

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, April 21, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Blasts rock Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday

### Americans among the hundreds killed; 7 suspects arrested

*Associated Press*

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — More than 200 people were killed and hundreds more wounded in eight bomb blasts that rocked churches and luxury hotels in or near Sri Lanka's capital on Easter Sunday — the deadliest violence the South Asian island country has seen since a bloody civil war ended a decade ago.

Defense Minister Ruwan Wijewardena described the bombings as a terrorist attack by religious extremists and said seven suspects were arrested, though there was no immediate claim of responsibility. He said most of the blasts were believed to have been suicide attacks.

The explosions at three churches and three hotels collapsed ceilings and blew out windows, killing worshippers and hotel guests. People were

seen carrying the wounded out of blood-spattered pews. Witnesses described powerful blasts, followed by scenes of smoke, blood, broken glass, alarms going off and victims screaming.

"People were being dragged out," said Bhanuka Harischandra, 24, of Colombo, a founder of a tech marketing company who was going to the city's Shangri-La Hotel for a meeting when it was bombed. "People didn't know what was going on. It was panic mode," he said. "There was blood everywhere."

The three hotels and one of the churches, St. Anthony's Shrine, are frequented by foreign tourists. Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said the bodies of at least 27 foreigners were recovered and included people from Britain, the U.S., India, Portugal and Turkey. U.S. Sec-

retary of State Mike Pompeo said several American citizens were among the dead.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he feared the massacre could trigger instability in Sri Lanka, a country of about 21 million people, and vowed to "vest all necessary powers with the defense forces" to take action against those responsible. The government imposed a nationwide curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, called on Sri Lanka's government to "mercilessly" punish those responsible "because only animals can behave like that."

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said at least 207 people were killed and 450 wounded.

The scale of the bloodshed recalled the worst days of Sri

Lanka's 26-year civil war, in which the Tamil Tigers, a rebel group from the ethnic Tamil minority, sought independence from the Buddhist-majority country. During the war, the Tigers and other rebels carried out a multitude of bombings. The Tamils are Hindu, Muslim and Christian.

Sri Lanka, situated off the southern tip of India, is about 70 percent Buddhist, with the rest of the population Muslim, Hindu or Christian. While there have been scattered incidents of anti-Christian harassment in recent years, there has been nothing on the scale of what happened Sunday.

There is also no history of violent Muslim militants in Sri Lanka. However, tensions have been running high more recently between hard-line Buddhist monks and Muslims.

## Pompeo: Cyberattack on Japan may constitute 'armed attack'

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

Top American and Japanese officials said Friday that a cyberattack on Japan could be regarded as an "armed attack" requiring a response by the U.S. under a joint security treaty binding the two allies.

"The United States and Japan affirmed that international law applies in cyberspace and that a cyberattack could, in certain circumstances, constitute an armed attack under Article 5 of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty," said Secretary of State Michael Pompeo during a news conference in Washington.

Pompeo had met with his Japanese counterpart, Foreign Minister Taro Kono, along with acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan and Japan Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya, as part of the U.S.-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting.

"We stressed the need to work together to protect classified information, maintain technological superiority and preserve our shared defense and economic advantages from theft and exploitation," Pompeo said.

They did not elaborate on the circumstances under which such cyberattacks would be deemed armed attacks, nor the

nature of a U.S. response.

The U.S. is obligated under Article 5 to help Japan defend its territories in the case of an armed attack. The issue of mutual defense has been in the forefront in recent years as China and Japan routinely clash over sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, a group of uninhabited isles in the East China Sea west of Okinawa.

In 2013, China announced it was instituting an air defense identification zone over part of the East China Sea, including the Diaoyu Islands, which is China's name for the Senkakus. Japan and the United States have ignored the designation.

Japanese officials had been recently pressing the United States to broaden the scope of Article 5 to include cyberattacks, according to Japanese media reports earlier this year.

Iwaya told reporters that the inclusion of cyberattacks was "significant from the perspective of deterrence."

"Not just China but different countries are pursuing superiority in technologies that back up the capability in new domains such as space and cyber and electromagnetic spectrum," Iwaya said.

# Former Marine arrested, charged in LA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A man suspected of involvement in a mysterious dissident group's February raid on North Korea's embassy in Madrid was arrested in Los Angeles by U.S. authorities.

Christopher Ahn, a former U.S. Marine, was arrested and charged Friday, according to a person familiar with the matter. The specific charges against Ahn were not immediately clear.

The person could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Separately, on Thursday, federal agents raided the apartment of Adrian Hong, a leader of the Free Joseon group, the person said.

Hong was not arrested.

Free Joseon, also known as

the Cheollima Civil Defense group, styles itself as a government-in-exile dedicated to toppling the ruling Kim family dynasty in North Korea.

The group said it consists of North Korean defectors living in countries around the world, but that it has not worked with or contacted defectors "living under tight security" in South Korea.

