third of some 30,000 soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan through 2014 were hurt in noncombat incidents such as falls and vehicle crashes, a new study has found.

The study, published Wednesday in the medical journal JAMA Surgery, also found that more than 10 percent of troops killed in those conflicts died of noncombat injuries. The proportion of nonbattle injuries remained relatively stable over the 2003-14 time frame covered.

Lead researcher Dr. Tuan D. Le, of the Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, said the study — which aimed to quantify nonbattle injuries and to characterize them — is important for understanding how to prevent or reduce injuries during deployments.

Nonbattle injuries, or NBI, may "deplete medical resources, increase costs, decrease mission capabilities, and result in long-term disability for injured service members," Le wrote.

During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, NBI has continued to be a significant burden," the study's authors wrote. They noted that previous research using more than a decade of aeromedical evacuation records showed that a third of Army medical evacuations during deployment were a result of non-

combat injuries.

The rate of noncombat hospitalizations was higher than in the Vietnam War, with 13 percent, and the Gulf War, with 25 percent.

"Despite the historical burden of NBI, research has focused primarily on the incidence and prevention of battle injury," the study said.

Using the Defense Department Trauma Registry for data on 29,958 servicemembers injured between 2003 and 2014 in Iraq and Afghanistan and evacuated to hospitals, the researchers found that NBI accounted for 34.1 percent of all injuries and 11.5 percent of all deaths of troops admitted to military medical facilities.

Falls accounted for about 21 percent, vehicle crashes accounted for about 19 percent, machinery or equipment accidents accounted for about 13 percent, and unspecified injuries by blunt objects accounted for about 11 percent. Gunshot wounds were the cause of about 7 percent of accidental injuries, slightly higher than the share of sports injuries.

Dr. Todd E. Rasmussen, an associate dean of research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., wrote in a commentary that the new study is "a wake-up call." Rasmussen, who was not involved in the research, added that the three leading causes of nonbattle injuries — falls, crashes and machinery accidents — are preventable.

Army updates rifle procedures over malfunctioning M4A1

BY LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

The Army is updating procedures for use of the M4A1 automatic rifle after a soldier recorded cellphone video of his weapon firing when it shouldn't have.

The video, recorded in late March, shows the soldier operating a rifle that has been converted from a standard M4, which can fire a maximum three-round burst, to the fully automatic M4A1, according to a safety message sent to troops Tuesday.

The soldier places his carbine's selector switch between

"semi" and "auto" and squeezes the trigger but it doesn't fire until the switch is moved to "auto" and immediately discharges a round, the message says.

The Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, or TACOM, first warned soldiers about the problem in March and April.

The M4A1, previously used exclusively by special operations troops, is now the Army's primary individual weapon.

Inspectors were able to replicate the malfunction depicted in the soldier's video in about 10 percent of the weapons they

checked, defense industry journal Soldier Systems reported.

Testing also revealed that carbines from a different manufacturer malfunctioned when switched from "safe" to "semi-automatic," the journal reported.

The latest safety messages concern M4s and M4A1s, as well as M16A2, A3 and A4 rifles. They order personnel to change the

way they check functions on the weapons and to perform immediate action drills to diagnose weapon stoppages.

The new functions check, which should be performed

every 10 days or prior to live firing, whichever comes first, is expected to identify weapons in which the fault is present.

The new immediate action drill, in which firers confirm that the selector switch is fully set to "semi" prior to conducting the rest of the drill, is aimed at preventing the unintended discharges.

The Army's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center and Project Manager Soldier Weapons are investigating the incident. So far, no single cause for the issue has been identified, the safety messages say.

Trump revises explanation of Comey firing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump declared Thursday that he didn't fire FBI Director James Comey over the Russia investigation, despite previously citing that as the reason. His lawyer, meanwhile, blasted federal investigators as "a lynching mob" the Trump team will "knock the heck out of" in the end.

The president has said at least twice that Comey's firing in May 2017 was related to the FBI's investigation into whether Trump's campaign associates coordinated with Russia in an effort to sway the 2016 election. His lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, told Fox News last month that Trump fired Comey because the FBI director wouldn't publicly state that he "wasn't a target" of

the Russia investigation.

Trump tweeted Thursday: "Not that it matters but I never fired James Comey because of Russia! The Corrupt Mainstream Media loves to keep pushing that narrative, but they know it is not true!"

Comey's firing led to the appointment of Robert Mueller as the Justice Department's special counsel investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election as well as possible ties between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia. The firing is now under investigation by Mueller as possible obstruction of justice.

