

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Teen who helped stop attack eyes USMC

By WILLIAM MORRIS

*Stars and Stripes*

A high school senior who helped tackle and disarm an attacker during a school shooting in Colorado on Tuesday plans to become a U.S. Marine.

Brendan Bialy was one of several students who subdued one of two shooters who entered STEM School Highlands Ranch in a southern suburb of Denver, Colo., his father and a family attorney have confirmed.

He was in class when the gunmen entered the classroom and began shooting, his father, Brad Bialy, said in the wake of the attack.

Brendan Bialy and two friends tried to tackle one of the gunmen, who had pulled a gun out of a guitar case, Brad Bialy told *The New York Times*. One of the other boys was shot in the chest and students put pressure on the wound to try to stop the

bleeding, he said.

Many other students ran through the halls shouting or hid, *The Associated Press* reported. Kendrick Castillo, 18, was killed and eight others were wounded, the report said.

Both suspected gunmen were arrested. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office identified one of them as Devon Erickson, 18. The second, a minor, has not been named.

Brendan Bialy was in shock following the attack and "primarily concerned with the victims and their families," a Bialy family attorney told Denver's KUSA-TV.

"He was very defiant at these senseless and horrendous actions," attorney Mark Bryant said. "This young man, like many of our young youth, are compelled by their families, communities and own internal convictions and strength to act immediately and selflessly."

The senior plans to join the Marine Corps after graduation, his father told NBC News. On an Instagram account apparently belonging to Brendan Bialy, he posted photos of himself standing at attention and taking the oath of enlistment against the backdrop of a Marine Corps emblem on a wood-paneled wall in July 2018. "One step closer, fellas," he wrote in the caption.

The following month, he earned recognition for being the male with the highest initial strength test score for August 2018, an Instagram photo posted by the Marine recruiting station in Parker, Colo., showed.

The Colorado shooting took place a week after a gunman killed two students and wounded four at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Riley Howell, a Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet, was shot

three times and killed while tackling that shooter. Over the weekend, Howell was buried with military honors.

STEM is a public charter school with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math. It has more than 1,850 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

On NBC's "Today," STEM student Nui Giasolli, who said she was in British literature class at the time of the shooting, said Castillo had lunged at the shooter.

Castillo's actions gave the rest of the class time to get underneath their desks and then run across the room to escape to safety, Giasolli said.

She also thanked Brendan Bialy and two other students for being "brave enough to bring him down so that all of us could escape and all of us could be reunited with our families."

## Navy to send hospital ship to South America next month

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will dispatch a Navy hospital ship carrying hundreds of doctors and nurses to South America next month where it will be tasked with treating Venezuelans fleeing that nation's economic and growing political crises.

The USNS Comfort will leave its homeport in Norfolk, Va., in June for a five-month humanitarian mission through the Caribbean, Central America and South America, U.S. Southern Command announced Tuesday. The deployment will mark the ship's second mission to the region in recent months, as it

treated thousands of Venezuelan refugees in late 2018 while visiting Honduras, Colombia and Ecuador.

The announcement was made as Vice President Mike Pence delivered a speech at the State Department demanding Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's removal from power in favor of opposition leader Juan Guaido, whom the United States and other nations have recognized as the country's legitimate leader. Pence offered the possibility of relief from U.S.-imposed sanctions to Maduro regime leaders who denounce their president and aid the opposition.

"To those who continue to oppress the good people of Ven-

ezuela, know this: All options are on the table," he said.

Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan has declined to discuss in detail the military options that the Pentagon has considered for Venezuela. He said Tuesday that the Comfort's deployment was part of a "full table" of possible plans.

While it is a Navy ship and carries military personnel — primarily medical professionals — the USNS Comfort is not a warship and is operated by a civilian crew from the Military Sealift Command.

Officials said Tuesday that it would take several weeks after its deployment for the Comfort to reach South America, and they did not disclose planned

port calls for the ship.

Shanahan met Tuesday with Colombian Vice President Marta Ramirez at the Pentagon where they discussed ongoing events in Venezuela, including Maduro's military, the acting secretary said.

"The message I want to make sure comes across is that we are very well coordinated and disciplined, and have a broad set of contingency plans" on Venezuela, Shanahan said. "It's very hard to predict the future, right? And so for every single option you want to have a plan."

"I think we'll do some good coordination and communication today (with the Colombians) to kind of validate the work that's in front of us."

## Release terms set for Coast Guard officer

Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. — A Coast Guard lieutenant accused of stockpiling firearms and drafting a hit list of prominent Democrats and journalists can be released from custody and supervised by relatives in Virginia while awaiting trial, a federal magistrate judge said Tuesday.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Day stopped short of ordering the immediate release of Christopher Hasson, 50, after a hearing in Greenbelt, Md. The magistrate is giving prosecutors time to appeal his decision to a district court judge.

Day said Hasson must be subject to 24-hour home detention at one of two Virginia homes — either his mother-in-law's rental home or a house owned by his father-in-law.

The magistrate also agreed to using global positioning equipment to monitor Hasson. Court officials in Virginia must inspect the two homes and set up the equipment before Hasson can be released.