Lee Wolosky, a lawyer for the group, said in a statement that he was "dismayed that the U.S. Department of Justice has decided to execute warrants against U.S. persons that derive from criminal complaints filed by the North Korean regime."

"The last U.S. citizen who fell into the custody of the Kim regime returned home maimed from torture and did not survive," Wolosky said, referring to college student Otto Warmbier's 2017 death.

"We have received no assurances from the U.S. government about the safety and security of the U.S. nationals it is now targeting," he added.

A Spanish police investigator in the case told the AP in Madrid on Saturday that Ahn was identified by the Spanish police at a later stage of its investigation into the Feb. 22 raid and that an international arrest warrant was also issued against him.

The investigator, who spoke under condition of anonymity given the sensitivities of the case, said that because of judicial secrecy, he couldn't confirm how many arrest warrants had been issued by Spanish authorities beyond the two initially confirmed.

A Spanish judge said an investigation uncovered evidence that "a criminal organization" shackled and gagged embas-

sy staff before escaping with computers, hard drives and documents.

Cheollima said on its website that it was responding to an urgent situation at the embassy and was invited onto the property, and that "no one was gagged or beaten."

The group said there were "no other governments involved with or aware of our activity until after the event."

The Spanish court report said the intruders urged North Korea's only accredited diplomat in Spain, So Yun Sok, to defect.

In March 2017, the group said it had arranged the escape of Kim Han Sol, the son of Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who was assassinated at a Malaysian airport earlier that year.

## To help counter China, Pentagon turns increasingly to Coast Guard

The Washington Post

As a U.S. Coast Guard cutter sailed through the East China Sea last month, Chinese vessels shadowed it on the high seas, service officials said. It was a reminder to the Americans of where they were: in a strategic area a couple of hundred miles from China's shores.

The situation underscored the evolving U.S. response to the rise of China and the Coast Guard's role operating missions typically closer to home.

The Coast Guard is increasingly orienting itself toward China, senior officials said, by deploying new cutters, repositioning older ones and dispatching servicemembers to countries such as Vietnam and Sri Lanka to help train those nations' coast guards.

Adm. Karl Schultz, the Coast Guard commandant, said that

as the Defense Department shifts its focus to competing with Russia and China, the Navy is "oversubscribed." The factors he cited include "realities in the South China Sea" and the loss of two Navy destroyers involved in deadly collisions in 2017.

"The Coast Guard brings some capacity to that equation," Schultz said in an interview. "The Coast Guard brings some authorities below the threshold of war. We're U.S. warships, but we look different, with a white hull and an orange stripe."

The deployment of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf to the Asia-Pacific region from Alameda, Calif., in January marked an expansion of Coast Guard operations there.

The vessel, part of the service's growing fleet of modern cutters, is under the control

of the Navy's 7th Fleet in the Asia-Pacific region during the deployment, despite the Coast Guard being part of the Department of Homeland Security.

The USCGC Bertholf has carried out several missions that are typically assigned to the Pentagon, including a high-profile transit of the Taiwan Strait in March alongside the USS Curtis Wilbur, a Navy destroyer, that was meant to demonstrate that international waterways near China remain open.

More recently, the USCGC Bertholf made a port stop in Hong Kong on April 15, the first time the Coast Guard has visited the Chinese territory in 17 years. The ship has carried out sanctions enforcement operations in the East China Sea, preventing illegal ship-to-ship transfers of cargo meant for North Korea.

## US airman deployed to Qatar dies

From staff and wire reports

An airman deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar died Friday, according to a news release issued Saturday by the Department of Defense.

Staff Sgt. Albert J. Miller, 24, of Richmond, N.H., died in a noncombat-related incident, according to the news release. The incident is under investigation.

Miller was assigned to the 736th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, Del. He was supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

WMUR-TV reported that Col. Joel Safranek, the commander of the 436th Airlift Wing, said the wing "extends its deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the Miller family, friends and fellow airmen."

# Civilian border group member is arrested

Associated Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — A New Mexico man belonging to an armed group that has detained Central American families near the U.S.-Mexico border was arrested Saturday in a border community on a criminal complaint accusing him of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, authorities said.

The FBI said in a statement it arrested Larry Mitchell Hopkins, 69, in Sunland Park with the assistance of local police.

New Mexico Attorney Gen-

eral Hector Balderas said in a separate statement that Hopkins was a member of the group that had stopped migrants.

Hopkins was booked into the Dona Ana County detention center in Las Cruces.

The FBI statement did not provide information on Hopkins' background, and FBI spokesman Frank Fisher told The Associated Press that no additional information would be released until after Hopkins has an initial appearance Monday in federal court in Las Cruces.

Balderas said in a statement that Hopkins "is a dangerous felon who should not have weapons around children and families. Today's arrest by the FBI indicates clearly that the rule of law should be in the hands of trained law enforcement officials, not armed vigilantes."

Federal authorities on Friday warned private groups to avoid policing the border after a string of videos on social media showed armed civilians detaining large groups of Central American families in New

Mexico.

