

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Marine general reassigned after remarks

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

A Marine brigadier general who served as the director of an office that, in part, handles sexual assault prevention and response was removed from his position after comments he made about sexual harassment claims at his command drew complaints.

The Marine Corps announced Monday that Brig. Gen. Kurt Stein was removed as director of Marine and Family Programs and reassigned elsewhere “after an investigation into his remarks at an all-hands meeting April 6.”

USA Today reported last week that Stein had told an audience of hundreds at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., that allegations that a male Marine officer at his command sexually harassed two women were “fake news.”

The unnamed officer was accused of showing the civilian employees that he was sexually aroused through his clothing

on multiple occasions, according to USA Today. The claims have not been substantiated, but a new investigation into the matter was ordered last month.

Stein further joked at the all-hands meeting about a Navy chaplain recently fired for being caught on tape having sex in public in New Orleans last month, the newspaper reported.

Marine Corps spokesman Lt. Col. Eric Dent said complaints about Stein’s comments were phoned in to an anonymous hotline on April 9. A formal investigation into the concerns was initiated, during which Stein was suspended. The investigation was completed Friday.

Marine Corps commandant Gen. Robert Neller reviewed the investigation and “determined that he lost confidence in Stein’s ability to lead this particular organization,” Dent said.

He did not say where Stein is being reassigned.

“Leaders are responsible for establish-

ing an environment conducive to mission accomplishment,” Dent said.

The Marine Corps has been under added scrutiny since March 2017, when it was revealed that some 30,000 people had joined a now-defunct Facebook group called Marines United, where active-duty and veteran Marines shared nude photos of female servicemembers and others, made derogatory comments about them and threatened some of the women.

Two commanders were fired in August in connection with the scandal, and more than 30 Marines faced reprimands ranging from jail and involuntary separation to nonjudicial punishments and administrative actions.

Last month, Pentagon officials launched a new investigation into allegations that files containing hundreds of lewd photographs of servicewomen had been shared online in a Dropbox folder titled “Hoes Hoin.”

## 2nd jury deadlocks in Navy commander’s case

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SAN DIEGO — A jury announced Monday that it could not agree on whether a Navy commander assaulted and tried to rape a junior officer in her San Diego home.

Jurors voted 10-2 in favor of convicting John Michael Neuhart II of attempted rape and 7-5 for conviction on a charge of assault with intent to commit rape during a burglary.

They were divided 2-10, with the majority in favor of acquittal, on a charge of resisting or delaying an officer. It was the second time a Superior Court jury has deadlocked on charges in the case. In December, a different panel voted 11-1 in favor of finding Neuhart guilty of the most serious charges.

The judge declared a mistrial.

Neuhart, 41, is accused of forcing his way into the woman’s home, tearing off her jeans and trying to rape her after a night of heavy drinking in downtown San Diego on Sept. 12, 2016.

The woman testified that Neuhart didn’t stop his assault until her repeated screams drew the attention of a neighbor.

When the neighbor shouted into the residence that he had a gun, Neuhart ran out a back door and into a canyon, where he fell and broke his leg. Police officers weren’t far behind and arrested Neuhart soon after.

The Navy commander, however, said the woman, who had been under his command in

Guam, had given him permission to come to her home and have sex.

The two had repeatedly hugged and kissed each other earlier in the night, according to surveillance footage from a hotel they visited and testimony from a hired SUV driver who took them to the woman’s apartment.

The driver also said, however, that the woman yelled, “Stop!” several times at the defendant.

Neuhart, who has since been suspended from his command, said that when they arrived at the woman’s residence, she took her own pants off and that he never touched her private parts.

He also said that he believed

the aggressive foreplay, although bizarre, was consensual. He said the woman told him earlier in the night that if she said “no” to him, she meant “yes.”

At one point during the encounter, Neuhart started recording with his cellphone, which was set up to face the back door of the woman’s house.

In the video, the woman can be heard repeatedly screaming at Neuhart to leave and to stop pounding on the door. Soon after, she lets him in. She can then be heard saying, “Why would you want a woman who doesn’t want you?”

Neuhart said he recorded the video in case she claimed he raped her.

# Re-enlistment video with puppet sparks outrage

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Tennessee Air National Guard is investigating a video that shows one of its members using a dinosaur hand puppet during a re-enlistment ceremony.

The video posted Saturday to the Facebook group Air Force amn/nco/snco shows Master Sgt. Robin Brown and an unidentified officer participating in the ceremony. Brown recites the enlistment oath while manipulating the puppet to mouth along with the words as she speaks them.

The video had more than 2 million views as of early Tuesday.

Air National Guard Director Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice responded Monday on his official Facebook page, saying he was “shocked and dismayed” by the video.

“Many of you have seen and commented to me about the recent Facebook post of an Airman in our beloved Air National Guard, taking the re-enlistment oath while using a dinosaur hand puppet,” he wrote. “I understand your

outrage and frustration. I’m equally shocked and dismayed by this event that mocks such a cherished and honorable occasion. The oath of office or enlistment not only signifies our commitment to our nation, but pays respect to our fellow service members and to those who came before us.”