Prosecutors have portrayed Hasson as a domestic terrorist and a racist extremist intent on carrying out massive killings. Hasson's attorney says pros-

ecutors haven't filed terrorism-related charges since his Feb. 15 arrest because they haven't found any evidence to back up those allegations.

Defense attorney Liz Oyer proposed several pretrial release options for Day to consider during Hasson's detention hearing, the third since his arrest.

Federal prosecutors said they oppose Hasson's release under any conditions. Their appeal likely keeps Hasson detained pending a district court judge's review of the matter.

"The Government continues to believe that the defendant poses a serious danger and must be detained pending trial," Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Windom wrote in a court filing Sunday.

Hasson is a self-described white nationalist and former Marine. He worked at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington on a program to acquire advanced new cutters for the agency.

Prosecutors said Hasson compiled what appeared to be a computer-spreadsheet hit list that included Democratic presidential hopefuls, journalists and Supreme Court justices.

## DOD halts effort on remains in N. Korea

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a new sign of troubled relations with North Korea, the Pentagon said Wednesday it has suspended its efforts to arrange negotiations on recovering additional remains of U.S. servicemembers killed in the North during the Korean War.

In a statement Wednesday, the Pentagon's Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency said it has had no communication with North Korean authorities since the Hanoi summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in January. That meeting focused on the North's nuclear weapons and followed a June 2018 summit at which Kim committed to permitting a resumption of U.S. remains recovery, which had been suspended by the U.S. in 2005.

"As a result, our effort to communicate with the Korean People's Army regarding the possible resumption of joint recovery operation for 2019 has been suspended," the agency said. "We have reached the point where we can no longer effectively plan, coordinate,

and conduct field operations in the DPRK during this fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30, 2019."

The Pentagon agency had hoped to arrange for recovery operations this spring, but the North never agreed to face-to-face negotiations to work out details such as payments required for the provision of support services by the North Korean army.

Last summer, in line with the Trump-Kim summit in June, the North turned over 55 boxes of what it said were the remains of an undetermined number of U.S. servicemembers killed in the North during the 1950-53 war. Thus far, three American servicemembers have been identified from those remains.

Since then, the Trump administration has made no discernable progress toward a deal on eliminating the North's nuclear weapons. Although the remains recovery effort is technically separate from the nuclear talks, it appears to have become entangled in the broader disagreement between Washington and Pyongyang over nuclear weapons and other efforts to improve relations.

## Truman command master chief to retire over comment

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

The command master chief of the USS Harry S. Truman, who late last month cajoled sailors to "clap like we're at a strip club" for Vice President Mike Pence's arrival aboard the aircraft carrier, is retiring, a Navy official said Tuesday.

The remark by Master Chief Petty Officer Jonas Carter, reported by journalists covering Pence's arrival April 30, drew rebuke by the Navy. Spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Laura Stegh-

err said at the time that Carter's statement was "inappropriate" and that the Truman's leadership would address it.

His retirement was announced in a Facebook post by the carrier's commander, Capt. Nick Dienna. He quoted a farewell message from Carter in which the retiring master chief addressed the strip club bruhaha head on.

"When you find yourself making a mistake, own it, accept responsibility and learn from it," Carter wrote. "Today, I want each of you to know that

I have taken full responsibility of my mistake last week and together with my family, I have decided to retire."

Dienna offered mostly praise for the career mariner.

"Master Chief Carter has devoted nearly thirty years of his life to our Navy," he wrote. "During his seventeen years of wearing his anchors, from his leadership aboard three aircraft carriers and as CMC of the USS Chancellorsville, Master Chief Carter has touched the lives of thousands of Sailors and has molded countless

future leaders in our Navy. I've seen firsthand — and the more than 3,000 Sailors aboard Truman can testify to — the incredible impact he's made to our command."

"I commend Master Chief Carter for having the forthrightness and the courage to uphold this ethos by taking responsibility and holding himself accountable for his comments," he wrote.

Pence visited the ship in Norfolk, Va., to announce that the administration had scuttled plans for its early retirement.

# Dunford, Shanahan defend Iran escalation

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's two top officials on Wednesday defended a decision to dispatch the USS Abraham Lincoln and a bomber task force to the Persian Gulf over the weekend to counter Iranian threats to U.S. forces in the region.

Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan and Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Senate lawmakers that the decision to respond to Iran's unidentified threats unfolded quickly.

"We saw the intelligence and so we sent some messages on Friday to make sure that it was clear to Iran that we recognize the threat and we were postured to respond to the threat," Dunford, who was making his 26th appearance on the Hill, said in response to senators' questions. "What I asked really was to accelerate the movement of the Lincoln and the bomber task force so that there would be no

ambiguity about our preparedness to respond to any threat against our people or our partners in the region."

Dunford told the Senate Appropriations Committee subpanel on defense issues that the focus was to deter, and on Sunday, he asked Shanahan to accelerate preexisting plans to move the carrier to the Gulf.

The comments marked one of the more contentious points of a crammed Senate hearing in the Capitol, as Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., grilled the military leaders on the maneuvers against Iran.