Customs and Border Protection said on its Twitter account that it "does not endorse or condone private groups or organizations that take enforcement matters into their own hands."

Jim Benvie, a spokesman for United Constitutional Patriots, said in a video that the group's members were assisting a "stressed and overstrained Border Patrol" and said the group is legally armed for self-defense and never points guns at migrants.

# SpaceX capsule suffers failure during engine test

The Washington Post

A SpaceX capsule designed to ferry NASA astronauts to the International Space Station suffered a failure during an engine test Saturday afternoon that sent a billowing plume of smoke into the air over Cape Canaveral, Fla.

No one was injured, and it was not clear what caused the accident or how serious it was. In a statement, the company said the failure occurred as it was conducting "a series of engine tests." The initial tests were "completed successfully, but the final test resulted in an anomaly on the test stand."

The failure comes at a critical time for

the California-based company founded by Elon Musk. It hopes to fly astronauts to the space station as soon as this year as part of NASA's "commercial crew program." And it comes ahead of tests of the capsule's escape system, which is designed to jettison the spacecraft away from its rocket in the event of an emergency.

Now, both of those could be delayed as the company investigates what went wrong.

The engines that failed Saturday are part of that abort system. Reports from local media outlets showed a large reddish cloud of smoke that, according to Florida Today, of Melbourne, "could be seen for miles."

"Ensuring that our systems meet rigor-

ous safety standards and detecting anomalies like this prior to flight are the main reasons why we test," SpaceX said in its statement. "Our teams are investigating and working closely with our NASA partners."

In a statement on Twitter, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said: "This is why we test. We will learn, make the necessary adjustments and safely move forward with our commercial crew program."

Earlier this year, SpaceX conducted a successful uncrewed test flight of its spacecraft, known as Crew Dragon, which flew to the space station, docked and then returned home.

# 13 victims of Columbine massacre in '99 honored

Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. — Community members in suburban Denver marked the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting Saturday with a remembrance ceremony that celebrated the school's survival and by volunteering at shelters, doing neighborhood cleanup projects and laying flowers and cards at a memorial to the 13 people killed.

"We're changed," Dawn Anna, whose daughter, Lauren Townsend, was among the students killed in the school's library, said before a crowd of more than 2,000 gathered in

a park near the high school. "We're weaker in some places but, hopefully, we're stronger in most of them. Our hearts have giant holes in them. But our hearts are bigger than they were 20 years ago."

The events ended a three-day slate of somber gatherings honoring the victims and lending support to their families, survivors of the April 20, 1999, attack and the school's students and staff. The decades since have brought similar violence at schools in America, and some survivors and victims' families have found themselves acting as a support system for those affected by other tragedies.

Speakers on Saturday portrayed healing and recovery as the result of daily work — not a destination to be arrived at in a set amount of days, weeks or years.

Forgiveness, though, is achievable, said Patrick Ireland, a student who became known as "the boy in the window" when cameras captured him dangling from a second-story window before falling during the 1999 school shooting.

"Our innocence was stolen," Ireland said. "How can that ever be repaid? But forgiveness is a process. It takes time. It takes practice, repetition, translating that rhythm into

moving."

The afternoon ceremony at times had the feel of a reunion. Former students introduced classmates to their husbands or wives.

There were tears, too, particularly as photos of the victims at various ages flashed across a projector screen during a video that featured current Columbine students pledging to honor them with community service each year on April 20.

At the ceremony's end, Frank DeAngelis, the school's principal at the time of the shooting, read the 13 names aloud in a wavering voice.

# Trump asked spy chiefs for help with probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two months before special counsel Robert Mueller was appointed in the spring of 2017, President Donald Trump picked up the phone and called the head of the largest U.S. intelligence agency. Trump told Mike Rogers, director of the National Security Agency, that news stories alleging that Trump's 2016 White House campaign had ties to Russia were false and the president asked whether Rogers could do anything to counter them.

Rogers and his deputy, Richard Ledgett, who was present for the call, were taken aback.

Afterward, Ledgett wrote a memo about the conversation and Trump's request. He and

Rogers signed it and stashed it in a safe. Ledgett said it was the "most unusual thing he had experienced in 40 years of government service."

Trump's outreach to Rogers, who retired last year, and other top intelligence officials stands in sharp contrast to his public, combative stance toward his intelligence agencies. At the time of the call, Trump was just some 60 days into his presidency, but he already had managed to alienate large parts of the intelligence apparatus with comments denigrating the profession.

Yet in moments of concern, as Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election got underway, Trump turned to his spy chiefs for help.

The call to Rogers and others like it were uncovered by Mueller as he investigated possible obstruction.

The special counsel said the evidence did not establish that Trump asked or directed intelligence officials to "stop or interfere with the FBI's Russia investigation."

Even though Rogers signed the memo about the conversation and put it in a safe, he told investigators he did not think Trump was giving him an order.

Trump made a number of similar requests of other top intelligence officials.