Rice added that Tennessee National Guard leadership is investigating the footage.

Air Force regulations covering ceremonies state that “unit commanders will honor all re-enlistees through a dignified re-enlistment ceremony.”

Along with blasting the inclusion of the puppet, commenters online criticized the officer administering the oath for not having it memorized and for not raising his right hand.

Brown’s profile on the military’s Defense Visual Information Distribution Service shows she worked in public affairs. The Air National Guard’s 118th Wing website said she served in community relations for the Tennessee Joint Force Headquarters.

# Senators roll out plan to revamp war powers

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Sens. Bob Corker and Tim Kaine, the Republican chairman and a Democratic member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, filed bipartisan legislation late Monday to revamp the president’s war powers.

The move follows several others on Capitol Hill to update the president’s authority for use of military force, or AUMF, powers. But the legislation could face an uphill battle winning support on the Senate floor. Similar attempts in recent months have failed.

“There have been a number of efforts over the years to update these authorities, and while there is still work ahead, I am pleased that we have reached an agreement on a product for the committee to consider,” said Corker, R-Tenn.

Corker hopes the legislation “will ultimately strike an appropriate balance of ensuring the administration has the flexibility necessary to win this fight while strengthening the rightful and necessary role of Congress.”

The legislation, which is co-sponsored by Sens. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.; Chris Coons, D-Del.; Todd Young, R-Ind.; and Bill Nelson, D-Fla., also strengthens congressional oversight and transparency and provides updated war powers to fight terrorist groups abroad, the sponsors said.

Corker acknowledged Monday that as long as he has helped lead the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, starting as ranking member in 2013, the committee has been engaged in a discussion over the AUMF, which provides the legal authority necessary to fight terrorists abroad.

The president’s AUMF powers were issued in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 and 2002 when the United States went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The proposed legislation would repeal those AUMFs within six months of becoming law.

“For too long, Congress has given presidents a blank check to wage war,” said Kaine, D-Va., who is also a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The legislation authorizes military force against al-Qaida, the Taliban, Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and designated associated forces, but no authority for action against any nation state. It also installs a congressional review process every four years that requires presidential input.

While the president can immediately order military force against a new threat or in a new country, within 48 hours, Congress must be notified, the legislation requires. That will trigger a 60-day window in which Congress can intervene and stop the effort through expedited legislation.

# Woman charged in parking spot melee with 2 servicemembers

*Associated Press*

MACON, Ga. — A 71-year-old white woman has been charged with battery after she and her son argued with two black female servicemembers over a parking spot outside a restaurant.

A Bibb County Sheriff’s report said Judy James Tucker

told deputies it all started because she’s white and it was a race issue.

The report said Stephanie Mitchell, 34, told deputies that Tucker’s adult son, Robbie, used obscene, sexist language as he told her and Treasure Sharpe, 27, to “learn how to park” on Saturday. Then, the report said, the Tuckers fol-

lowed the uniformed women inside, where Robbie Tucker called them “black lesbian b-----.”

Others inside the Cheddar’s Scratch Kitchen restaurant began recording. Video shows Judy Tucker striking Sharpe in the face while trying to stop her from recording as well.

The report said deputies re-

viewed cellphone video and determined that Judy Tucker was the primary aggressor, and there’s no evidence suggesting the other women did anything wrong. Jail records show the Macon woman was arrested and released on \$650 bond. The deputies wrote that they were still investigating and more charges could be pending.

# Chemical inspectors in Syrian town

Associated Press

BEIRUT — International inspectors have entered the Syrian town where an alleged chemical attack was carried out this month, Syrian state media reported Tuesday, after they had waited for days in the capital for permission from Syrian and Russian authorities.

The fact-finding mission from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is investigating reports that government forces launched an April 7 chemical attack in the final stages of their fight to retake the town of Douma from rebels.

The alleged gas attack, which Syrian activists say killed more than 40 people, prompted punitive U.S., British and French airstrikes.

Syria and its ally, Russia, deny any chemical attack took place, and Russian officials have accused Britain of staging a “fake” chemical attack. British Prime Minister Theresa May says Syria and Russia — whose forces now control the town east of Damascus — are trying to cover up evidence.

Journalists were allowed access to the suspected attack sites on Monday, but the OPCW said Syrian and Russian authorities blocked the inspectors.

The Associated Press spoke to survivors and witnesses who described being hit by gas. Several said a strange smell started spreading, and people screamed: “It’s chlorine! It’s chlorine!”

The U.S. and France say they have evidence that Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces used poison gas in the attack, but they have not provided any evidence, even after Saturday’s punitive missile strikes.

Douma was the last rebel-held town near Damascus and the target of a government offensive in February and March that killed hundreds of people and displaced tens of thousands.

Hours after the alleged chemical attack, the rebel faction that controlled the town, the Army of Islam, relented and was evacuated along with thousands of residents.

## No threats to GIs since strikes on facilities

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — American troops in Syria have seen no signs of threats from forces backing President Bashar Assad since U.S., British and French planes and ships launched more than 100 missiles over the weekend at Syrian chemical weapons facilities, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday.