Reed, who is also the long-time ranking Democrat for the Senate Armed Services Committee, admonished Shanahan and Dunford for not alerting members of Congress sooner about the plans.

"It took the [Defense Department] more than two days to share any information with the congressional defense committees and I sit on both and frankly I think that's unacceptable," Reed said. "If there is a serious

situation requiring response of this nature, we should be informed. So why were we not informed in a detailed and timely manner?"

Shanahan, who has testified on the Capitol Hill five times in 2019, agreed and he said military officials could have informed lawmakers Monday or Tuesday. He noted Reed would learn more at a private meeting with Dunford later Wednesday.

Shanahan said the events began unfolding late last week, explaining defense officials were distracted Thursday with the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, but they received "this very, very credible intelligence."

"On Friday afternoon, we went to work understanding the sources and to get the teams turning on what does it mean and how might we respond," he said.

As Pentagon officials juggled new details that North Korea had resumed its testing of missiles, they continued to go through Iran intelligence, working in coordination with

Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, commander of U.S. Central Command.

"It was really Sunday afternoon that you came back and said here's what we are recommending, I need authority to proceed," Shanahan said, signaling Dunford.

Following coordination with the State Department and others, "it was really Sunday night before any real information was put together."

The comments were the first on Capitol Hill since the weekend's dramatic face-off with Iran. The Pentagon leaders also defended ongoing Defense Department plans to support the construction of a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Shanahan told senators that there's enough Pentagon contracts and funding from their budgets and other agencies in place to build more than 250 miles of new border fencing. That represents the construction of about 63 miles of border barriers during the next six months.

## Iran will stop complying with parts of nuclear deal

*The Washington Post*

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday announced that his country was taking steps to halt its compliance with elements of a landmark nuclear accord in a move that appeared certain to aggravate tensions with the United States.

In a televised speech, Rouhani said that Iran would hold on to stockpiles of excess uranium and heavy water used in its nuclear reactors. He gave a 60-day deadline for new terms to the nuclear accord, after which Tehran would resume higher uranium enrichment.

"We are ready to negotiate, within the boundaries of JCPOA," he said referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal. "It is not us who has left the negotiation table."

In November, the United States reimposed sanctions that have strangled Iran's oil and banking sectors as well as its foreign trade. The sanctions came after the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the pact that Iran negotiated with world powers in 2015 and that curbed

its nuclear program in exchange for widespread sanctions relief.

Rouhani's speech coincided with the anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal and came amid heightened American economic and military pressure on Iran, including the deployment of an carrier to the Middle East that U.S. officials say was in response to credible indications Tehran planned to attack U.S. interests in the region.

The measures announced by Rouhani came after speculation that Iran would take a more provocative approach, including fully exiting the accord or moving immediately to higher uranium enrichment. It was unclear whether the less dramatic moves it adopted would prevent a further unraveling of the deal or forestall additional punitive measures by allies or adversaries.

"Today, nothing would be worse than Iran itself leaving this accord," French Defense Minister Florence Parly told France's BFMTV on Wednesday.

Asked whether Iran could face sanctions as a result of its decision, Parly said: "Probably. That will be one of the things that will be examined."

But she said that Europe remained committed to supporting the agreement. Europe "wants to be able to continue to keep this agreement alive."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been staunchly opposed to the Iranian nuclear deal since the outset and credits his own lobbying for triggering the Trump administration's withdrawal, referred to Rouhani's announcement during a ceremony Wednesday to mark Israel Memorial Day.

"We will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons," he said.

Israel's security establishment has been more mixed in its assessment of the advantages of retaining a deal and is concerned that Iran will accelerate its nuclear program in the near future, Israel's Army Radio reported Wednesday.

The U.S. has imposed sanctions on purchasers of Iranian oil and designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a branch of the Iranian military, as a terrorist group.

# Trump acknowledges huge tax write-offs for losses

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday acknowledged taking massive tax write-offs for real estate losses topping \$1 billion from the mid-1980s to mid-1990s, calling it “sport” among developers like himself during that period.

Trump was reacting to a New York Times report Tuesday that his businesses lost more than \$1 billion from 1985 to 1994. The newspaper said its reporting was based on printouts it acquired of Trump’s official IRS tax transcripts, including figures from his federal tax form.

Trump reported business losses of \$46.1 million in 1985, and a total of \$1.17 billion in losses for the 10-year period.

The president appeared to defend his actions in a pair of tweets early Wednesday.

“Real estate developers in the 1980’s & 1990’s, more than 30 years ago, were entitled to massive write offs and depreciation which would, if one was actively building, show losses and tax losses in almost all cases,” Trump tweeted. He contended the reported losses were “non monetary.”

“Sometimes considered ‘tax shelter,’ you would get it by building, or even buying. You always wanted to show losses for tax purposes....almost all real estate developers did — and often re-negotiate with banks, it was sport,” Trump said.

He claimed the Times report was a “highly inaccurate Fake News hit job!” based on old information.

After comparing Trump’s information with that of other “high-income earners,” the Times concluded that Trump “appears to have lost more money than nearly any other

individual American taxpayer.” Because of his business losses, the newspaper reported, Trump did not pay income taxes for eight of the 10 years.