On March 22, 2017, Trump asked then-CIA Director Mike Pompeo and National Intelligence Director Dan Coats to stay behind after a meeting at

the White House to ask if the men could "say publicly that no link existed between him and Russia," the report said.

After Trump repeatedly brought up the Russia investigation with his national intelligence director, "Coats said he finally told the President that Coats's job was to provide intelligence and not get involved in investigations," the report said.

The report said senior staffer Michael Dempsey "said that Coats described the president's comments as falling 'somewhere between musing about hating the investigation' and wanting Coats to 'do something to stop it.' Dempsey said Coats made it clear that he would not get involved with an ongoing FBI investigation."

## Citizenship of 551 people reinstated by Bahrain's king

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Bahrain's king on Sunday reinstated the citizenship of 551 people convicted and stripped of their nationality amid a series of mass trials conducted during the island nation's yearslong crackdown on dissent.

A surprise royal order gave no explanation for King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's decision other than to say that he had the final decision in such cases.

Bahrain, which is home to the U.S.

Navy's 5th Fleet, faces widespread international criticism over its campaign. The Sunni monarchy crushed an Arab Spring uprising in 2011 that was supported by the nation's Shiite majority.

The tiny island off the coast of Saudi Arabia has seen low-level unrest since then, which authorities have blamed on Iran.

"The study and evaluation of the situation of convicts should be based on criteria pertaining to the seriousness, impact and consequences of the crimes, as well

as on the danger the convict may pose on national security," the state-run Bahrain News Agency said in announcing the king's decision.

Authorities later will announce the names of those having their citizenship restored.

Last week, 138 people lost their citizenship in a mass trial.

The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy said then that the verdict brought to 990 the number of people ordered stripped of their nationality since 2012.

## Egyptians provided with incentives in el-Sissi referendum

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egyptian pro-government media, business people and activists urged a "yes" vote Sunday on constitutional changes that would allow President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to stay in power until 2030. Some voters were offered free rides or food parcels to increase turnout in the national referendum.

Critics have blasted the constitutional changes as a major step in the return to authoritarian rule, eight years after

President Hosni Mubarak was toppled in a popular uprising.

El-Sissi led the military overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president in 2013 and has since presided over an unprecedented crackdown on dissent. Authorities have arrested thousands of people, including many prominent pro-democracy activists, and rolled back freedoms won in 2011.

Sunday marked the second of three days of voting. The referendum is virtually certain to result in a "yes" vote, but the government hopes for a strong

turnout to lend it legitimacy. Election officials have said results are expected within a week.

Abdel Mohsen Salama, the chairman of the state-owned al-Ahram media organization, urged people to vote as an "urgent necessity."

Pro-government business people and lawmakers, meanwhile, offered incentives to voters.

In Cairo's neighborhood of Kit Kat, buses hired by lawmakers transported people free of charge to a polling center.

In two polling centers in Cairo, some voters were being handed bags of food staples — like oil, rice and sugar — after they cast their ballots. The practice is common in Egypt's elections and referendums, both before and since 2011.

Opposition voices have largely been shut out amid the rush to hold the referendum. Parliament, packed with el-Sissi supporters, overwhelmingly approved the amendments on Tuesday. The local media is dominated by government supporters.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man charged in theft of cooking grease

**VA** ANNANDALE — Police said a central Virginia man made off with a whopper of a haul from Burger King: hundreds of gallons of used cooking grease. He faces grand larceny charges.

News outlets reported Alvaro Mendez Flores, of Richmond, admitted to the April 4 theft.

Court documents state Mendez Flores backed up his box truck to the grease dumpster at the Annandale Shopping Center and used a hose to begin siphoning the used oil into a 1,600-gallon tank.

Cooking grease can be used to make biodiesel fuel. Grease thefts have increased as biodiesel prices have risen.

### Road crew misspells 'school' in crossing

**FL** DORAL — A road crew in Florida should get an "F" for spelling.

A motorist spotted the error, realizing that workers in Doral had made a mistake when painting the word "school" at a pedestrian crossing in the road. Instead of S-C-H-O-O-L, it was spelled S-C-O-H-O-L.

WPLG brought it to the city's attention, and the city tweeted that the private contractor has now corrected its work.

### Wife wields piece of firewood to end fight

**WV** ELKVIEW — Authorities said a wild squabble between two West Virginia brothers came to an abrupt end when one of their wives cracked her brother-in-law in the head with a log.

A criminal complaint filed by the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office said Edward Guy

Cornish, 48, is facing multiple charges after a fight with his brother in Elkview.

The complaint said Cornish first pointed a rifle at his brother but the brother was able to wrestle the gun away. Deputies said Cornish then pulled out a large knife and tried to stab his brother.

That's when the brother's wife hit Cornish in the head with a piece of firewood, knocking him over.

### Carnival permanently closed following brawl

**PA** ASTON — A large brawl that broke out at a Pennsylvania fire department's annual carnival spurred the major fundraiser to come to a permanent end.

