

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Top SEAL orders stringent standards

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy's top SEAL has ordered Naval Special Warfare Command to adopt stringent grooming and uniform standards required throughout the rest of the service, telling his top commanders "that a portion of this force is ethically misaligned with our culture."

In a memorandum issued Tuesday to senior SEAL commanders, Rear Adm. Collin Green, the commander of Naval Special Warfare Command, blamed a lack of leadership for a recent string of high-

profile SEAL scandals that point to ethical problems within the ranks of the Navy's elite force. The new guidance is the result of a command-wide review of ethics and culture that Green ordered last month as

the SEAL community has dealt with several high-profile issues in recent years including accusations of war crimes, charges of illicit drug use, drinking on duty in the Middle East, claims of sexual assault and the involvement of two SEALs in the death of a Green Beret.

"The root of our problem begins with members who fail to correct this behavior within their sphere of leadership and prioritize this misalignment over the loyalty to Navy and nation," Green wrote.

"We must take a 'back to basics' leadership approach to correct our drift," he added. "I will hold the chain of command accountable, as I am accountable for the good order and discipline in our formations."

The adherence to strict Navy grooming and uniform standards would be a marked change for the SEAL commu-

nity, which has adopted looser appearance rules, including beards — especially in war zones. Green called for commanders to conduct routine uniform inspections and barred the use of any unofficial Navy and unit insignia on uniforms.

The admiral also ordered all accusations of misconduct against chief petty officers and those of higher rank within Naval Special Warfare Command to be reported directly to him.

Other steps that Green told SEAL leaders to take include implementing a program "to track and develop an individual's leadership and ethical development" through his or her career, implement special warfare history and heritage into regular activities and provide all SEALs with formal legal briefings.

The top commander of U.S.

Special Operations Command, Army Gen. Richard Clarke, has issued his own review of ethics and culture within the larger special operations community. He did so in the weeks after Green first announced he would look into problems within the SEAL ranks.

Green's initial review started almost immediately after reports of a Navy SEAL team being suddenly sent home in July to San Diego from Iraq over accusations of drinking alcohol during an Independence Day celebration, during which an alleged sexual assault on a female servicemember working with the team occurred.

Such incidents, Green wrote, erode the American public's trust in the SEAL community. He challenged top SEAL leaders to take responsibility for the actions — on and off duty — of all their SEALs.

## Return of soldier thought dead highlights Afghan struggles

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN  
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL  
*Stars and Stripes*

KUNAR, Afghanistan — A family was summoned to a morgue in Kabul to claim the mangled remains of their son, a soldier killed in battle with the Taliban. They took the remains home to Kunar province for burial. Nine months later, he called.

The soldier, Nematullah, had not been killed as the Afghan military thought. Instead, Nematullah, who, like many Afghans, uses only one name, had been captured and held under harrowing conditions until Afghan special forces freed him in a raid.

The body thought to be Nematullah's apparently had been misidentified because it was damaged badly in the fighting.

"We all thought someone was mocking us," said Nematullah's uncle, Ainullah Shahid. "But soldier took his photo and sent it to us, and we knew it was true. We thought it was a miracle."

After years of war and billions of dollars in U.S. and Western aid, the Afghan military still struggles to track troops accurately, to supply them adequately and to reinforce them quickly when militants strike.

When fighting broke out at Nematullah's base in Uruzgan's Chinarto district, officials called for reinforcements and air support, he told Stars

and Stripes during a visit to his village, where he has been recovering since his rescue.

"They kept telling us, 'OK, wait half an hour, we'll send airplanes,' " he recalled. "We kept looking up at the sky that night for help, but nothing came."

When the fighting was over, dozens of Afghan soldiers had been killed. Scores more were unaccounted for because they either fled or joined the insurgents, the Voice of America reported at the time of the battle.

Only four were captured, and they were tortured almost daily for months, Nematullah said.

While he was enduring this cruelty, members of his family were called to a Kabul morgue to retrieve a body officials said was Nematullah's.

The remains were "unrecognizable," said his brother, Enamullah, a member of the Afghan commando forces. The Taliban might have put acid onto the man's face to "ruin the image of martyrs," Enamullah said, but the body also might have begun to decompose after days in Uruzgan's heat. Several others killed in the attack also were unrecognizable, he said.

Family members are still unsure how the military determined the body to be Nematullah's.

The Defense Ministry insists that it has systems in place to prevent such errors. All soldiers have their biometric information recorded so casualties can be identified, said spokesman Rohullah Ahmadzai.