On Wednesday night, Giuliani said on Fox News' "Hannity" that the investigation "never should have taken place in the first place" and claimed there were ethical issues within the Justice Department.

"So, you got a group there, a lynching mob, so let them do their job and, boy, we're ready to knock the heck out of you with our report, which will be authoritative," Giuliani said. "It will be backed up. It will be backed up with law and facts. And we'll let the American people decide this."

It was not clear what report Giuliani was referring to.

Trump's legal team has said that Mueller is working on a report addressing whether the president obstructed justice. The Justice Department inspector general is also preparing a report that is expected to criticize the FBI's handling of the investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Fla. school shooter's videos released

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — In chilling cellphone videos released Wednesday, the suspect in a February massacre at a Florida high school announced his intention to become the next school shooter, aiming to kill at least 20 people and saying "you're all going to die."

The three videos released by prosecutors were found on the cellphone of suspect Nikolas Cruz after the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that killed 17 people and injured 17 others.

Cruz, wearing a ball cap, introduces himself in the first video and says he is "going to be the next school shooter of 2018." He goes on to say that he wants to use an AR-15 to kill at least 20 people and specifies the high school in Parkland.

The videos are undated, but on one he says: "Today is the day. Today it all begins. The day of my massacre shall begin."

"When you see me on the news, you'll all know who I am," he says in another and then laughs. "You're all going to die. ... Can't wait."

In another video, Cruz briefly discusses logistics, including that he will take Uber to campus about 2:40. He then says he'll walk onto campus, go up some stairs, open his bag to take out his weapon and start firing. School surveillance video shows that was almost exactly what he did — the only difference being that he arrived at the school at 2:19 p.m.

In one video, the camera apparently pointed at pavement, he talks about his loneliness, anger and hatred and announces that the "day of my massacre shall begin."

"I live a lone life. I live in seclusion and solitude," he says. "I hate everyone and ev-

everything. But the power of my AR you will all know who I am.

"I had enough of being told what to do and when to do. I had enough of being told that I'm an idiot and a dumbass. You're all stupid and brainwashed by the political and government programs."

Cruz is charged with 17 counts of murder and 17 counts of attempted murder in the attack. His lawyers have repeatedly said Cruz would plead guilty if guaranteed a sentence of life without parole, but prosecutors refuse to waive the death penalty.

Cruz, 19, is a former Stoneman Douglas student.

The Broward State Attorney's Office released the video because under Florida law, with few exceptions, evidence becomes public record when it is turned over to the defendant's attorneys as part of the pretrial discovery process. Cruz's attorneys say they did not request evidence such as video from inside the building where the massacre happened and autopsy reports so they would not become public and "further hurt and inflame the victims' families and the community."

"This is an awful case, and today is more of that awfulness and further shows how severely broken a human being the defendant is," Broward County Public Defender Howard Finklestein, whose office is representing Cruz, said in a statement.

Cruz spent several years at a school for children with emotional disabilities before being allowed to transfer to Stoneman Douglas. He spent several months there before being kicked out. His late mother called 911 on him almost 20 times over the years, and he had a history of killing animals, then posting images on the internet and taking body parts as souvenirs.

After 'Roseanne' gets boot, Trump escalates with ABC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump escalated a feud with ABC on Thursday in the wake of the cancellation of "Roseanne," tweeting at the chief executive of ABC's parent company.

Trump targeted Robert Iger on Twitter, saying: "Iger, where is my call of apology? You and ABC have offended millions of people, and they demand a response."

Trump specifically complained about an erroneous report last year by an ABC investigative reporter Brian Ross, saying: "He tanked the market with an ABC lie, yet no apology. Double Standard!"

ABC did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's tweets. The network previously apologized for the report about Michael Flynn and suspended Ross and told him he could no longer report on Trump. ABC confirmed that Ross is back at work following his suspension.

The president also complained to Iger a day earlier. The White House said Trump, who had celebrated the success of Roseanne Barr's show earlier this year, was not defending her racist tweet, but wanted to point out media bias against him. Last year, Ross, citing an unidentified confidant of Flynn, the former national security adviser, reported that then-candidate Donald Trump had directed Flynn to make contact with the Russians. Then Ross clarified, saying his source now said Trump had done so not as a candidate, but as president-elect. At that point, he said, Trump had asked Flynn to contact the Russians about working together to fight Islamic State.