U.S. forces operating in Syria as part of a coalition to defeat Islamic State in the country’s northern and eastern regions took precautionary steps to boost their self-defense capabilities ahead of and immediately following the strikes, said Army Col. Ryan Dillon, the Baghdad-based spokesman for the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition. As of Tuesday afternoon, the coalition had not observed any groups backing Assad make any aggressive moves in retaliation for the attack or issue any threats.

“We are constantly assessing the environment and continually watching and looking at where forces are on the battlefield and where their weapons are pointed,” Dillon told reporters at the Pentagon.

American, British and French ships and warplanes fired 105 missiles and struck a facility in Syria’s capital of Damascus and two others in the northern city of Homs where Pentagon officials said Assad’s regime had been de-

veloping, testing and storing illegal chemical munitions, including weaponized chlorine and sarin gas.

The attack, ordered by President Donald Trump, was in retaliation for Syria’s alleged use of chemical weapons April 7 in an attack on civilians in the town of Douma, outside Damascus. That attack left more than 40 dead and hundreds more suffering, according to several human rights organizations that monitor Syria’s 7-year-old civil war.

Pentagon officials said Saturday that initial indications showed all 105 missiles struck their targets, completely destroying the facilities that were chosen to cripple Assad’s chemical weapons program. An in-depth battle damage assessment completed since Saturday also indicated each missile launched struck its target, Eric Pahon, a Pentagon spokesman, said Tuesday.

Photos provided by the Pentagon show the facilities targeted were left in ruins, in some cases with nearby buildings appearing unscathed.

It marked the second time that Trump had ordered a one-off attack on Assad’s regime following his forces’ alleged use of poison gas against civilians. The United States launched a unilateral strike on a Syrian airfield in April 2017 after it said Assad’s troops had used sarin gas against civilians.

The United States has about 2,000 troops serving in Syria, where they primarily train and advise the Syrian Democratic Forces, a militia of primarily Kurdish and Arab fighters pledged to destroying ISIS. Some Pentagon officials had acknowledged concerns that Assad’s forces — or those backing him, including Russian and Iranian troops — might retaliate for the strikes.

American troops and forces backing Assad have faced off in Syria previously, resulting in U.S. airstrikes — most recently in February, when dozens of pro-regime fighters, including some Russian mercenaries, were killed in an American strike. Pentagon officials at the time said it was conducted in self-defense.

In a separate incident in June 2017, a U.S. Navy pilot flying an F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet shot down a Syrian Su-22 fighter after it dropped bombs near U.S.-backed SDF forces near Tabqa, in eastern Syria. Such incidents, Dillon said Tuesday, prove to Assad’s forces that the United States will protect its troops and others that it is supporting.

“Our actions have spoken many times in the past and should ... stand on their own to at least inform those elements who attempt to threaten us with rhetoric or even through reactions,” he said. “It will be a long day for them, should they do so.”

## Eager Lion exercise in Jordan includes drills on chemical incidents

Thousands of U.S. troops participating in the Eager Lion exercise in Jordan will conduct chemical and biological drills as part of a long-planned event that comes just after U.S. strikes destroyed suspected Syrian chemical weapons sites.

The 11-day drills, which began Sunday, will test the ability of troops to plan and conduct counterterrorism operations, border security, cyberdefense and logistics support operations. U.S. officials said the eighth annual iteration of

the exercise is not directly related to U.S., British and French missile strikes, which targeted Syria in response to a suspected chemical attack on Douma, Syria, that killed dozens on April 7.

About 1,200 Marines from the USS Iwo Jima and the USS Oak Hill will participate in the event, which will include small unit attacks, live-fire drills and force-on-force exercises.

From staff reports

# Greitens could face second felony count

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, already fighting for his political life and facing a felony charge related to an extramarital affair, could soon face another felony count after fellow Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley cited evidence Tuesday that Greitens' use of a charity donor list broke the law.

Hawley, speaking at a news conference, said it will be up to the St. Louis prosecutor to decide whether to charge Greitens with a crime. He said his office has shared its information with St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner, and with a special House investigatory committee that is investigating the governor.

Hawley's announcement led leader of the Missouri House Democrats to renew her call for Greitens to step down or be impeached. House Minority Leader Gail McCann Beatty on

Tuesday said if he doesn't step down, she says the House should immediately act to remove him.

Greitens, a former Navy SEAL, says allegations that he potentially broke the law by using a donor list from a charity he founded are "ridiculous." He said in a Tuesday statement that he'll get rid of what he described as "false allegations."

Greitens said Hawley, who is running for U.S. Senate, is "better at press conferences than the law" and called Gardner a liberal prosecutor.

The Associated Press first reported in October 2016 that Greitens' campaign had obtained a list of top donors to The Mission Continues. The AP found that Greitens' campaign had raised nearly \$2 million from donors who previously gave significant amounts to The Mission Continues. Hawley says his office found evidence that Greitens transmitted that list without permission.