The House Ways and Means Committee has asked the IRS to provide Trump’s personal and business returns for 2013 through 2018.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Monday refused to do so, saying the panel’s request “lacks a legitimate legislative purpose.” Mnuchin oversees the IRS.

Mnuchin’s move, which had been expected, is likely to set a legal battle into motion. The chief options available to House Democrats are to subpoena the IRS for the returns or to file a lawsuit.

Trump is the first president since Watergate to decline to make his tax returns public.

## Police: Fire claims 6 lives in Harlem

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Six family members, including four children, were killed early Wednesday when a fire that apparently started on a stove ravaged a Harlem apartment, authorities said.

Firefighters, who were called at about 1:40 a.m., pushed quickly and aggressively into the flames and thick smoke and found a man and a woman, as well as two girls and two boys ages 3 to 11, in bedrooms of the fifth-floor apartment, according to Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro. They were pronounced dead by emergency medical technicians.

“We’re in the lifesaving business and we take this very personally when we’re unable to save this family,” Nigro said at a briefing hours later.

“It’s horrible to look at, and as a father just thinking ... that yesterday evening four children went to bed and they’re gone now is very, very painful,” Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

The head of the New York City Housing Authority, Kathryn Garcia, said a battery-operated smoke detector in the apartment had been tested in January.

Television reports showed neighbors standing in a circle and praying outside the Frederick E. Samuel Houses.

“I was trapped in my building, in my apartment until the fire department came and got me out,” a resident, Patricia Flowers, told The Associated Press hours after the fire. “I have a mom, and I didn’t know what to do to get her out. ... So it was very frightening.”

“I woke up in the middle of night after hearing the fire truck and I could see the fire and it was so hot, even from across here it was so hot,” said Deborah Belton, who lives across the street.

## Harry, Meghan reveal royal baby’s name

Associated Press

LONDON — Tired but beaming, Meghan and Prince Harry showed the public their baby son’s face for the first time on Wednesday, and also revealed his name: Archie.

The royal couple said their son, seventh in line to the British throne, is named Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor.

Mountbatten-Windsor is a surname used by some members of the royal family.

The couple did not choose an aristocratic title for the baby, who is not a prince but could have been given a title with “Lord” before his first name.

The couple did not disclose why they had chosen the names — though the meaning of Harrison, “son of Harry,” could be a clue.

Many royal-watchers had ex-

pected a more traditional royal name, with bookmakers taking many bets on Alexander, Arthur and James.

Archie is an increasingly popular name in Britain and was among top 20 most common boy’s names in 2017, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The announcement came hours after the proud parents posed for cameras, helping to satisfy a huge global appetite for images and details about their newborn son.

Standing in the vast, red-carpeted St. George’s Hall at Windsor Castle, Meghan declared the baby was “a dream” and called motherhood “magic.”

Harry cradled his son in his arms as the couple posed for the cameras — the first in a lifetime of photo calls for the two-

day-old baby, who is seventh in line to the British throne.

The baby lay silently, swaddled in a white merino wool shawl and wearing a matching knitted cap. Both were made by English firm G.H. Hurt & Son, which has supplied three generations of royal babies with knitwear.

The couple left the photo call to introduce the baby to his great-grandparents, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. The infant is the eighth great-grandchild of 93-year-old Elizabeth, Britain’s longest reigning monarch.

Meghan’s mother, Doria Ragland, is staying with the couple at their Frogmore Cottage home near the queen’s Windsor Castle residence.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Authorities: Woman had gator in her pants

**FL** PUNTA GORDA — Sheriff's officials said a Florida woman pulled a small alligator from her yoga pants during a traffic stop.

A Charlotte County sheriff's deputy stopped a pickup Monday after it ran a stop sign and Michael Clemons, 22, told him he and his passenger, Ariel Machan-Le Quire, 25, were collecting frogs and snakes under an overpass. He gave the deputy permission to search bags in the truck.

When the deputy found 41 three-stripe turtles in the woman's backpack, he asked if she had anything else. She pulled the 1-foot gator from her yoga pants.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission took over the investigation.

## Twins graduating in top 2 spots at school

**MS** SUMRALL — Twin brothers in Mississippi are graduating in the top two spots of their high school class.

Jimmy Dilworth is the slightly older one, and he is valedictorian at Sumrall High School. Tommy Dilworth is salutatorian.

They told WDAM-TV that they have always been competitive, and they believe that has pushed them toward success.

They are both in cross country, archery and track. They are also in the math honor society, Beta Club.

## Trucker pleads guilty to stealing meat

**KS** KANSAS CITY — A 37-year-old California trucker working for a Kan-

sas freight brokerage pleaded guilty to stealing a load of meat valued at more than \$160,000.

Federal prosecutors said Gegham Avetisyan, of Valley Village, Calif., pleaded guilty to wire fraud.

Prosecutors said Avetisyan contracted with a business in Olathe to deliver the meat to three places in California. He faxed documents to the company using the name Robert Ivanov.

Avetisyan picked up the meat at a packing plant in Omaha, Neb., but didn't deliver it.