# Army commander suspended for a Nazi phrase in a memo

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — An Army commander of a Houston-area recruiting company has been suspended for distributing a memo that included a phrase used in concentration camps by the Nazis during World War II, officials from Army Recruiting Command confirmed Friday.

Officials are investigating the company commander who sent the memo using the German phrase “arbeit macht frei,” which translates to “work will set you free,” said Kelli Bland, spokeswoman for Army Recruiting Command, based at Fort Knox, Ky.

The name of the commander and the unit have not been identified.

The phrase headlined a section of the memo explaining incentives, including time off, available to recruiters, depending on the number of contracts they are able to complete.

The language of the memo came to light Wednesday when it was shared by the Twitter account “Truth of Army Recruiting.” That post included a photo of a gateway to Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration camp in Poland that was active during World War II. The phrase was displayed across the arch of the gate. Dachau, a concentration camp at the time in southern

Germany, also had a gate with the phrase.

The actual Army memo was distributed digitally and did not contain any images, Bland said.

“We have no evidence or reason to believe that the company commander distributed a photograph of the fence, but this will be looked into as part of the investigation,” she said.

The commander has been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation into the situation. The commander has apologized to the unit, and arrangements have been made for the entire unit to receive additional equal opportunity training, Bland said.

## Cadet sues ex-Citadel instructor for abuse

*Associated Press*

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A student at The Citadel sued an ex-instructor who he says agreed not to discipline him in exchange for sex.

Former Citadel Lt. Col. Kenneth Boes was charged last year with sexually assaulting the cadet, but prosecutors dropped those charges for reasons that aren’t explained in online court records.

Boes’ lawyer on Friday described the cadet as a false victim and violent young man who wants to make a quick buck at the expense of a man with an impeccable reputation.

The cadet also sued The Citadel, saying South Carolina’s military college was negligent because it knew Boes was helping the student avoid discipline and break the school’s code of conduct.

In the lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal court, the cadet said Boes befriended him with cigars and alcohol even while knowing the student had trouble with underage drinking. He also said Boes touched him inappropriately over six months, watched him shower and, at one point, drugged him. He said he woke up naked beside the instructor.

The cadet said Boes told him he had to maintain their relationship or he wouldn’t graduate.

Citadel spokesman Col. John Dorrian said the school doesn’t comment on pending lawsuits. But he said the college’s foremost goal is the safety of its cadets, which is why school officials asked law enforcement authorities to investigate as soon as they learned of the allegations.

Boes resigned shortly after his August 2018 arrest on charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and giving beer or wine to a minor.

## Soldier acquitted in truck tire shooting case

*(San Jose, Calif.) Mercury News*

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Schitara Page was working the night shift at her security guard job in California last Dec. 18 when she caught two shoplifters in the act. One punched her in the face and threw lemons at her as she followed them into the parking lot, she would later recall.

Page, 32, a sergeant in the U.S. Army and expert marksman, caught up with the suspects as they were climbing into a pickup truck with large tires. The driver allegedly gave her one final taunt before climbing in, yelling out, “I’ve got something for you, b---,” Page says.

She interpreted his comment as an imminent threat, and when the truck’s wheels began to turn forward, Page drew her pistol and fired three times into one of the tires. The bullets flattened the tire, and the truck pulled out, heading away from Page.

It was something Page had

never done before — not in her nine years in the Army, which included tours in combat zones, and not several days earlier, when a sedan struck her in a similar encounter and she rolled over its hood rather than respond with force.

The decision to shoot drastically changed the next year of her life, resulting in criminal charges — not against the men in the truck but against Page.

She was arrested on suspicion of felony negligent discharge of a firearm but charged with a misdemeanor version of the charge. Her weeklong trial was earlier this month.

Jurors hardly sat down before they agreed that Page should be acquitted. A not guilty verdict was announced after less than 40 minutes of deliberations.

In an interview after the trial, Page called the whole experience “devastating,” despite the outcome in her favor.

“I’m still pretty devastated because, honestly, I’ve tried to live my life helping other peo-

ple and living the best kind of life that I can,” Page said. “It’s kind of a slap in the face to do what I’ve done in my lifetime and someone accused me of a crime.”

Page testified during her trial, her attorney arguing it was an example of “perfect self-defense” and citing California’s “Stand Your Ground” law, which allows a person to use deadly force based on a “reasonable belief” that their life is in danger.