# Fox News' Hannity also a client of Trump's lawyer

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sean Hannity shares a world view with President Donald Trump, and on Monday it was revealed, with some reluctance, that he shares a lawyer, too.

The Fox News Channel prime-time host is Trump's most vocal defender on television, and a week ago he was on the air criticizing the FBI raid on the president's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, as evidence that special counsel Robert Mueller's "witch hunt" against the president has become a runaway train.

After it was revealed in a court hearing Monday that Cohen represented Hannity, Fox News did not say whether it knew that ahead of time or

whether Hannity had any ethical obligation to reveal that relationship to viewers. Network representatives instead referred reporters to Hannity's own statements.

A threat to Hannity is a threat to Fox. His show is the most-watched program on the network, and he runs neck-and-neck with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow as the most popular on-air cable news personality.

Monday's hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Kimba Wood in New York was about what should happen to material seized from Cohen. Cohen's lawyers did not want to publicly reveal that Hannity was a client, but Wood said, "I understand he doesn't want his name out there, but that's not enough under the law."

# US, UK say Russia is targeting global internet hardware

Associated Press

Washington and London on Monday jointly accused the Russian government of maliciously targeting global internet equipment for political and economic espionage.

The two governments said the Russian operations, which allegedly involve planting malware on internet routers and other equipment, could also lay the foundation for future offensive cyberattacks.

A joint statement by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the U.K.'s National Cyber Security Centre said the main targets include "government and private-sector organizations," as well as providers of "critical infrastructure" and internet service providers.

"Victims were identified through a coordinated series of actions between U.S. and international partners," according to a companion technical alert issued by the U.S. Computer Emergency Response Team, or US-CERT. Both nations have "high confidence" in the finding of Russian-sponsored cyber meddling, which the alert said has been reported by multiple sources since 2015.

Australia also admonished Russia and accused Kremlin-backed hackers of cyberattacks on hundreds of Australian companies last year.

Respected U.S. cybersecurity researcher Jake Williams said it was difficult for him to understand the motivation for Monday's alert given that "the activity has been ongoing for some time."

"Calling the Russians out on this hardly makes much sense unless there's some other agenda (most likely political)," Williams, the president of Rendition Infosec, added via text message.

Routers direct data traffic across the internet. US-CERT said the compromised routers can be exploited for "man-in-

the-middle" spoofing attacks, in which communications are intercepted by a seemingly trusted device that has actually been infiltrated by an attacker.

"The current state of U.S. network devices — coupled with a Russian government campaign to exploit these devices — threatens the safety, security and economic well-being of the United States," the alert stated.

US-CERT urged affected companies, public-sector organizations and even people who use routers in home offices to take action to harden poorly secured devices. But its alert cited only one specific product: Cisco's Smart Install software.

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne told reporters that about 400 Australian companies were targeted in the Russian attacks, but there was no "exploitation of significance."

The country's cybersecurity minister, Angus Taylor, said, "This attempt by Russia is a sharp reminder that Australian businesses and individuals are constantly targeted by malicious state and nonstate actors."

On March 15, US-CERT issued a similar alert, saying the FBI and DHS had determined that Russian government "cyber actors" had sought to infiltrate U.S. agencies and "organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation and critical manufacturing sectors." It said Russian agents had obtained "remote access" to energy-sector networks and obtained information on industrial control systems.

Experts have stressed that the March 15 bulletin did not mean Russia had obtained access to systems that control critical infrastructure such as the power grid. But Russia does have a history in that regard, as many security experts blame it for several cybersabotage attacks on Ukraine's power grid.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man jailed in theft of beer from store

**FL** SEBASTIAN — A Florida man asked the store clerk, “What would happen if I stole some beer?”

Police said Christopher Maxwell soon found out.

Sebastian police told TCPalm.com that Maxwell, 33, entered a convenience store at 2:30 a.m. Friday but was told he couldn’t buy beer because alcohol sales are banned in the city between 1 and 7 a.m.

In response to Maxwell’s question, the clerk replied she would call 911. Maxwell still allegedly grabbed two 18-packs of Bud Light and left. The clerk did as she said.

Police found Maxwell nearby, and allege he struggled when they tried to arrest him. He was jailed on charges of petty theft and battery on a police officer.

## Student seeks boycott to protest wearing bra

**FL** BRADENTON — A Florida high school student who triggered an international discussion on whether women should have to wear bras encouraged girls to go braless to protest dress codes she said are unfairly strict for girls.

The Bradenton Herald reported Lizzy Martinez’s “bracott” would take place at Braden River High on Monday, according to Twitter posts from her account. Martinez encouraged her female classmates to arrive to school braless to send a message to school administrators that requiring the undergarment is sexist.

On April 2, Martinez didn’t wear a bra and said school administrators told her to cover her nipples because they were distracting her classmates. The dress code doesn’t specifically address bras.

## Firehouse hosts prom photos during blizzard

**MN** FOREST LAKE — Firefighters came to the rescue for a group of Minnesota high school students when a blizzard struck during their prom.

The Forest Lake Fire Department opened its firehouse for three hours Saturday so the students could pose for prom pictures. With as much as 15 inches of snow in the forecast, the students couldn’t take photos outside.