Police said fights started breaking out after a large crowd had gathered at the Aston Township Fire Department's Spring Carnival. As more people became involved, police from several departments responded to help break up the brawl. Five youths were charged with disorderly conduct.

The fire department issued a statement that said no more carnivals would be held because the event has "turned into a landing spot for out-of-town troublemakers."

### Couple wed where they met at airport

**OH** CLEVELAND — Proving life and love can be a carousel, a couple got married at the Ohio airport baggage claim where they met 12 years ago.

Michelle Belleau's boss sent her to pick up Ron Peterson at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport in 2007. A long-distance relationship developed, with Belleau in Cleveland and Peterson in Los Angeles.

They got married Saturday at a spot Belleau said "couldn't be more perfect." The Plain Dealer reports.

Belleau has since moved to California.

### Man finds naked stranger on couch

**TN** NASHVILLE — Police said a Tennessee man returned home to find a naked stranger sitting on his couch drinking juice.

WKRN-TV cited a Nashville police report that said the resident summoned officers and told them he called out to the stranger, who responded by screaming and dropping the juice. When officers asked the man to exit the home, they say he did so but was wearing only a T-shirt.

The resident reported the man had consumed ice cream from the home in addition to the juice.

Police took James Wooten, 67, into custody on charges including aggravated burglary.

### Dolphin, sea turtle deaths prompt probe

**MS** GULFPORT — Officials are investigating a rash of deaths among dolphins and sea turtles on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

WLOX-TV reported nearly 40 dead dolphins and sea turtles have been found in recent weeks.

Two veterinarian pathologists from Mississippi State University have been performing necropsies on dead dolphins at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, looking for answers.

The institute's director, Moby Solangi, said he believes the deaths are linked to floodwater that has emptied into the Mississippi Sound from south Loui-

siana's Bonnet Carre Spillway.

The spillway opened Feb. 27 to alleviate Mississippi River flooding, sending freshwater coursing through Lake Pontchartrain into areas that are normally brackish or salty.

### Database online for historical documents

**NH** CONCORD — New Hampshire officials launched an online database that gives users access to more than 16,000 historical documents.

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources said the support tool, available by subscription, is for anyone interested in the state's history and its historic places.

The tool is called the Enhanced Mapping and Management Information tool, or EMMIT.

Documents are available as downloadable PDFs and include National and State Register of Historic Places nominations, historic districts, individual inventory surveys and project area forms.

### Harvard group ends its goat barbecue

**MA** CAMBRIDGE — A Harvard University residence hall is ending a decades-old tradition of skinning and barbecuing a goat in the courtyard.

The Harvard Crimson student newspaper reported that Dunster House Faculty Deans Cheryl Chen and Sean Kelly informed students of the decision in an email, citing student discomfort with the tradition and health concerns.

They said Dunster will continue to hold a "goat roast," just without an actual goat.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

## MLB roundup

# Judge hurt in Yankees' rout of Royals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — All-Star slugger Aaron Judge hurt his left oblique while taking a swing and was expected to head to the injured list as the already banged-up New York Yankees beat the Kansas City Royals 9-2 Saturday.

Judge homered early, but hurt himself in the sixth inning while hitting a single. He was taken to a hospital for an MRI and further tests.

Judge winced after taking a swing in the sixth and gingerly made his way to first base. He left the game after being checked by a trainer.

The Yankees, who began the game with 12 players on the injured list, hit four home runs. Judge connected in the first, Clint Frazier had a solo drive in the second and Mike Tauchman and DJ LeMahieu homered on consecutive pitches in the fourth.

Judge and Frazier hit their fifth homers of the season in the opening two innings off Heath Fillmyer (0-1).

Masahiro Tanaka (2-1) pitched seven innings of one-run ball.

Chris Owings homered in the ninth for Kansas City.

**Mariners 6, Angels 5:** Albert Pujols passed Babe Ruth for fifth place on baseball's career RBI chart, but Seattle added four more homers to its major league-leading power binge in a victory over Los Angeles.

Pujols tied Ruth when he drove in An-drelton Simmons with a double in the third inning, and passed the Babe by hitting his 636th homer in the ninth. Pujols has 1,993 RBIs, surpassing Ruth's total from the portion of his career after RBIs became an official statistic in 1920.

But the Angels couldn't follow up Pujols' one-out homer off Anthony Swarzak, who finished off his third save and Los Angeles' sixth consecutive defeat.

Mitch Haniger, Daniel Vogelbach, Edwin Encarnacion and Domingo Santana went deep, giving the Mariners 53 homers already this season.

**Brewers 5, Dodgers 0:** Christian Yelich hit two home runs, pushing his major league-leading total to 13, and Chase Anderson pitched five strong innings in a spot start in host Milwaukee's win over Los Angeles.