Following the verdict, the Contra Costa County District Attorney put out a brief statement saying the shooting was “over disputed lemons and crab meat.”

“The shooting transpired in the parking lot of shopping center with civilians and children present,” the district attorney’s statement says. “The chosen response appeared to be a disproportionate use of force. This jury decided otherwise.”



# US troops targeted in suicide bomb

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A Taliban suicide car bomber attacked a convoy of foreign forces near the United States' largest base in Afghanistan on Friday. No coalition troops were injured, officials said.

The attacker detonated his vehicle in the small town of Sar-e-Sayad near Bagram Airfield around 11.30 p.m., Wahida

Shahkar, a spokeswoman for the local governor's office told Stars and Stripes.

A foreign forces vehicle was damaged by the blast, which could be heard for miles around, Shahkar said.

At least two civilians were also wounded and four shops destroyed, the Afghan military said.

"There was an attack but no casualties or injuries to U.S. or coalition forces," United States Forces-Afghanistan spokes-

man Col. Sonny Leggett said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast, saying it killed seven "invading soldiers" and destroyed two armored vehicles.

"Rather than taking responsibility and apologizing for the harm they bring to innocent Afghans and their businesses, the Taliban spread lies about the attack," Leggett said.

The Taliban's latest attack targeting foreign forces comes as Taliban and American of-

ficials continue talks in Qatar aimed at ending the war.

On Wednesday, two American Green Berets were killed by small-arms fire in northern Faryab province. The Pentagon provided no further details about the incident, but a Taliban statement said the group was responsible.

The Taliban's top spokesman, Sohail Shaheen, told CBS news on Friday that the American deaths "should have a positive impact" on the negotiations.

## Iranian oil tanker pursued by US says it is headed to Turkey

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Iranian-flagged oil tanker pursued by the U.S. amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington changed its listed destination to a port in Turkey early Saturday after Greece said it wouldn't risk its relations with America by aiding it.

The crew of the *Adrian Darya 1*, formerly known as the *Grace 1*, updated its listed destination in its Automatic Identification System to Mersin, Turkey, a port city in the country's south and home to an oil terminal.

However, mariners can input any destination into the AIS, so Turkey may not be its true destination. Mersin is some 125 miles northwest of a refinery in Baniyas, Syria, where authorities alleged the *Adrian Darya* had been heading before being seized off Gibraltar in July.

Iranian state media and officials did not immediately acknowledge the new reported destination of the *Adrian Darya*, which carries 2.1 million barrels of Iranian crude oil worth some \$130 million. Nor was there any immediate reaction from Turkey, whose President Recep Tayyip Erdogan deals directly with Tehran and Russia over Syria's long war.

The ship-tracking website MarineTraffic.com showed the *Adrian Darya*'s position as just south of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. At current speeds, it estimated the *Adrian Darya* would reach Mersin in about a week.

The State Department did not immedi-

ately respond to a request for comment.

The tanker's detention and later release by Gibraltar has fueled the growing tensions between Iran and the U.S. after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers over a year ago. In the time since, Iran lost billions of dollars in business deals allowed by the deal as the U.S. reimposed and created sanctions largely blocking Tehran from selling crude oil aboard, a crucial source of hard currency for the Islamic Republic.

In U.S. federal court documents, authorities allege the *Adrian Grace*'s true owner is Iran's Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary organization answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The U.S. declared the Guard a foreign terror organization in April, the first time America named a military force of a nation as such, giving it the legal power to issue a warrant for the vessel's seizure. However, that would require another nation to acknowledge the writ.

The *Adrian Darya* had put its intended destination as Kalamata, Greece, even though the port did not have the infrastructure to offload oil from the tanker. The State Department then pressured Greece not to aid the vessel.

Meanwhile, Iran continues to hold the British-flagged oil tanker *Stena Impero*, which it seized in a commando-style raid July 19 after the taking of the *Adrian Darya*. Analysts suggested the release of the *Adrian Darya* would see the *Stena Impero* let go, but that has yet to happen.

## Official says US, Turkey working on Syria haven

*Associated Press*

ISTANBUL — Turkey's defense minister said Saturday that military officials with Turkey and the United States have begun work to create a "safe zone" along its border in northeastern Syria.

Turkey's Anadolu news agency quoted Defense Minister Hulusi Akar as saying that generals from Turkey and the U.S. had begun work in a joint operations center in the Turkish province of Sanliurfa to set up the zone.