## Student’s Heimlich training saves woman

**RI** COVENTRY — A Rhode Island high school student who used the Heimlich maneuver to save a choking woman said he had learned the lifesaving technique in class just days earlier.

Scott Albanese, 18, said it was “incredibly lucky” that he knew what to do when the woman started choking last month at the Coventry restaurant where he works.

He told WPRI-TV he learned the Heimlich in an elective course called “Lifesaver.” He said his teacher acknowledged she had never needed to use the technique despite teaching it for years.

## Pizza worker slapped after delivery failed

**SC** ROCK HILL — Police said a South Carolina man is accused of slapping a pizza worker after demanding a free pie.

News outlets reported the employee told police that Kenneth Wayne Baker Jr., 35, came into a Domino’s store in Rock Hill on April 11, said his pizza had not been delivered and told workers he wanted a free

replacement.

When the worker told Baker the new pizza would cost money, the man allegedly slapped the worker. The employee, who was not charged, punched the man back before he fled.

Police found Baker at a motel and arrested him for assault and battery. They later learned he was wanted on arrest warrants.

## Police: Brawl at Sikh temple injures 4

**IN** GREENWOOD — Police said a brawl at a Sikh temple in suburban Indianapolis left four people with minor injuries.

Greenwood Assistant Police Chief Matthew Fillenwarth said police and medics responded Sunday to a fight involving about 150 people at the Gurdwara Sikh temple in the city just south of Indianapolis.

He told WISH-TV the altercation began as there was a change of leadership within the temple that he said happens every two years.

Fillenwarth said four people suffered minor injuries and were taken to a hospital and would be questioned by police.

## Woman arrested after man killed with rock

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — Authorities in Oklahoma City said a woman was booked on a murder complaint on suspicion that she hurled a large rock that killed a man.

Oklahoma City police Sgt. Gary Knight said Monday that Roselina Elizabeth Starr, 32, was arrested on a first-degree murder complaint following the death of Gary Wayne Evans, 61, on Saturday.

Knight said Evans was inside his Oklahoma City home when Starr, his son’s girlfriend, became upset and began hurling

large rocks through a window. Police said one of the rocks struck Evans and he was taken to a hospital, where he died.

## Man found dead in car in police parking lot

**AL** MIDFIELD — Authorities in Alabama are investigating after a dead man was found in a vehicle in a police department’s parking lot.

A Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office news release says deputies were called to the Midfield Police Department to investigate the report of a deceased person in the car in the parking lot Friday.

Initial information showed the driver of the vehicle met with the victim to purchase marijuana.

The victim told the driver to pull the vehicle to the dead end of an avenue. The driver said an unknown person walked up and shot the victim. The driver then drove to the police department for help.

## Casino is penalized for underage gambler

**IA** COUNCIL BLUFFS — Officials said the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Sioux City has agreed to pay a \$20,000 penalty for letting an underage person gamble.

The casino’s agreement with the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission says a security officer didn’t check the 20-year-old woman’s identification on Nov. 21. She was a year younger than Iowa’s legal gambling age of 21. She walked the casino floor and played two slot machines.

The Sioux City Journal reported that the woman left after refusing to show her ID to another casino employee who asked to see it.

From wire reports

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## NHL playoffs roundup

# Leafs top Bruins, climb back into series

Associated Press

TORONTO — Embarrassed and desperate after getting steamrolled by the Bruins through the first two games at Boston, the Toronto Maple Leafs had a point to prove.

His name sitting comfortably at the top of that list, Auston Matthews responded in a big way.

Matthews scored the go-ahead goal in the second period to lead the Maple Leafs to a 4-2 victory Monday night, cutting the Bruins' lead in their Eastern Conference first-round series to 2-1.

Toronto was reeling in the wake of 5-1 and 7-3 losses on the road, but got back to using its speed at home.

"I don't think any of us felt we played how we're capable," Matthews said. "Tonight definitely was a statement game."

Matthews was fiery after Saturday's blowout, responding to a question about how Boston's top line of David Pastrnak, Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron could have 20

points in two games compared to his trio's goose egg with an expletive: "(It) happens."

**Devils 5, Lightning 2:** Taylor Hall had a goal and two assists, setting up Stefan Noesen's game-winner with 7:05 play, and host New Jersey scored four times in the third to beat Tampa Bay in Game 3.

Rookie Will Butcher had a power-play goal earlier in the third to tie the score 2-all, and Blake Coleman and Ben Lovejoy added empty net goals late. Cory Schneider made 34 saves while starting in place of Keith Kinkaid.

Schneider, who seemed to hurt his groin in a collision with Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh midway through the final period, survived a late power play to nail down the win. The Devils now trail 2-1 in the best-of-seven first-round series.

Alex Killorn and Steven Stamkos each had a power-play goal and an assist for the Lightning. Nikita Kucherov added two assists, and Andrei Vasi-

levskiy made 36 saves. Game 4 is Wednesday night at the Prudential Center.