Ryan Braun added a three-run homer for the Brewers, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Brewers, who ended the Dodgers' six-game winning streak, got on the board in the third when Yelich hit a solo homer

with two out off Hyun-Jin Ryu (2-1). With that homer, Yelich broke the franchise record for home runs in March and April, set by Eric Thames in 2017. His second came in the sixth inning, and his 13 homers in the first month of the season matched the franchise record for homers in a month, set by Prince Fielder in May 2007.

Anderson (2-0) allowed a single to open the game and then retired 15 of the next 17 batters before being lifted for a pinch hitter. He walked two batters and struck out five.

Alex Claudio, Junior Guerra and Matt Albers combined to pitch four innings of one-hit relief.

**Indians 8, 7; Braves 4, 8:** Corey Kluber working seven solid innings and Carlos Santana celebrated his U.S. citizenship with three hits, as host Cleveland topped Atlanta in the opener of a doubleheader.

Kluber (2-2) shook off a rough first inning and allowed four runs and five hits. He didn't get out of the third inning in his previous start.

In the second game, Ronald Acuna Jr.'s two-run double highlighted the Braves' five-run rally in the ninth inning as Atlanta stormed back to gain a split.

The Braves trailed 7-0 after two innings but chipped away late and stopped a four-game losing streak.

**Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 0:** Zack Greinke pitched three-hit ball over six innings and was backed by three home runs as Arizona won at Chicago and for the fifth time in six games.

Greinke (3-1) won for the third time in four starts.

**Red Sox 6, Rays 5:** Andrew Benintendi hit a grand slam and a tiebreaking ninth-inning sacrifice fly and catcher Christian Vazquez picked off Tommy Pham for the final out as Boston won at Tampa Bay to capture a series for the first time this season.

The Red Sox had lost four of their first six series and split the other two during a 6-13 start, their worst since 1996.

**Marlins 9, Nationals 3:** Curtis Granderson homered and host Miami broke out at the plate after changing hitting coaches, roughing up ace Max Scherzer in beating Washington to win a series for the first time this season.

Brian Anderson doubled twice and the Marlins finished with 11 hits in their first game under new batting coach Jeff Livesey.

**Cardinals 10, Mets 2:** Miles Mikolas tossed eight stellar innings and drove in two runs, leading host St. Louis over New

York.

Jose Martinez had three hits and three RBIs and Paul Goldschmidt hit his eighth home run.

**Twins 6, 16; Orioles 5, 7:** Eddie Rosario homered twice for a second straight game, Byron Buxton hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the sixth inning and Minnesota won at Baltimore in the opener of a doubleheader.

Rosario also doubled and made a leaping catch at the wall to take away an extra-base hit from Chris Davis. Willians Astudillo went deep for the Twins.

In the second game, Minnesota routed the Orioles with eight homers, matching their single-game mark set on Aug. 29, 1963, against Washington.

**Blue Jays 10, Athletics 1:** Rowdy Tellez and Brandon Drury hit back-to-back homers in a five-run fourth inning and Justin Smoak also homered as Toronto won for the fifth time in six games on its road trip.

Blue Jays pitcher Matt Shoemaker injured his left knee in a rundown chase in the third inning.

**Pirates 3, Giants 1 (5):** Cole Tucker hit a two-run homer in his major league debut and host Pittsburgh beat San Francisco in a game shortened to five innings because of rain.

Tucker, a first-round pick in the 2014 draft, sent a pitch from Derek Holland (1-3) a projected 431 feet into the bushes beyond the center field wall with two outs in the fifth inning to put the Pirates in front.

**Rangers 9, Astros 4:** Joey Gallo hit another long home run, Asdrubal Cabrera accounted for five runs and host Texas beat Houston.

Gerrit Cole (1-3) needed 43 pitches to get through a five-run first inning and didn't get the first out until a called third strike against Gallo with the bases loaded on his 32nd pitch. The right-hander struck out eight, but allowed nine runs over 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

**Phillies 8, Rockies 5:** Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer, Andrew McCutchen also connected and Philadelphia won at Colorado.

Phil Gosselin drove in three big runs to back scuffling Phillies ace Aaron Nola (2-0). Hector Neris got five outs for his third save.

**Reds 4, Padres 2:** Luis Castillo matched a season high with nine strikeouts and Jesse Winker added a pinch-hit homer as Cincinnati extended San Diego's losing streak to six games. The Reds won their third straight after arriving in San Diego.

# Schwartz hat trick helps Blues oust Jets

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jaden Schwartz knew there would be a silver lining during his struggles in the regular season.

The St. Louis forward found it the last two games of the first round of the playoffs.

Schwartz scored three times and Jordan Binnington stopped 18 shots to help the Blues beat the Winnipeg Jets 3-2 in Game 6 of their series Saturday night to advance to the second round.

Schwartz scored just 11 times during the regular season and went through a frustrating 22-game scoreless drought from Dec. 20 to Feb. 12.

“Sometimes when pucks aren’t going in, the net doesn’t seem as big,” Schwartz

said. “When you get a bounce, or a break, it seems like you can carry that over. Everyone will tell you that confidence in this, and any sport, is big.”