Turkey has been pressing to control — in coordination with the U.S. — a 19-25 mile deep zone within civil war-ravaged Syria, running east of the Euphrates River all the way to the border with Iraq.

Turkey wants the region along its border to be clear of Syrian Kurdish forces and has threatened to launch a new operation in Syria against Syrian Kurdish forces if such a zone is not established.

Turkey sees the Syrian Kurdish fighters, who make up the majority of the Syrian Democratic Forces and are allied with the U.S., as terrorists aligned with a Kurdish insurgency within Turkey. American troops are stationed in northeast Syria, along with the Kurdish forces. The differing positions on the Kurdish fighters have become a major source of tension between NATO allies Turkey and the U.S.

Syria's government has called the agreement reached earlier this month for a safe zone a serious escalation that violates its sovereignty.

# Study: 'Red flag' laws help prevent shootings

Associated Press

After a white supremacist discussed plans on Facebook for a mass shooting at a synagogue, police in Washington used a new law to quickly seize his 12 firearms, long before he was convicted of any crime.

But when a Tennessee father became alarmed about his son after receiving a suicidal text message, he said the police determined they could not take his son's guns away. A few months later, the man showed up at a church and shot seven worshippers one Sunday morning, killing one.

Family members and police routinely face agonizing decisions when otherwise lawful gun owners reveal an impulse to harm themselves or others, and more states are enacting laws that let authorities take away their weapons.

With bipartisan support in many cases, 17 states and Washington D.C. have now passed "red flag laws" that allow the court-ordered removal of guns from people who are considered to be dangerous. The back-to-back shootings that killed 31 people this month in Texas and Ohio have given new momentum to proposals pending in several other states and to a plan in Congress to provide grant money to states that adopt such measures.

In a rare victory for gun control advocates, the laws have spread since the February 2018 shooting that killed 17 students and staff members at a high school in Parkland, Fla. New York's new law took effect Saturday while New Jersey's begins Sept. 1.

Since most of the laws are new, research

on their effectiveness is limited. A study published last year estimated that the two states with the longest-standing laws, Connecticut and Indiana, may have had 500 fewer gun suicides over a decade as a result of the measures. Another study estimated that Connecticut, which adopted its law in 1999 after a mass shooting at the state lottery office, prevented one suicide for every 10 to 20 people subjected to gun seizures.

A study published this week about California's law found 21 examples in which people who had threatened public shootings were successfully disarmed.

In jurisdictions where red flag laws have been aggressively enforced, officials say the measures have likely prevented some suicides, workplace shootings and domestic killings.

## Ginsburg ends radiation for pancreatic tumor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has completed radiation therapy for a cancerous tumor on her pancreas and there is no evidence of the disease remaining, according to the Supreme Court.

It is the fourth time that the justice, 86, has announced that she has been treated for cancer over the last two decades and follows lung cancer surgery in December that kept her away from the court for weeks. December's surgery was her first illness-related absence from the court since being appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and prompted even closer attention to her health.

As the court's oldest member, Ginsburg has been asked questions for years about

her health and retirement plans. She has also in recent years attracted particularly enthusiastic fans as the leader of the liberal wing of the court, which includes four members appointed by Democratic presidents and five by Republicans. Both liberals and conservatives watch her health closely because it's understood the court would shift right for decades if President Donald Trump were to get the ability to nominate someone to replace her.

Asked late Friday about Ginsburg, Trump said: "I'm hoping she's going to be fine. She's been through a lot. She's strong. She's very tough. But we wish her well. Very well."

The court kept Ginsburg's latest cancer secret for three weeks, until she finished radiation treatment. Yet there is no obliga-

tion for justices to disclose details about their health, and Ginsburg has generally made more information available than some of her colleagues. Retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, for example, had a stent inserted to open a blocked artery in 2005, but the public only learned about it 10 months later when he returned to the hospital to have it replaced.

The Supreme Court said in a statement Friday that a routine blood test led to the detection of Ginsburg's tumor. A biopsy performed July 31 confirmed a "localized malignant tumor," and Ginsburg started outpatient radiation therapy Aug. 5.

Ginsburg underwent three weeks of radiation therapy and, as part of her treatment, had a bile duct stent placed, the court said.

## Death in Illinois may be 1st linked to vaping in US

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Health officials said Friday that an Illinois patient who contracted a serious lung disease after vaping has died and that they consider it the first death in the United States linked to the smoking alternative that has become popular with teens and young adults.