**Sharks 8, Ducks 1:** Joonas Donskoi scored one goal and set up another to start a four-goal barrage in the second period and host San Jose raced past Anaheim for the third straight game to take a 3-0 series lead.

Donskoi scored and then set up Marcus Sorensen in the opening four minutes of the second period to seize control of the game and series.

Eric Fehr and Tomas Hertl added goals later in the second to turn this all-California series into a rout. Logan Couture had a goal and two assists, Joe Pavelski, Evander Kane and Timo Meier scored power-play goals in the third period for the Sharks, who have outscored the Ducks 14-3 through the first three games of the first-round series.

Martin Jones made 45 saves, the most for a Sharks goalie in a regulation playoff game.

**Avalanche 5, Predators 3:** Nathan MacKinnon scored

twice, including one as part of a three-goal first period and another to chase Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne from the game, and host Colorado won their first game in the best-of-seven first-round series after two losses.

Blake Comeau and Gabriel Bourque also scored in a furious opening period that revved up a pom-pom waving capacity crowd. Gabriel Landeskog was credited with an empty-net goal for the Avalanche, who snapped a 12-game skid against the Predators.

MacKinnon's goal at 4:25 of the second period gave Colorado a 4-0 lead and prompted the Predators to pull Rinne in favor of backup Juuse Saros. Rinne allowed four goals on 15 shots.

Jonathan Bernier stopped 29 shots on a night when the Avalanche finished 0-for-5 on the power play. Ryan Johansen had a second-period goal and Colton Sissons scored another in the third to make it 4-2.

## Kyle Busch wins at Bristol, his 2nd straight victory

Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Kyle Busch was all smiles and Kyle Larson was all scowls.

Busch passed Larson with five laps remaining at Bristol Motor Speedway on Monday to win his second straight Cup Series race, culminating a rain-delayed weekend when temperatures dipped into the high 30s.

Busch celebrated by thrusting his arms in the air and with a traditional bow to the crowd on top of his No. 18 Toyota while the snow began falling — a fitting end to a long weather-stalled weekend.

Busch said after the race that he didn't have the best car, but "we had the best car right at the end."

The loss left Larson, who led

a race-high 200 laps, extremely frustrated.

"I feel like every time I race here I almost get a win," Larson said of his second-place finish. "I've been beat by Kyle (Busch) about every time I race here, too, so that gets frustrating after a while."

It was Busch's 45th career Cup Series win, moving him ahead of Bill Elliott into sole possession of 16th place.

It also was his seventh win at Bristol, while Larson has yet to win at the half-mile track.

Coincidentally, Busch won with the aid of longtime nemesis Brad Keselowski, who wrecked with 30 laps left, bringing out the caution flag.

Larson appeared to have the car to beat on Monday, running well ahead of the pack on long green flag runs. But after Busch

took on tires during the yellow flag stop, he knew he was back in the race with 22 laps to go. He finally caught Larson with five laps left, bumped him out of the way and scooted by.

Larson made a late charge but couldn't catch him.

"When it comes down to crunch time you gotta go," Busch said.

Asked if Keselowski had moved up on his list of favorites, Busch laughed and said, "That's pushing it too far."

"I kind of felt bad for him, maybe that much," Busch said, pinching his thumb and index finger close together. "But it was much appreciated, let's go with that."

Larson was leading when the race was postponed Sunday with 296 laps remaining after

being delayed several times because of rain. The race also was delayed Monday for about 35 minutes, but the cars finally got back on the track after the rain and sleet subsided.

Larson said he wasn't sure why his car got loose late in the race, which allowed Busch to get by him.

"I just really didn't have any grip," Larson said. "I thought it would tighten up for me and I could get going, but it never really did and I was just really loose. I hate that I didn't win. It's another one at Bristol."

As for Busch, he has another Bristol sword to add to his collection, although he's not quite sure what he's going to do with all of those unusual trophies.

"It's a cool problem to have," he said.

# Harper shatters bat with 406-foot HR

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The sheer power of Bryce Harper was startling. The late comeback by the Washington Nationals? Yep, that was shocking, too.

Harper hit an eye-popping, broken-bat homer early, then grounded a key single during a six-run surge in the eighth inning that sent the Nationals past the New York Mets 8-6 Monday night.

“Barreled it pretty good,” Harper said. “It just broke and kept going.”

The Nationals rallied against five pitchers in their big burst, winning for just the fourth time in 13 games. The Mets had been off to the best start in franchise history behind the top bullpen in the majors before collapsing.

“That was big, super big. I’m not going to sit here and lie,” Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. “It’s a big pick-me-up.

... That dugout was electric.”

Trailing 6-1, Washington combined five hits, three walks and a hit batter to go ahead.

Harper’s two-run single off Jerry Blevins made it 6-3. Wilmer Difo tied it with a two-out, two-run single off Jeurys Familia, and Michael A. Taylor drew a bases-loaded walk from the Mets closer for a 7-6 lead.

“It was just unfortunate,” New York manager Mickey Callaway said. “Off night for a few of them. But we have to move on.”

“It’s one inning. It wasn’t even the game,” he said. “We’ll learn from it and make sure that it doesn’t throw us into some kind of tailspin. Because we’re a really good team and we’ve been showing that.”