## Recycled plastic used for graduates' gowns

**UT** OREM — Graduation gowns worn by Utah Valley University graduates saved an estimated 70,000 plastic bottles from landfills this year.

The Daily Herald reported that the gowns for the university came from Oak Hall Cap & Gown, which uses recycled plastic bottles to make regalia.

The Virginia-based company said each of the recyclable gowns took about 23 bottles to make.

The process includes chopping and melting the plastic into a filament yarn that is woven and dyed.

The university said this is the fifth year students have worn the gowns.

## Kids get chance to design license plate

**OH** COLUMBUS — Ohio children have the chance to design an anti-bullying license plate.

A contest to create the logo and slogan for the "Stop Bullying" plates is a joint effort of the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Ohio Education Association.

The contest is open exclusively to children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade in the current school year. Entries must be postmarked by May 31.

The winner will receive a certificate and see the winning artwork featured on the special plates.

## Historic theater is being renovated

**IL** DEKALB — DeKalb's 90-year-old Egyptian Theatre is set to undergo a multimillion-dollar renovation project.

The (DeKalb) Daily-Chronicle reported the historic building will get air conditioning and more bathrooms and become more accessible to the disabled.

The theater seats nearly 1,400 people. The \$4.5 million project will be supplemented by \$2.5 million in tax increment financing from the city.

Theater Executive Director Alex Nerad said the air conditioning will let the theater operate year-round and increase the number of shows offered.

## Robbers plow into stores to take ATMs

**MD** SILVER SPRING — Criminals in Washington's Maryland suburbs are hauling off cash-packed automatic teller machines from convenience stores.

WJLA reported that two 7-Eleven stores in Silver Spring were robbed in smash-and-grab style in one week.

Police said in the most recent theft, two masked robbers walked into the store around 3 a.m. and told the workers to lie on the floor.

A third suspect then rammed a pickup through the front of the store near the ATM located

inside. The suspects loaded the ATM onto the truck and escaped.

## Man accidentally shoots self in store

**FL** LAND O'LAKES — A Florida man shopping at a supermarket accidentally shot himself when his gun discharged.

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office said the unidentified man was shopping at a Publix supermarket in Land O'Lakes when his gun fired.

The sheriff's office said a bullet hit the man in a leg.

The sheriff's office said there was no active threat to anybody.

## Officer fired after strippers stole gun

**MA** BOSTON — A Boston police officer whose service weapon was stolen during a rendezvous with two strippers at a Rhode Island hotel was fired.

Sgt. John Boyle said Emanuel Brandao was fired March 28 due to conduct considered unsatisfactory.

Brandao, 37, had been placed on leave after the gun was stolen from the glove box of his car in early February.

Brandao told authorities he and the women were "hanging out" at a Pawtucket hotel, and he discovered his gun missing after they left.

The gun was found in the mail slot at a Providence fire station.

The women told authorities Brandao paid them \$2,500 for sex.

From wire reports

# STARS AND STRIPES

On a mission to provide credible reporting and daily news to America's military, wherever they serve.

Mobile apps available: [www.stripes.com/apps](http://www.stripes.com/apps).

# A's Fiers throws 2nd career no-hitter

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — A light malfunction almost stopped Mike Fiers' night from getting started. A high pitch count nearly prevented him from finishing it.

Good thing Fiers was allowed to take the mound and stay there all game because he made history doing it.

Fiers overcame the early delay and managed the high workload to pitch the second no-hitter of his career, getting help from two spectacular defensive plays from his Oakland Athletics teammates to shut down the Cincinnati Reds 2-0 Tuesday night.

"Amazing. That's really all I can really say," Fiers said. "Things like this just happen."

This one almost didn't.

A bank of lights in left field was only partially lit before the scheduled start of the game, leading to a delay of more than 90 minutes before the teams and umpires determined there was enough light to play a full

game.

Then after getting through seven innings with 109 pitches, Fiers was told by manager Bob Melvin that one more baserunner would end his night even if he still hadn't allowed a hit. He then breezed through the final two innings, following up his 2015 gem for Houston against the Dodgers with a 131-pitch masterpiece to become the 35th pitcher with multiple no-hitters in his career.

"I'm just really thankful for him leaving me in and trusting me," Fiers said. "I told him I felt great. I felt like everything was working. It wasn't a matter of being tired. I had adrenaline at that point."

He walked two, struck out six and ended the 300th no-hitter ever in the majors by fanning Eugenio Suarez with a big curveball.

The A's poured out of the dugout to mob Fiers in celebration after the final out in front of a few thousand fans remaining after the lengthy delay. Fiers tipped his hat to the crowd and

raised his arms in triumph as he walked off.

The 33-year-old Fiers (3-3) raised his lifetime record to 57-58. The right-hander began the night with a 6.81 ERA this season, and has been a journeyman for much of his career.

A journeyman with a special place in the record book, that is.

"It's pretty cool," Fiers said. "I saw a little bit of the list. I'm just grateful to be here and get the opportunity to play. I remember when I was getting drafted I wasn't too high on the charts. I was a guy throwing 88 to 90 (mph) down in South Florida. I'm one in a million down there. ... I'm just blessed to be here."