Weinstein indicted on rape, other sex charges in NYC

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein was indicted on rape and criminal sex act charges, furthering the first criminal case to arise from a slate of sexual misconduct allegations against the former movie mogul.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said Wednesday's indictment brings Weinstein "another step closer to accountability" for alleged attacks on two women in New York.

Weinstein's lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said he would "vigorously defend" against the indictment and ask a court to dismiss it. He called the allegations "unsupported" and reiterated that Weinstein strongly denies them.

The indictment came hours after Weinstein's lawyer said the film producer would decline to testify before the grand jury because there wasn't enough time to prepare him and "political pressure" made an indictment unavoidable.

"Regardless of how compelling Mr. Weinstein's personal testimony might be, an indictment was inevitable due to the unfair political pressure being placed on Cy Vance to secure a conviction of Mr. Weinstein," the statement said.

Weinstein, 66, learned of the specific charges and the accusers' identities only after turning himself in Friday, according to his lawyers. Brafman said that with a deadline set for Wednesday afternoon for Weinstein to testify or not, prosecutors denied his request for more time.

Vance said the Weinstein camp's "recent assault on the integrity of the survivors and the legal process is predictable."

"We are confident that when the jury hears the evidence, it will reject these attacks out of hand," he said in a statement.

Weinstein was charged Friday with raping one woman and committing a criminal sex act by compelling oral sex from another. A grand jury continued hearing evidence in the case.

Defendants have the right to testify in a grand jury's secret proceedings but often don't.

Freed on \$1 million bail and electronic monitoring, he is due back in court July 30, though that date may now be moved up in light of the indictment.

Beyond the two women involved in the case, dozens more women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to assault in various locales. He has denied all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

Landslide from Alberto kills 2 in NC

Associated Press

As remnants of Subtropical Storm Alberto spread into the Great Lakes region, people were keeping a weary watch on dams and hillsides Thursday as rains from the storms have triggered floods and mudslides in the Appalachians of the Southeast.

In the North Carolina mountains, one of those landslides was blamed for a gas leak that destroyed a home, killing two people. Boone police Sgt. Shane Robbins said the landslide resulted in the "catastrophic destruction" of the home Wednesday because of a gas leak.

In Virginia, rescuers were searching for three people feared to have been swept away by floodwaters.

In central Virginia, a swift water rescue team was searching for two people who were seen being swept away by a flash flood's torrent of muddy water Wednesday night, according to a news release from the city of Charlottesville. By early Thursday, there was no sign of the missing couple.

North of there, authori-

ties were searching roadside woodlands for a third missing person. The Madison County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post Thursday morning that rescuers were searching for a missing person after getting a report of a female in the water. The post said the person was reported missing about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and the search had been ongoing.

Elsewhere, four North Carolina dams being watched closely by a state team of special engineers were holding up, Gov. Roy Cooper said Wednesday.

But Cooper went ahead and declared a state of emergency for his hard-hit mountain counties, saying the forecast for the rest of the week calls for isolated heavy rainstorms that could cause flooding instantly in areas that have had 20 inches of rain in the past 15 days.

"This storm isn't yet over. I'm urging people to keep a close eye on forecasts," Cooper said.

Alberto has managed to make its way since a Memorial Day landfall in the Florida Panhandle to just outside Chicago. Forecasters said it still would bring rain and gusty winds to the Great Lakes this week.

Human rights court: Romania, Lithuania hosted CIA jails

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — The European Court of Human Rights ruled Thursday that Romania and Lithuania allowed the detention and abuse of a Saudi and a Palestinian at secret U.S. prisons.

The Strasbourg, France-based court said Thursday that Abd al-Rahim Al Nashiri, a Saudi national later sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was detained and abused in Romania between September 2003 and October 2005, and urged Romania to investigate and punish perpetrators.

The court concluded that Al-Nashiri was blindfolded, hooded, shackled, kept in solitary confinement and subjected to loud noise and bright light during his detention at the CIA prison in Romania.

Romania denies hosting such CIA facilities. There was no immediate reaction

from the government.

Al-Nashiri's lawyer, Amrit Singh, called the ruling "a sharp rebuke to Romania's shameful attempts" to conceal its hosting of a secret CIA prison. He was the lead lawyer on the case with the New York-based Open Society Justice Initiative.

The court also said that Lithuania hosted a secret CIA detention facility from February 2005 to March 2006 where Abu Zubaydah, a Palestinian suspected of being a planner for the Sept. 11 attacks, was detained.