The Illinois Department of Public Health said the adult patient was hospitalized after falling ill following vaping, though it didn't give other information about the person, including the patient's name, age, hometown or date of death.

The state received the report of the death Thursday, said Dr. Jennifer Layden, the Illinois agency's chief medical officer.

Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday that 193 people in 22 states have contracted severe respiratory illnesses after vaping. However, they said a clear-cut common cause of the illnesses hasn't been identified and that they are being called "potential cases" that are still under investigation.

All of the sickened have been teens or adults who had used an electronic cigarette or some other kind of vaping device. Doctors say the illnesses resemble an in-

halation injury, with the lungs apparently reacting to a caustic substance. So far, infectious diseases have been ruled out.

The illnesses have been reported since late June, but the total count has risen quickly in the past week. That may be partly because cases that weren't initially being linked to vaping have begun to be grouped that way.

Among the newest reports are two in Connecticut, four in Iowa and six in Ohio. Health officials are asking doctors and hospitals to tell state health officials about any possible vaping-related lung disease cases they encounter.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Slingshot ride snaps moments before launch

**FL** PANAMA CITY BEACH — Two riders at a Florida amusement park received a scare when a cable on a slingshot-style ride snapped just before it started.

News outlets reported the two men at the Cobra Adventure Park in Panama City Beach were strapped into the Vertical Accelerator ride when the cable frayed just before an operator was set to launch the ride.

Krissy Hurst took a video and told Fox 13 it was an acquaintance and his brother-in-law on the ride. As the line snapped, Hurst couldn't help but laugh at the riders' stunned reactions.

## Vandalized robot may solve mystery of attack

**CA** HAYWARD — A 400-pound security robot that was knocked over by a vandal last month in Northern California may help bring its attacker to justice.

The Hayward Police Department released images of the suspect that the Knightscope K5 robot captured before it was damaged.

The 5-foot-tall robot, described by police as an "R2D2" figure, was guarding a parking garage when it was pushed over Aug. 3. K5's photos show a young man in a black T-shirt and jeans running up moments before the attack.

Police are asking for the public's help in finding him.

## Officer finds baby gator in empty apartment

**IN** FORT WAYNE — A northeastern Indiana police officer sent to investigate squatters who had taken

over an abandoned apartment found an alligator lurking inside instead.

The Fort Wayne Police Department said the officer discovered the young reptile in a closet while he was looking through the apartment.

Department spokeswoman Sofia Rosales-Scatena told The Journal Gazette that the alligator "was a baby, for sure."

The reptile was placed into the custody of Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control.

## Bison back home after month on the lam

**NY** SHARON SPRINGS — The buffalo are no longer roaming.

An upstate New York rancher who lost about 100 bison last month said he believes the last stragglers are back in their pen.

Rancher Brian Grubb posted a short Facebook clip of two bison running back into their pen. Grubb told the Post-Standard of Syracuse he is "pretty confident" that his entire herd has now rejoined the fold.

Grubb said a bull knocked over a gate at his ranch in Sharon Springs, 45 miles west of Albany, on July 23.

Grubb used a combination of sweet treats and tranquilizer guns to get the animals back to his ranch.

## Swimmer bit twice by shark in island bay

**HI** KEALAKEKUA — Hawaii authorities said that a woman was bitten twice by a 6-foot shark while swimming in a Big Island bay.

Hawaii County Fire Department Battalion Chief William Bergin said the shark bit one of the woman's legs and her torso on Tuesday in Kealahou Bay on the island's western side.

He said the 26-year-old woman was in serious condition at a hospital. She was not identified.

## Zoo announces birth of red panda triplets

**VA** NORFOLK — A zoo in Virginia announced the birth of red panda triplets.

The Virginia Zoo in Norfolk announced that the triplets were born two months ago and are thriving in a climate-controlled den that's out of sight from the public.

Zoo veterinarian Colleen Clabbers said red panda triplets are a "unique situation" for the endangered species from Asia. But she said the mother is "doing a great job."

The two males and one female were born to mother Masu and dad Timur.

## Smuggler of ED drug gets prison sentence

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A Southern California man who smuggled \$11 million worth of erectile dysfunction drugs into the U.S. from China was sentenced to more than eight years in federal prison for conspiracy and smuggling contraband.

Prosecutors said the drugs sold by John Lee of Walnut, 41, were dangerous black-market creations falsely advertised as herbal remedies and some customers suffered permanent injuries.

Lee also was ordered Monday to pay \$550,000 in restitution to victims.