Howie Kendrick added a solo homer in the ninth.

Harper hit his major league-high eighth home run, and his 33½-inch, 31½-ounce Marucci bat paid the price. It cracked

into two pieces, but the ball still flew an estimated 406 feet to right-center field.

The lumber shattered just above his hands, and the barrel helicoptered into the high, protective netting behind home plate on the first base side. The five-time All-Star trotted most of the way to first holding the few inches of the handle that remained after connecting in the first off Jacob deGrom.

On his way back to the dugout, Harper playfully pulled up his sleeve to show his biceps.

The 25-year-old former NL MVP has hit 158 home runs so far. Anything like that?

“Uh, no,” Harper said.

Said Martinez: “He started to flex when he came back. I said, ‘Yeah, you’re strong.’”

DeGrom struck out 12 in 7⅓ innings, the longest outing by a Mets pitcher this season. He left with two on, one out and a five-run lead. He also drove in a run with a safety squeeze.

A.J. Cole (1-1) got the win despite giving up Asdrubal Cabrera’s two-run homer in the seventh that made it 6-1. Ryan Madson earned his second save.

AJ Ramos (0-1) took the loss.

Washington starter Jeremy Hellickson gave up two runs in 4⅔ innings in his Nationals debut.

**Long and short:** Cole shifted to a relief role to make room for Hellickson in the rotation. Cole was 0-1 with a 12.00 ERA in two starts this season. The 26-year-old has pitched parts of four seasons for the Nats. Martinez said Cole “fits perfectly” as a long man in the bullpen. “The conversation went really well,” Martinez said, adding, “he’s all for it.”

Along with giving up two runs, Cole threw a fastball that sailed to the backstop and tore a hole in the Dunkin’ Donuts sign.

## MLB roundup

### Gregorius homers twice as Yankees pummel Marlins

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Giancarlo Stanton was the only Yankees bopper who didn’t get in on the hit parade against his former team when New York played Derek Jeter’s Miami Marlins for the first time.

Didi Gregorius homered twice for the second time this season, Gary Sanchez had three hits and three RBIs and Aaron Judge became the fastest major leaguer to hit 60 career homers, powering the Yankees to a 12-1 rout Monday night.

Gregorius hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning off the second deck in right field and a solo drive in the seventh that struck an ad behind the Yankees bullpen in right-center. He has five homers this season.

“We’re just seeing a really good player in the prime of

his career,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

New York had 15 hits, including five doubles and three homers. Every starter except Stanton got at least one hit against the last-place Marlins, who dropped to 4-12.

Stanton was 0-for-3 with two more strikeouts, a bases-loaded foulout, a walk and a hit by pitch, prompting more boos from restless Yankees fans. It was his first regular-season game against the team he played for from 2010-17.

“It wasn’t that weird. I think once I go to Miami that will be pretty weird for me,” Stanton said. “It was just good to see the guys and, obviously, get a good win.”

Judge’s fourth home run this season gave him 60 in 197 games, five fewer than Mark McGwire. New York scored in each of the first five innings

and built an 11-0 lead for Luis Severino (3-1), who allowed one hit in six scoreless innings and struck out eight.

Jeter did not attend the first game between the teams since the former Yankees captain became Marlins CEO last October.

**Dodgers 10, Padres 3:** Yasmani Grandal hit a grand slam, Matt Kemp had a three-run homer and Hyun-Jin Ryu (2-0) struck out nine in six strong innings for visiting Los Angeles.

**Rays 8, Rangers 4:** Mallex Smith had four hits and Blake Snell struck out nine to help visiting Tampa Bay stop a four-game losing streak.

**Rockies 6, Pirates 2:** Trevor Story drilled a three-run home run, German Marquez pitched six effective innings and Colorado kept its road surge going.

**Mariners 2, Astros 1:** James Paxton delivered six strong in-

nings, Nelson Cruz took Dallas Keuchel deep and host Seattle ended a six-game skid against Houston.

**Braves 2, Phillies 1:** Julio Teheran outpitched Aaron Nola for a rare night of success at SunTrust Park and host Atlanta snapped Philadelphia’s six-game winning streak.

**Reds 10, Brewers 4:** Billy Hamilton drove in three runs and visiting Cincinnati ended an eight-game losing streak.

The Reds won for just the third time in 16 games this season. Cincinnati is tied with Kansas City for the fewest wins in the majors. Joey Votto had an RBI double for his first extra-base hit of the season.

**Athletics 8, White Sox 1:** Daniel Mengden carried a shutout into the ninth inning in his best start of the season and Oakland won before another sparse crowd at the Coliseum.

# Heat's Wade turns back clock, 76ers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Dwyane Wade snuffed out one 76ers' rally by popping a 16-foot fadeaway with the shot clock ticking down. Wade made a halfhearted attempt at reaching his hand out toward a fallen defender before he scooted on his way.

Wade was up, the Sixers were down and suddenly, there's a series.

The Heat had to have this one — a brooding Joel Embiid is angling for a comeback.