It ruled that Lithuania allowed him to be moved to another CIA detention site in Afghanistan, "exposing him to further ill-treatment." He is currently detained at Guantanamo Bay.

Lithuanian authorities said they would consider appealing the court's decision and may also investigate the claims again.

Justice Minister Elvinas Jankevicius told reporters that "we will take a decision after carefully examining" the ruling. Vytautas Bakas, the chairman of the parliamentary committee for national security and defense, said he would propose opening a new probe.

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, however, contradicted the justice minister and said in a statement that the small Baltic country's "reputation damage is done," adding that Lithuania "thus will have to execute a court judgment" and pay Zubaydah \$152,000. She has clashed regularly with the Lithuanian government.

A 2009 investigation in Lithuania concluded that the country's intelligence agency helped the CIA set up two small detention centers there, but did not determine whether the facilities actually were used in the interrogation of terrorism suspects.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man discovers fishing line tied across road

WA GRAHAM — Authorities are investigating after a Washington man nearly crashed his motorcycle when he drove through fishing line tied across a road.

Alex Teston said he received a minor cut to his neck after driving in Graham southeast of Tacoma on May 25.

Teston said the line over the road jerked him back on his motorcycle but he was able to maintain control. He later discovered a horizontal cut on his neck where the line connected.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department said investigators found the line that may have been strung from a utility pole to a tree across the road.

Officers struck, horse punched during brawl

DE DEWEY BEACH — Authorities said two officers were struck by a car and a police horse was hit in the face during a brawl in Delaware.

News outlets cited a joint news release from Dewey Beach police and the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement saying a "disorderly and angry crowd" of around 20 to 30 surrounded officers early Sunday. Police said Taevon Potts, 22, had been pushing and yelling at people and resisted arrest.

Rehoboth Beach police, state troopers and DATE responded to help with crowd control. Two DATE agents suffered minor injuries when Sherelle L. Evans, 32, refused to stop her car.

Potts and Evans were both arrested. Gavin Coco, 23, was charged with offensive touching of a law enforcement officer for punching the horse, who was uninjured.

Rail passengers in the mood for a melody

NY HUNTINGTON — A group of New York commuters got together around "9 o'clock on a Saturday" and sang a rendition of Billy Joel's famous ballad, "Piano Man."

A video posted on Twitter captured nearly everyone aboard the Long Island Railroad train bound for Huntington singing in unison to the song May 19.

Professional tennis player Julia Elbaba — who posted the video — said she was on the train talking with a man who mentioned he was in a Billy Joel tribute band.

Elbaba said she sang a few bars with the man and "before I knew it, the whole car was singing."

Groom wears Eagles jersey at wedding

PA MACUNGIE — When wedding guests cheered a couple tying the knot over Memorial Day Weekend, the excitement wasn't just about the union — some of it stemmed from the football jersey the groom slipped into before saying "I do."

Jennifer Sullivan said she was so certain the Philadelphia Eagles would lose the Super Bowl that she told fiance Patrick Hanks he could wear a jersey to their wedding if the team won. To her surprise, the Eagles defeated the New England Patriots 41-33.

When Sullivan and Hanks married Saturday at Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Macungie, Pa., the groom stripped off his tux jacket, grabbed a Carson Wentz jersey from the bushes behind him and donned it as guests broke into a celebratory Eagles chant.

Woman finds goat head on her car

MA BOSTON — A woman woke up to find a gruesome sight on her car in the Boston neighborhood of Hyde Park.

WBZ-TV reported a bloody goat head was found on a woman's car Tuesday.

The Boston Police Department said the woman called when she walked her dog up Garfield Avenue and noticed the head of the animal on the hood. She also found a photo of herself tucked under the windshield wiper blades.

Animal control removed the head, while officers searched the area for more evidence.

Dog gives firefighter wet kiss after rescue

ME WELLS — A Maine firefighter came to the rescue of a dog that was trapped on a roof.

Wells police said the dog made its way through an upstairs window and became stranded on the home's roof last weekend. Police said worried onlookers called about the pooch.

Wells Fire Department Captain Jeff Nawfel climbed a ladder to reach the dog. Nawfel was able to coax the canine back into the home after a couple of wet kisses.

Man steals, crashes unmarked police car

FL MIAMI BEACH — Authorities said a man stole an unmarked police car near Miami and then crashed it.

The Miami Herald reported that the man stole the car Sunday night and sped away before losing control and crashing into another car. The unidentified

suspect was taken into custody, and Miami Beach Fire Rescue Chief Jorge Linares said he was hospitalized in stable condition.