Schwartz has four goals in the playoffs — the Blues’ last four, starting the tie-breaking tally with 15 seconds left in the 3-2 win in Game 5. That goal helped set the stage for Saturday’s effort.

“We did a good job of carrying that over,” Schwartz said. “We were aggressive today and we kind of played without fear.”

The Blues became the first home team to win in the series, and advanced to the second round for the third time in four years. St. Louis will next face the winner of the Dallas-Nashville series, which the Stars

lead 3-2.

Bryan Little and Dustin Byfuglien scored for Winnipeg, which tried to rally after falling behind 3-0 early in the third period. Connor Hellebuyck finished with 33 saves.

“It’s hard to say what went wrong,” Hellebuyck said. “We really shouldn’t point fingers and try to find blame. That’s a good team over there and they played well. You could tell they wanted it.”

St. Louis outscored Winnipeg 6-2 over the final four periods of the series.

“It’s tough, tough to swallow,” Little said. “We had really high expectations. It’s disappointing right now.”

## Capitals rout Hurricanes for 3-2 playoff series lead

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — So much went right for the Washington Capitals that the chants from the crowd changed by the shift.

Fans chanted for Nicklas Backstrom’s four points, Braden Holtby’s 30-save shutout, Devante Smith-Pelly’s return to the NHL and T.J. Oshie’s absence that is arguably the biggest obstacle to Washington going back-to-back.

The defending Stanley Cup champions blew out the Carolina Hurricanes 6-0 in Game 5 on Saturday night to take a 3-2 series lead and move one victory from advancing to the second round.

In their first game since Oshie was knocked out indefinitely with an upper-body injury, the Capitals got two goals from Backstrom, power-play goals from Alex Ovechkin and Tom Wilson and secondary scoring in the form of a goal by Brett Connolly and a successful penalty shot by Nic Dowd to make a statement that they were back after laying an egg in two road losses that evened the series.

“That was a pretty great response,” Backstrom said after matching his 2018 playoff total

with five goals through five games. “We weren’t satisfied with the games in Carolina. Tonight we played some Caps hockey, I thought. Everyone bought into everything, we worked together and it paid off.”

Ovechkin assisted on Backstrom’s second goal and Connolly’s first of the playoffs to again lead the way in a postseason win. The reigning playoff MVP has three goals and four assists in the series.

Hurricanes goaltender Petr Mrazek was hung out to dry in allowing six goals on 28 shots, and Carolina’s power play came up empty when a few scoring chances would’ve built some momentum and couldn’t match Washington’s high-powered unit.

“They scored a couple power-play goals, we stunk it up on ours,” Carolina’s Justin Williams said.

As much of a complete effort as it was for the Capitals, it was that much of a missed opportunity for the upstart Hurricanes, who looked frazzled at times after dominating long stretches of the past two games.

## Radulov scores twice as Stars put Preds on brink

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The young Dallas Stars have blossomed this postseason, and now their top line of Jamie Benn, Tyler Seguin and Alexander Radulov are showing just how much damage they can do together.

The combination has put the West’s first wild card a win away from reaching the second round.

Radulov scored two goals in the second period and the Stars beat the Nashville Predators 5-3 on Saturday to push the Western Conference’s No. 2 seed to the brink of elimination.

The Stars lead this best-of-seven series 3-2 over the two-time defending Central Division champs. Dallas will have a chance Monday night at home in Game 6 to join Colorado and Columbus as the latest lower seed coming through in the opening round.

“I think we keep getting better, and we have to keep getting better,” Dallas coach Jim Montgomery said. “The next one’s the hardest one because it’s the potential to end someone’s season. That’s the challenge in front of us now.”

Jason Dickinson also scored twice, Seguin had a goal and an

assist, and Benn matched the NHL playoff record for most assists in a single period with three in the second. The Stars also scored at least five goals in back-to-back playoff games for the ninth time in franchise history, the first since Games 3 and 4 of the 1991 conference finals when this team was still in Minnesota.

Ben Bishop, named a finalist for the Vezina Trophy during the game, made 30 saves for the win.

“It’s a great honor,” Bishop said of being a finalist. “As much as it is an individual award, it’s a team thing. The guys have done a great job in front of me all season.”

Rocco Grimaldi, Ryan Johansen and Kyle Turris scored for Nashville. The Predators lost back-to-back playoff games for the first time since Games 5 and 6 of the 2017 Stanley Cup Final. Nashville coach Peter Laviolette said his Predators have been in these situations before.

“They’ve answered the bell,” Laviolette said. “They’ll answer the bell in Game 6 and we’ll bring it back here.”

# Harden recovers from 0-for-15 start

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — James Harden never worried. In fact, he didn't know he had missed his first 15 shots.

Through it all, he never changed the attacking style that made him the NBA's leading scorer.