Wade turned in a vintage performance, scoring 28 points to end the 76ers' 17-game winning streak and lead the Miami Heat to a 113-103 Game 2 win over Philadelphia on Monday night and even the first-round playoff series.

"It's just in my DNA," Wade said. "I love the stage."

The 36-year-old flashed the form of a three-time NBA champion with the Heat, not the journeyman who bounced around the last two seasons with forgettable stints in Chicago and Cleveland.

Wade made 11 of 17 shots and put on a show in the second quarter and put it away in the fourth.

"I saw moments," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That's what defines Dwyane Wade."

The 76ers could soon get their defining Process moment from Embiid.

The Sixers sorely needed Embiid, their All-Star center out with a broken orbital bone, to settle them as they fell in a quick a

16-point hole.

The Sixers lost for the first time since March 13 to Indiana. They won 16 straight to end the regular season and the first game of the playoffs and played their 10th straight game without Embiid.

"You need Joel Embiid," Sixers coach Brett Brown said.

Embiid went on Instagram after the game and wrote, "sick and tired of being babied."

Pack the black mask for Miami.

"Joel is a superstar. Of course we're missing him offensively, defensively," Sixers forward Dario Saric said. "He's a guy who wants to play all the time. I can't wait for Joel to come back and help us because we're a better team with him."

The Heat slowed the game down — exactly the kind of style where the Sixers needed Embiid in the middle — and used a collection of defenders on Ben Simmons that rattled the rookie point guard early.

Even without Embiid, the Sixers trimmed the lead to two points late in the fourth.

Saric was fouled by Wade and sank both free throws to make it 91-82 and he followed with a three the next time down that sent the crowd into a frenzy. Saric broke up a pass on defense that led to a Simmons dunk.

Philly fans were going wild and suddenly the home-court edge that had made the Sixers unbeatable for a month seemed like it would perk the team back up for one

more notch on the winning streak.

Not so fast.

Ersan Ilyasova made a tip shot to close to 98-96 but Wade answered and stripped Saric and finished on the other end with a basket that steadied the Heat.

Wade contributed with baskets, assists and free throws over the final 4 minutes to close out the win.

"We played Game 1 like a regular-season game and tonight was a playoff game," Wade said.

The series shifts to Miami for Game 3 on Thursday.

Wade's play resembled his glory days at times and he carried the Heat in a sensational second quarter that was the difference. He pump-faked his way to 15 points in the quarter — impressive enough, even moreso that he outscored the potent Sixers by two points.

Wade made his first seven shots of the game and passed Larry Bird for 10th on the NBA's career postseason scoring list.

"I play the game for these moments," Wade said.

After a Game 1 victory where they couldn't miss, the Sixers couldn't make a big bucket in the first half. The Sixers missed a whopping 16 of 18 threes in the first half.

The passing-and-pushing offense that got the Sixers to the No. 3 seed in the East failed them for the first time since early March.

# Durant lifts Warriors to 2-0 lead over Spurs

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry watched another lopsided win from the bench in sheer delight, wearing a sport coat and big smile.

The steady hands of Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson certainly have made the two-time MVP's absence far less daunting for the defending champions so far in these playoffs.

Durant sparked a decisive third-quarter run on the way to 32 points, Thompson added 31 points and five assists in another superb playoff performance and the Golden State Warriors rallied in the second half to beat the San Antonio Spurs 116-101 on Monday night for a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

As Curry remains out likely for the entire series nursing a

sprained left knee, the Warriors used all the offensive power they had to take both home games in the best-of-seven series.

"No one can make up Steph's contributions individually," Thompson said. "That's got to be done as a team and even then it's hard with the way he can shoot the ball."

Thompson has found his touch after missing two weeks in March with a broken right thumb.

He followed up his brilliant 11-for-13 shooting day in a 113-92 Game 1 rout Saturday by hitting 12 of 20 shots. Durant also had six rebounds and six assists for the Warriors, who went without key backup big man David West down the stretch after he sprained his left ankle early in the fourth.

Coach Steve Kerr stuck with JaVale McGee as his starting center and the 7-footer contributed 10 points and seven rebounds as the well-rounded defending champions again showed off their remarkable depth.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 34 for the Spurs despite facing double-teams and Rudy Gay moved into the starting lineup and scored 12 points.

Game 3 is Thursday as the series shifts to San Antonio.

Thompson managed just three shots in the first quarter and began 1-for-5. He pounded the basketball down with two hands, frustrated, midway through the second quarter. Then he found his groove.

"He hit some tough shots off one leg and you know had some opportunity bounces," Aldridge

said. "That's why they are who they are. They made tough shots. KD made tough shots."

A baseline three with 55.9 seconds left before halftime was his first of the night and got Golden State within 49-45 before the Spurs took a 53-47 lead at intermission.

Draymond Green began 0-for-5 before his first basket on the opening possession of the fourth quarter and Durant missed his five three-point tries in the first half then finally hit from deep early in the third.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before the game that Golden State in Game 1 played "the most stifling defense we faced all year long. That was the best defensive 48 minutes that we have competed against all year long."