Miami Beach police spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez said no bystanders or police officers were injured.

Puppy with 'free' on fur to be adopted out

OH CHILLICOTHE — An animal shelter in Ohio said dozens of people are offering to adopt a puppy found in a cage with "FREE" scrawled on her fur.

The Ross County Humane Society said the 5-month-old female mixed lab was found in a Chillicothe park.

Director Jenn Thomas said it appears that whoever left the dog used a permanent marker to write "FREE" and "GOOD HOME ONLY" on its fur. The shelter said the puppy has been cleaned up to remove the writings.

Thomas said the shelter has received nearly 100 applications to adopt the dog.

Photos show how road crossings help wildlife

VT BRANDON — The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife said a series of game camera photos of a bobcat walking under a bridge show how passages under roads can help wildlife survive across the state.

The photos show the bobcat walking under a bridge in Brandon.

Information about wildlife passages has allowed the Vermont Agency of Transportation to modify the design of bridges, culverts and overpasses to permit improved movement of wildlife.

From wire reports

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Holtby big in goal for Capitals in Game 2

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Alex Tuch collected the skittering puck with absolutely nothing between him and the tying goal with two minutes left in Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Final.

Braden Holtby reacted with pure instinct.

Washington's goalie stretched back and lunged to his right with his stick, thrusting the paddle into the exact 4-inch slot of air through which Tuch's shot was headed for the net.

"Luckily it hit me," Holtby said with a shrug.

The Washington goalie's coaches and teammates weren't quite so calm about a save that will go down in Capitals history as the key to a 3-2 victory over the Vegas Golden Knights on Wednesday night, evening the series at one game apiece.

The win was the Caps' first-ever Stanley Cup Final victory — and the save might be a catalyst to even bigger things.

"To me, it was the hockey gods," Washington coach Barry Trotz said. "They evened it up from the last game. Great save. You could see the emotion on our bench. Once he made that save, I knew we were going to win the game."

Holtby made 37 saves, but he got help from earthly sources as well. Alex Ovech-

kin scored a power-play goal, his first in a Final, Brooks Orpik ended a personal 220-game goal drought with the eventual winner, and Lars Eller added a goal and two assists.

"We refocus and pick each other up and that's a sign of a good team," Holtby said. "That's one of our strengths."

Game 3 is Saturday night in Washington. The Caps are just 4-5 at home in the post-season, but they'll ride a wave of momentum after going into the Golden Knights' daunting home arena and taking away home-ice advantage in Washington's first Stanley Cup Final in 20 years.

After getting battered in the Knights' 6-4 series-opening win, Holtby made several big saves throughout Game 2, coming up particularly big while Washington killed a 5-on-3 disadvantage for 1:09 earlier in the third period. He capped his energetic performance with that jaw-dropping stick save on Tuch with 1:59 to play.

"Holtby just makes the save of the year," Washington forward Jay Beagle said. "Maybe the save of a lifetime. It's unreal."

The T-Mobile Arena crowd was stunned as the Knights struggled to get around Holtby's stick.

"Thank God he's our goalie," Ovechkin said. "He's over there when we need him, and it was probably the save of the year for

sure."

Washington overcame another big blow when it lost leading scorer Evgeny Kuznetsov to an upper-body injury in the first period after a big hit from Vegas defenseman Brayden McNabb, but the Caps avoided any hotheaded retaliation and concentrated on a gritty effort that was enough to even the series.

James Neal and Shea Theodore scored and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 23 shots for the upstart Knights, who couldn't summon their usual clutch magic, even with lengthy man advantages. Thanks to Holtby's 15 saves, Vegas finally went scoreless in the third for the first time in six periods in this series.

Washington handed the Golden Knights only their second home defeat — the first in regulation — in Vegas' nine postseason games.

"I think it's really important that we take a step back and take a deep breath and know that you're not going to win this series in two games," Vegas defenseman Nate Schmidt said. "We're a special group. We can go out and win games on the road. We've done it all playoffs."

So have the Capitals, who improved to 9-3 on the road after two games in this frequently chaotic series.

Vegas realizing nothing comes easy in Stanley Cup Final

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Winning a Stanley Cup isn't meant to be easy, something that even the novice hockey fans in Las Vegas now surely understand.

No need to tell it to the Washington Capitals. They've spent 43 seasons chasing the elusive Cup, only to find an expansion team — of all things — in the way of finally ending the drought.