The first no-hitter of the 2019 season didn't come without tense moments as Fiers was bailed out by back-to-back great defensive plays in the sixth inning. Second baseman Jurickson Profar ran a long way to making a diving catch on Kyle Farmer's popup into short right field for the second

out, prompting Fiers to throw up his arms in celebration.

Joey Votto followed that with a deep drive, but flashy center fielder Ramon Laureano reached above the fence to pull the ball back and rob the Reds star of a home run.

This was the 13th no-hitter in the history of the Athletics franchise, which started in Philadelphia, moved to Kansas City and shifted to Oakland. Sean Manaea pitched the most recent no-hitter for the A's on April 21, 2018, at home against Boston.

The Reds were no-hit for the 10th time, most recently by Jake Arrieta of the Cubs in 2016.

Fiers became the seventh pitcher to throw no-hitters for multiple teams — Nolan Ryan, Randy Johnson and Cy Young are among the others. Ryan pitched a record seven no-hitters overall.

Max Scherzer, Justin Verlander, Homer Bailey and Arrieta are the other active big leaguers with two no-hitters.

## Blues win Game 7 in double overtime to oust Stars

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Pat Maroon always imagined becoming a hometown hero.

The 31-year-old St. Louis native got to live out that fantasy Tuesday night.

Maroon scored 5:50 into the second overtime, Jordan Binnington made 29 saves and the St. Louis Blues outlasted the Dallas Stars 2-1 in Game 7 of their Western Conference semifinal playoff series.

St. Louis will face the winner of the San Jose-Colorado series in the conference finals.

Maroon slammed in a loose puck after Robert Thomas hit the goal post on a rush down the right wing. The puck then bounced off Dallas goalie Ben Bishop and dropped in the crease.

It was the second game-winning goal of the series for Maroon, who savored the moment

in front of dozens of family and friends.

"As a kid, playing in a basement, on the street, you always think about doing this," Maroon said. "It's unreal. It means the world."

Maroon deflected credit for the tally to Thomas, whose rush helped create the winner.

"I saw an opening and I shot it," Thomas said. "He was there to bang it in."

Maroon struggled at times during the regular season, going 23 games without a goal. But he has scored three goals in the postseason.

"I got to my game and I got my confidence back where it needs to be," Maroon said. "It's been a heck of a journey."

St. Louis captain Alex Pietrangolo felt Maroon deserved a little puck of luck.

"He's been working so hard," Pietrangolo said. "What a cool moment for him."

Binnington, a Calder Trophy finalist, improved to 8-5 in postseason play. He stopped Radek Faksa on a breakaway in the opening period and also made some key stops in the second extra period.

"It was fun for the first three or four periods," Binnington said. "Then I started to get a little tired. We fought until the end. We found a way. It's been working for us."

Vince Dunn also scored for St. Louis.

"It was a pretty good effort from the get-go, they battled and stayed in it," St. Louis interim coach Craig Berube said. "Their goalie had a great game, but our guys never quit and stayed with it."

Bishop made 52 saves and Mats Zuccarello scored for Dallas, which dropped to 5-8 in Game 7s in franchise history.

It marked the first time in NHL history that three playoff

series were decided in overtime in Game 7 in the same year. San Jose eliminated Vegas and Carolina beat Washington in the first round.

St. Louis, which improved to 9-8 in Game 7s, outshot Dallas 54-30, including 41-16 in regulation. But Bishop was terrific against his first NHL team, keeping the Stars in the game with a handful of big-time stops in regulation and the overtimes.

The Blues jumped in front when Dunn converted a shot from the point 13:30 into the first period. It was his first career playoff goal.

Zuccarello then jumped on a fortunate deflection for Dallas, tying it at 1 at 15:55. A clearing attempt by St. Louis forward David Perron hit referee Marc Joannette and bounced into the slot. Binnington was looking in the other direction and never saw Zuccarello's shot.

# Ryu shines as Dodgers blank Braves

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hyun-Jin Ryu is showing what he can do on the mound when he isn't hurt.

Ryu tossed a four-hit shut-out, Justin Turner homered three times and the Los Angeles Dodgers routed the Atlanta Braves 9-0 Tuesday night for their ninth straight win at home.

After being named the team's opening day starter because of injuries to Clayton Kershaw and Rich Hill, Ryu landed on the injured list with a left groin strain. Last season, he missed two months with a groin issue.

Turner believes that kept Ryu out of consideration for the NL Cy Young Award.

"Very underrated," Turner said of his teammate. "I think he likes it that way. He doesn't care about the accolades, but he deserves them."

Ryu didn't allow a baserun-

ner until Tyler Flowers singled to left leading off the sixth, spoiling his bid for a perfect game that he said he wasn't thinking about.

"He's really good," Braves manager Brian Snitker said of Ryu.

Ryu (4-1) struck out five and walked none in his second career complete-game shutout, putting on a show for his parents, wife and several friends on hand. His first career complete game came on May 28, 2013, also at home against the Angels.

His mother was celebrating her birthday.