Harden overcame a poor shooting performance and scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Houston Rockets to a 104-101 win Saturday over the Utah Jazz for a commanding 3-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

"Keep shooting. Keep being aggressive," Harden said of his only thoughts. "My job is to go out there and produce. Be aggressive and in attack mode. Nothing changes."

Not much has worked against Harden for the Jazz, and even when they thought they had him trapped, they weren't able to control The Beard for a full game.

"You're going to give something up. The

best thing you can do with him is just try to make it hard on him. Even when you do that, there's times where he's going to make plays," Utah coach Quin Snyder said.

The Jazz didn't take it easy on Harden, and took every opportunity to knock him down, even when it sent him to the line. For one of the rare times this season, Harden passed up some shots. But he did take them — and make them — when they counted most.

Though the victory was hardly a thing of beauty, Houston coach Mike D'Antoni was grateful for the way it went down.

"Sooner or later we have to win games on defense. We did this time," D'Antoni said of his team which is known for Harden's lethal three-point attack but has drastically improved on the defensive end since mid-season.

Harden made a three-pointer and added two free throws with 42.4 seconds left to

give the Rockets a 101-97 lead. After Donovan Mitchell made two free throws, Harden missed another three-point attempt, but P.J. Tucker, who finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds, grabbed the rebound, was fouled, making one of two free throws.

Chris Paul said: "You trust [Tucker] to make those plays. ... He's going to do anything and everything to help the team win."

Mitchell had a wide-open look at a three-pointer on the ensuing possession, but like so many of his shots in the hard-fought contest, it was off the mark.

Game 4 of the best-of-seven Western Conference series is Monday night in Utah.

"We didn't shoot the ball well and we still won. That just gives us more confidence," said Harden, who was 3-for-20 shooting with 10 assists. He was 14-for-16 from the line.

## NBA playoffs roundup

# Embiid's return sparks 76ers, fight

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joel Embiid scored and rebounded. He blocked shots and even threw the most important pass of the game.

The only thing he didn't do is lose his cool after his hard foul triggered a scuffle.

After having to sit out the last game, there was no way Embiid was going to risk an ejection and miss his chance to help the Philadelphia 76ers seize control of the series.

Embiid had 31 points and 16 rebounds, and passed to Mike Scott for the go-ahead three-pointer with 18 seconds left as the 76ers beat the Brooklyn Nets 112-108 on Saturday to take a 3-1 series lead.

Embiid also had a flagrant foul that led to a scuffle and two ejections during an eventful return to the lineup after missing Game 3 with a sore left knee.

"I know these guys are going to go at me because they want me to retaliate, so I've got to be mature when I'm on the court and just stay cool and not react," Embiid said.

"Today I could have reacted but I felt like my team needed me more than they needed Jared Dudley, so I've just got to stay cool and mature and do my job."

Tobias Harris had 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the 76ers. They can advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the second straight season with a victory at home Tuesday night.

They got a big boost from the return of Embiid, who scored eight straight points in the fourth quarter after the Nets led by seven. He helped the 76ers overcome the loss of Jimmy Butler, who was ejected in the third quarter after Embiid's hard foul on Jarrett Allen.

Even that ended up working out for the 76ers. Scott took what probably would have been Butler's position on the floor in the final seconds and turned Embiid's seventh assist into the go-ahead basket.

Embiid also had six blocked shots.

"Just look at the magnitude of what the numbers say, the

influence that the numbers say that he must have had on the game," Sixers coach Brett Brown said. "To have 31 points, 16 rebounds, seven assists, six blocked shots and you win, well it's hard to sort of say it any better than that. He was dominant."

Dudley was inserted into the starting lineup for the Nets and had been agitating the 76ers with his defense and his talking, but was gone midway through the third quarter as one of the central figures in the scuffle that spilled into the stands.

Embiid swung his arm forcefully while fouling Allen, and Dudley quickly moved in and bumped Embiid. Butler then ran in and pushed Dudley to start the shoving. Dudley, Simmons and referee Ed Malloy all got knocked into the seats, and after a lengthy video review, Butler and Dudley were given technical fouls and ejected, and Embiid's foul was ruled a flagrant 1.

Dudley said he was trying to send a message. The Nets have been upset over an elbow Em-

biid hit Allen with in Game 2 that they felt should have been an ejection.

**Nuggets 117, Spurs 103:** Nikola Jokic had 29 points and 12 rebounds, Jamal Murray added 24 points and Denver beat host San Antonio, rebounding from a flat performance to tie the series at two games apiece.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and nine rebounds for San Antonio. DeMar DeRozan added 19 points before he was ejected with five minutes remaining after arguing with an official over an offensive foul.

**Bucks 119, Pistons 103:** Khris Middleton had 20 points and nine rebounds and Milwaukee beat host Detroit to take a 3-0 series lead.

The Bucks can finish off the Eastern Conference series Monday night in Detroit.

The Bucks overcame 27 points, seven rebounds and six assists from Blake Griffin in his return from a right knee injury. He missed the first two games of the series after sitting out four of the final six in the regular season.