The battle for hockey supremacy heads to the nation's capital all tied up 1-1 after a pair of games as entertaining as anything on the Las Vegas Strip. The goals keep coming and so do the hits, including one Wednesday night on Evgeny Kuznetsov that both knocked him out of the game and seemed to wake Washington out of its daze.

Their top playoff scorer out, the Caps rallied for three straight goals that stopped — at

least for a moment — a team that has been virtually unstoppable throughout the playoffs.

"It galvanized us as a group," Caps coach Barry Trotz said. "I think it might be a turning point for us."

On a night when Alex Ovechkin scored the first Stanley Cup Final goal of his 13-year NHL career to give the Caps a lead they somehow managed to hold onto even while being outplayed and outshot by the Knights in the third period, Washington won a final-round game for the first time ever to make the flight back home a lot sweeter.

For the Capitals it means service held, with the next two games in far friendlier confines at home.

For the Knights, it was a golden opportunity gone awry.

They were 7-1 in the playoffs at home, 11-1 overall when scoring the first goal. So when James Neal scored barely eight

minutes into the game, the party was on.

And then, suddenly, it was off. At least for now.

Credit some of that to the resilience of the Caps, who were down a goal when Kuznetsov was knocked out of the game. Give a tip of the hat to Ovechkin, too, who scored the go-ahead goal in the second period.

But when the story of this Cup Final is finally written it may hinge on a hit by Brayden McNabb on Kuznetsov as he had the puck along the boards late in the first period. McNabb slammed into Kuznetsov with a high check and Kuznetsov immediately bent over holding his arm with what appeared to be a wrist injury.

Another team might have folded in front of the raucous crowd of 18,702. But the Caps have been resilient all the way through the playoffs, and this game was no exception.

"It was all about commit-

ment. We blocked shots and played for each other," forward Nicklas Backstrom said. "It's good to win and go back to Washington."

On a 98-degree day in Las Vegas, the action on the ice was as hot as the weather outside. The Knights dominated play at times and outshot the Caps 39-26, but could not deliver on a 5-on-3 power play in the scoreless third period.

For the Knights it was a rare whiff in a season like no other. They've been one of the great stories in sports, an expansion team in its first season playing for the championship of the NHL.

But every great story needs a great ending, and for the Knights to write one they're now going to have to win at least one game on the road.

"It's the Stanley Cup final, it's little things," said Knights forward Erik Haula. "Nobody said it's gonna be a 4-0 series."

Top seed Halep, Sharapova advance

Associated Press

PARIS — Top-ranked Simona Halep, third-seeded Garbine Muguruza and two-time champion Maria Sharapova all powered into the French Open's third round with straight-set victories Thursday.

Halep showed no signs of fatigue in beating wild-card entry Taylor Townsend 6-3, 6-1, despite playing on consecutive days.

Sharapova improved to 13-0 in second-round French Open matches by beating 50th-ranked Donna Vekic of Croatia 7-5, 6-4.

And Muguruza impressed with her easy movement around the court in a 6-4, 6-3 victory over French wild-card entry Fiona Ferro.

On the men's side, Rafael Nadal also completed a straight-set win to reach the third round.

Halep broke the 72nd-ranked

Townsend in the first game and jumped to a 5-1 lead.

Townsend dug deep in the eighth game, with Halep serving for the set, clawing back a break to slow the progress of last year's losing finalist.

Halep swiftly quelled the rebellion. Heaping pressure on Townsend's serve at 5-3, she earned herself two set points and converted the first, with a forehand winner from the baseline.

Halep tightened the squeeze in the fourth game of the second set. Townsend saved three break points, but hit a backhand long to give Halep a 3-1 lead.

From there, Halep's serve and shots that pulled Townsend around the Court Philippe-Chatrier finished the job.

She served out the last game to love, breaking into a smile after a winning volley at the net that brought up three match points.

Halep said in her post-match interview that she struggled initially against the left-hander's shots with topspin. But the score didn't show it.

Her next opponent, Andrea Petkovic of Germany, beat Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-0, 7-6 (5) to reach the third round.

Sharapova took a bit of time to close out her match on Court 1. She led 5-2 in the second set, then served for the win at 5-3, but was broken when she sailed an off-balance forehand wide.

She broke right back to end it, though, converting her fifth match point with a forehand return winner.

Sharapova is competing at Roland Garros for the first time since 2015. She missed the clay-court Grand Slam tournament in 2016 while serving a doping suspension, then was denied a wild-card entry by the French tennis federation last year, when her ranking was too

low to earn automatic entry.