"I was able to provide a good gift for her, so I'm very happy," Ryu said through a translator.

The South Korean left-hander hasn't given up more than two earned runs in any of his seven starts this season. He has walked just two batters in all, and none at home since

Aug. 26.

"You don't need the big power arm when you're throwing the ball where you want to," Turner said of Ryu.

Ryu even got his first hit of the season in the sixth, a high-arching single that dropped just inside the line in shallow right field. He struck out with the bases loaded in the eighth and was cheered walking back to the dugout.

"During batting practice I'm actually a decent hitter and can put it over the fence," Ryu said. "Obviously, the game is different."

Turner went 4-for-5 with a strikeout and scored three runs. He hit a solo shot in the first and led off the fifth with a blast over the wall in center, leading the crowd to chant his first name.

Turner's three homers and six RBIs were career highs. His last blast came in the eighth, a

three-run shot into the left field pavilion that extended the lead to 9-0.

The Dodgers have homered in 16 of 18 at Chavez Ravine, smashing 33 out of the park.

Atlanta sluggers Freddie Freeman and Ronald Acuna Jr. were a combined 0-for-7. Freeman struck out swinging to end the game.

"Hyun-Jin was definitely efficient," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "Even in the ninth inning he reached back for 92 (mph)."

Cody Bellinger robbed Acuna to end the seventh when he backhanded the ball on the run in right field and rolled over.

Braves starter Max Fried (4-2) left the game after getting hit in the left hand by a comebacker from Alex Verdugo in the second. The team said X-rays were negative and Fried was day-to-day with a contusion on his hand.

## MLB roundup

# Angels' Ohtani goes 0-for-4 in season debut

Associated Press

DETROIT — Shohei Ohtani looked so eager to make an impact in his highly anticipated season debut that he swung so hard his helmet flew off his head more than once.

He finished 0-for-4 with an RBI groundout and walked once as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Detroit Tigers 5-2 Tuesday night.

The Angels activated the AL Rookie of the Year from the injured list and it appeared simulated games didn't quite prepare him for the moment. Ohtani took a called third strike in his first at-bat, grounded out to help Los Angeles take a 3-0 lead in the third, struck out on a breaking pitch, lined out to third and drew a base on balls.

"Baseball is certainly not the type of sports that you focus on one night," Angels manag-

er Brad Ausmus said. "We're looking at using him as a DH for the vast majority of the next 4½ months. I'm not overly concerned about the immediate results, but just the long-term results."

**Cubs 5, Marlins 2:** Kris Bryant hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting host Chicago.

**Yankees 5, Mariners 4:** Cameron Maybin narrowly beat right fielder Jay Bruce's throw home on DJ LeMahieu's game-ending, ninth-inning single, capping host New York's three-run rally.

**Phillies 11, Cardinals 1:** Bryce Harper hit a grand slam, his first with his new team, and Rhys Hoskins added four hits, including a homer, to spark visiting Philadelphia past St. Louis.

**Mets 7, Padres 6:** Rookie

Pete Alonso got his revenge against San Diego by hitting a 449-foot, two-run home run with no outs in the ninth inning to lift visiting New York to a victory.

**Brewers 6, Nationals 0:** Lorenzo Cain's three-run double with two outs in the seventh inning broke a scoreless tie and host Milwaukee won its fifth in a row.

**Red Sox 8, Orioles 5:** Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer and J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts also connected for host Boston.

**Royals 12, Astros 2:** Whit Merrifield and Ryan O'Hearn each hit a grand slam to lead visiting Kansas City past Houston.

**Giants 14, Rockies 4:** Mac Williamson wasted no time after being promoted from Triple-A Sacramento, homering and driving in four runs to help

San Francisco beat Colorado.

**Indians 2, White Sox 0:** Lucas Giolito carried a shut-out into the eighth inning and James McCann stayed hot with an RBI single for visiting Chicago.

**Rays 6, Diamondbacks 3:** Brandon Lowe homered on the first pitch in the bottom of the first, opener Ryne Stanek and five other relievers combined on a seven-hitter and host Tampa Bay moved to a season-high 11 games over .500.

**Pirates 5, Rangers 4:** Gregory Polanco hit his first home run in eight months, and spot starter Steven Brault and six relievers did just enough to help host Pittsburgh edge Texas.

**Twins 3, Blue Jays 0:** Jose Berrios allowed four hits in seven innings, Mitch Garver homered and Minnesota shut out host Toronto for the second straight night.

# Raptors rout Sixers, take 3-2 series lead

Associated Press

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors came up with a new load management plan for Kawhi Leonard. It was to make sure their star forward didn't have to shoulder the entire offensive burden.

Leonard had 21 points and 13 rebounds, Pascal Siakam scored 25 points and the Raptors used a balanced attack and a huge second quarter to rout the Philadelphia 76ers 125-89 Tuesday night and take a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Toronto can advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second time in four seasons with a victory in Game 6 at Philadelphia on Thursday night. The Raptors lost in six games to Cleveland in the East finals in 2016.

If the 76ers can extend the series to a seventh game, it would be played in Toronto on Sunday night.