The 31-year-old Russian won the title in 2012 and 2014, part of her career Grand Slam. She is seeded 28th this year.

Next for Sharapova is a matchup against sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova, the runner-up at the 2016 U.S. Open and a semifinalist in Paris a year ago. Pliskova's twin sister Kristyna lost to Serena Williams in the first round this week.

Pliskova reached the third round with a 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory over 2015 French Open runner-up Lucie Safarova.

Muguruza's third-round opponent is Sam Stosur of Australia.

Nadal is once again the big favorite in Paris following a tremendous clay-court season, and the 10-time champion lived up to the status by easily dispatching Guido Pella of Argentina 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Sports briefs

Real Madrid coach Zidane quits after title

Associated Press

MADRID — Zinedine Zidane quit as Real Madrid coach on Thursday, less than a week after leading the team to its third straight Champions League title, saying the club needed a change in command.

Zidane, 45, who was coach for two and half seasons, said he felt it was the right moment — for him and for the team — to make the move.

"This club needs a change to keep winning," Zidane said. "With me it would have been complicated to keep winning."

It was a surprising announcement by Zidane, who won nine titles as Madrid coach, including the three Champions League titles, one Spanish league title, one Spanish Super Cup, two UEFA Super Cups and two Club World Cups.

"It was a completely unexpected decision," Madrid president Florentino Perez said. "Today is a sad day for me, for the fans and for all the people who work at the club. I wish we could always have Zidane by our side, but we know that when Zizou makes a decision, the only thing we can do

is to accept it and respect it."

Zidane said there wasn't a specific reason that led him to his decision.

"You have to know when to quit," he said. "After three years, (the club) needs a change in speech, a new work methodology."

Zidane mentioned the struggles the team faced this season, including in the Spanish league and the Copa del Rey. Madrid finished third in the league — 17 points behind champion Barcelona — and was eliminated at home by Leganes in the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey, a moment which Zidane said was the worst of his coaching career with the club.

"We went through good moments but also complicated ones, and I don't forget them," Zidane said. "I want to leave when everything is going well. This is a good moment to end it well."

Zidane spoke little about his future but said he is not immediately looking to coach another club. Perez also didn't talk much about the club's search for a new coach.

In other soccer news:

■ Peru captain Paolo Guerrero was

cleared Thursday to play at the World Cup by a Swiss supreme court judge despite a doping ban.

Switzerland's supreme court granted an interim order to freeze Guerrero's 14-month ban for a positive test for cocaine metabolites at a World Cup qualifying game.

"As a result, Paolo Guerrero can take part in the next World Cup," the federal court said, noting the tournament could be "without any doubt the crowning glory of his career."

The judge, Christina Kiss, took into account that, at 34, Guerrero should not miss his first opportunity to play at the World Cup.

Seahawks land Marshall

RENTON, Wash. — Brandon Marshall became the latest addition to the Seahawks when he signed a one-year deal Wednesday and was on the field immediately as Seattle continued its second week of OTAs.

The question for Seattle and Marshall is what kind of role the receiver can play now.

Yankees' Severino overpowers Astros

Associated Press

NEW YORK — That's it for Yankees-Astros this season.

At least until October.

Luis Severino struck out 11 in seven overpowering innings, beating longtime Yankees nemesis Dallas Keuchel for the second time this month as New York topped Houston 5-3 on Wednesday night.

Gary Sanchez snapped an 0-for-19 slump with a two-run single and the Yankees took two of three from the reigning World Series champions this week to win the season series 5-2. Houston defeated New York in the 2017 AL Championship Series, with the home team winning all seven games.

"Look, it's great to go up against the best and have some success, no question about it," first-year Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "But I would say it's just a long season. I think both sides have a lot of confidence that, yeah, we

have a chance to have special seasons."

Dotting 98-99 mph fastballs to set up his wicked slider, Severino (8-1) allowed four hits — including Max Stassi's two-run homer — and walked one in winning his sixth consecutive decision.

The ace right-hander, who hasn't lost since April 10 at Boston, threw a five-hitter with 10 strikeouts for his first career complete game in a 4-0 victory over Keuchel at Houston on May 2.

"He's elite for a reason and I think we saw why tonight," Astros manager AJ Hinch said. "They're a good team and you have to play well to beat them. And there are a couple of games here we should have beat them."