Leonard, who had scored 33 or more points in each of the first four games of the series, shot 7-for-16 from the field and 7-for-8 at the line before checking out with 7:22 to play and

Toronto up 103-73. He had four assists and two steals.

"Tonight was one of those games where we let him rest a little bit, which is important," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "He had a big double-double, but he didn't have to do everything offensively."

Leonard scored 39 points in Toronto's Game 4 win on Sunday.

Lowry scored 19 points, while Danny Green shot 5-for-7 from three-point range and finished with 17 points. Marc Gasol scored 11 points and Serge Ibaka had 10. All five Toronto starters scored in double digits.

"Kawhi still had a great game and the surrounding cast contributed," 76ers coach Brett Brown said.

The 36-point margin was the largest in Toronto's postseason history, and marked Philadelphia's worst playoff defeat since a 40-point loss to Boston in Game 1 of the 1982 Eastern Conference finals.

"The spirit, I thought, went away a little bit quicker than I'd wished," Brown said.

Up by one after the first, the

Raptors outscored the 76ers 37-17 in the second to take a 21-point lead, 64-43, at halftime.

"The second period is where it got away from us," Brown said. "I give Toronto credit, we didn't have the answers for a few of their players and it snowballed."

Ahead 92-70 at the start of the fourth, Toronto extended its lead to a game-high 40 points on a dunk by Normal Powell with 2:24 remaining.

The Raptors shot 16-for-40 from three-point range, setting a franchise record for three-pointers in a postseason game. They hadn't made more than 10 in the four previous games this series.

"The three-point shot was punishing tonight," Brown said.

Jimmy Butler scored 22 points and Tobias Harris had 15 for the 76ers, who have lost two straight after winning the previous two.

Joel Embiid scored 13 points and had eight turnovers. Embiid started despite missing the morning shoot-around because of flu-like symptoms.

"Offensively there was a

rhythm to his game that was clearly out of synch," Brown said. "He's been in bed for two days."

Embiid also battled illness in Games 2 and 4.

Sixers guard Ben Simmons shot 3-for-5 and finished with seven points, seven rebounds and five turnovers.

Siakam scored nine points in the first and Lowry had eight as Toronto led 27-26 after one. Leonard had seven rebounds and five points in the first.

Ibaka needed three stitches to close a cut on his forehead after he was inadvertently elbowed by Leonard in the opening quarter. Ibaka returned to start the second and, despite a visible bump on his head, soon scored his first points by blowing past Embiid for a dunk.

Green scored nine points in the second, making three of Toronto's four three-pointers. Toronto shot 12-for-21 in the second while Philadelphia shot 6-for-20.

The 76ers had 19 turnovers, leading to 31 points for Toronto.

"That is haunting," Brown said. "You cannot win with those types of numbers."

## Millsap helps Nuggets push Trail Blazers to the brink

Associated Press

DENVER — Paul Millsap is showing the young'uns how it's done.

Millsap scored 19 of his 24 points in the first half Tuesday night, sparking Denver's 124-98 blowout of the Portland Trail Blazers that put the Nuggets on the verge of their first trip to the Western Conference finals in a decade.

The 34-year-old forward with nearly 100 games of playoff experience has injected some savvy into a series dominated by youth and emerging stars.

"It's not his first time, you know? He's been here before," Jamal Murray said. "He's showing everybody the ropes. ... He does all the little things that can help us win games and

sets the tone for us."

Millsap is averaging 19 points and 9.6 boards in the best-of-seven series that the Nuggets lead 3-2 with Game 6 coming up Thursday night in Portland.

Gary Harris called Millsap "that calming factor" for a team making its first playoff appearance in six seasons. "He's been huge for us this series. He's been bringing it offensively, defensively and he helped us get off to a great start today."

After Millsap got the Nuggets going with a dozen first-quarter points, Nikola Jokic took over from there, scoring 25 points and pulling down 19 rebounds, tying a team playoff high. Murray added 18 points to go with nine assists and zero turnovers.

Damian Lillard, who led Portland with 22 points, said it's exhausting facing the waves of young sharpshooters the Nuggets send at you, starting with the fulcrum of Jokic and Murray running the pick-and-roll.

"And then when all else fails, you've got to guard Millsap," Lillard lamented. "He's a handful for guys to guard because he's in the paint, he's making face-up jumpers, he's making threes. In transition, you've got to find him, and then he's a monster on the glass."

Leaning on Millsap's experience and well-rounded game, he said, "is just something they can always go to, something they can always count on. So, it's tough to deal with."

Millsap helped the Nuggets turn in the first lopsided game

of a series that was so evenly matched coming in that Denver held a cumulative scoring advantage of 464-462 and both teams had made the same number of free throws and three-pointers.

The Nuggets never trailed and stretched a six-point lead after one quarter to 18 at the half and 28 heading into the fourth quarter. They led by as many as 31 before a parade of backups gave the starters some much-needed breathers.

Coming off a resounding Game 4 win that followed that epic quadruple-overtime loss, the Nuggets were focused and efficient just as coach Mike Malone promised when he said Denver wouldn't dare let up and exhale after reclaiming home-court advantage.