David Robertson struck out two in a scoreless eighth and Aroldis Chapman got three outs for his 12th save in 13 chances.

Stassi, subbing for injured catcher Brian McCann, hit an

RBI double with two outs in the ninth before Chapman fanned George Springer with a 102 mph fastball to end it.

"Hopefully, we'll see each other in October," Keuchel said.

After dominating the Yankees for years, Keuchel (3-7) dropped his third straight start against them — including the playoffs. The left-hander gave up four runs and seven hits in five-plus innings.

Keuchel entered 6-4 with a 1.82 ERA and two complete games in 10 outings against New York, including three post-season starts.

"He knows how to pitch," said Yankees catcher Austin Romine, who scored twice. "Anytime you see someone a lot, you start to pick up on some tendencies."

The 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner walked two batters in the first inning, and center fielder Jake Marisnick made a diving catch on a sac-

rifice fly by slumping slugger Giancarlo Stanton.

Sanchez rolled a two-run single through an open right side with two outs in the fifth to put the Yankees ahead 3-2.

"That pitch right there was a sinker outside and I just threw the bat at it. So I got lucky there," Sanchez said through a translator.

Gleyber Torres doubled to start the sixth and scored from third on Didi Gregorius' single past a drawn-in infield, chasing Keuchel. Aaron Hicks ended an 0-for-16 slide when he looped a two-out RBI double off Collin McHugh that got by a diving Marwin Gonzalez in left field.

"That's just how it's kind of going," Keuchel said. "Tough breaks."

Severino retired his first 11 batters, striking out seven of the first nine, before AL MVP Jose Altuve bounced a single through an open right side.

"We were cruising there for a little while," Romine said.

MLB roundup

Rays' Eovaldi returns, no-hits Athletics for six innings

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Nathan Eovaldi pitched six innings of no-hit ball in his return to the majors following a second Tommy John surgery, leading the Tampa Bay Rays to a 6-0 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday night.

Eovaldi (1-0) faced one over the minimum through six innings in his Tampa Bay debut. He threw 70 pitches and had four strikeouts. The only runner to reach base against him was Matt Chapman, who drew a one-out walk in the first.

Wilmer Font, acquired by the Rays from the A's last Friday, gave up Jed Lowrie's one-out single in the seventh for Oakland's only hit of the game. Vidal Nuno got the last three outs to finish the one-hitter.

Tigers 6, Angels 1: Jose Iglesias hit a two-run single in

his team's five-run sixth inning and host Detroit took advantage of Shohei Ohtani's departure following a second rain delay.

Nationals 2, Orioles 0: Max Scherzer (9-1) pitched eight innings of two-hit ball to earn his eighth consecutive victory and visiting Washington finished a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

Pirates 2, Cubs 1: Joe Musgrove (2-0) pitched seven strong innings for host Pittsburgh, and his hard slide led to both teams emptying their benches in another tense moment in the series between NL Central rivals.

Indians 9, White Sox 1: Corey Kluber (8-2) pitched six shutout innings and reached eight victories before any AL pitcher as host Cleveland rolled to its fifth straight win.

Brewers 3, Cardinals 2: Alex

Reyes pitched four scoreless innings for visiting St. Louis in his return from Tommy John surgery, but Orlando Arcia hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Milwaukee's two-run seventh.

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 4: J.D. Martinez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer over the Green Monster, and host Boston completed a three-game series sweep.

Mets 4, Braves 1: Brandon Nimmo and Adrian Gonzalez each drove in two runs, leading visiting New York to a sorely needed victory.

Royals 11, Twins 8: Mike Moustakas and Jorge Soler homered, powering host Kansas City past Minnesota.

Giants 7, Rockies 4: Brandon Crawford kept up his May hitting surge by lining a pair of singles, Gorkys Hernandez had a diving catch in center field to thwart a rally, and visiting San

Francisco avoided being swept by Colorado.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 4: Adam Duvall's grand slam erased an early four-run deficit, and visiting Cincinnati rallied past Arizona.

Dodgers 8, Phillies 2: Ross Stripling (3-1) struck out nine over seven strong innings, Matt Kemp homered and drove in four runs, and host Los Angeles beat Philadelphia.

Padres 3, Marlins 2: Pinch-hitter Hunter Renfroe's infield single in the ninth inning led to two runs when third baseman Miguel Rojas followed with a throwing error, lifting host San Diego past Miami.

Rangers 7, Mariners 6: Robinson Chirinos' tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning capped another late-inning rally, lifting visiting Texas past Seattle.