Prosecutors said from 2011 to 2017, Lee illegally imported powdered tadalafil — the active ingredient in the prescription drug Cialis.

Lee made 5 million pills, some containing 14 times the level of the drug found in Cialis.

## Wife of man gored to death by yak sues 911

**OR** PORTLAND — The wife of a Central Oregon man who was gored to death by a yak on his hobby farm is suing Deschutes County's 911 system for \$7 million, saying a dispatcher failed to send an ambulance when the man called.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported the lawsuit filed last week said Brian Wing moaned in pain, but was unable to speak clearly when he dialed 911 from his Redmond area farm Aug. 16, 2017.

The suit said dispatchers failed to send help — even though 13 seconds into the call the 911 system pinged Wing's cellphone and determined his location.

The suit said Wing's wife called 911 after she found her husband unconscious on their front porch, but he was pronounced dead at a hospital.

## Reprint promised after tuxedo grad photo nixed

**AL** SPRINGVILLE — An Alabama high school graduate doesn't appear in her yearbook after wearing a tuxedo top for her senior portrait, instead of the black drape female students usually wear.

Holley Gerelds tweeted that she was left out of the Springville High yearbook "because I'm a lesbian who wanted to wear a tux instead of a drape."

The 18-year-old paid \$25 and posed for her senior class portrait, but the yearbooks list her as "not pictured," with her name misspelled.

The principal apologized. St. Clair County Superintendent Mike Howard said the yearbook page will be reprinted and policies will be reevaluated.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Great catches reap their own rewards

Associated Press

It was late in the 2015 season when Baltimore's Manny Machado smoked a pitch from Tampa Bay's Chris Archer into center field at Camden Yards.

Kevin Kiermaier sprinted to the wall, turned and leaped high above it before reaching back and snatching the ball. He banged off the wall and landed on his feet with the ball firmly planted in his glove for the out.

The play sent a dejected Machado back to the dugout and left a stunned Archer simply mouthing, "Wow."

Archer, now with Pittsburgh, was so grateful for Kiermaier's extraordinary effort that he searched for a fitting way to thank his center fielder for keeping that run off the board.

He found it by commissioning a painting of the catch, which

he presented to Kiermaier at spring training the next year.

"It happens so rarely you're in awe," Archer said. "It's an awesome feeling. They have the defensive runs saved calculation, but when you actually see a run taken away it feels so good."

Kiermaier recalled the team meeting where he received the painting and shared where he has it displayed.

"It's hanging up on my wall right now and I look at it all the time," he said. "It's such a great gesture, and he did that all on his own."

Everyone has seen an outfielder receive a tip of the cap or a jubilant fist bump from a pitcher after a home run robbery.

This is a story about what happens after they leave the field. It's a look at home run robbers, the pitchers who love them and the swag these elite defenders collect after making highlight-reel grabs.

The artwork isn't the only surprise Kiermaier, a two-time Gold Glove winner, has received for amazing grabs. He's been gifted with whiskey,

a case of beer and even his favorite sweets after helping out a pitcher with his defense.

"You see like quarterbacks, they're taking their linemen out because their linemen are the guys that are protecting them," Kiermaier said. "Baseball has its ways of doing that, as well."

Speedy Texas Rangers center fielder Delino DeShields has robbed a few homers in his five seasons in the majors. One of the most memorable came when he climbed the center field wall at Globe Life Park to deny San Diego's Hunter Renfroe a two-run shot last season. The robbery helped Mike Minor pitch seven scoreless innings in a 5-2 win.

Minor, who could be seen saying, "Oh my God" after the catch, decided DeShields deserved a treat for helping him keep a zero on the board.

His loot? An electric scooter. Ostensibly to help save DeShields' legs for more such catches.

While Kiermaier and DeShields are the leaders in the clubhouse for home run robbery rewards, plenty of other

outfielders have received gifts for their thievery.

Seattle's Keon Broxton has a knack for making such plays, often late in games. The rangy center fielder has three home run robberies in the ninth inning or later in his career, with two of those coming with Corey Knebel pitching when Broxton was with the Brewers.

There was one on and two out in the ninth inning of a 2017 game with Milwaukee up 6-5 over the Cardinals when Broxton reached over the wall in front of a 400-foot sign to rob Randal Grichuk of what would have been a go-ahead blast and give the Brewers the win.

The second one he robbed for Knebel came on July 4, 2018. He leaped, stretched his entire body against the wall and reached at least a foot over it to corral a soaring shot by Minnesota's Brian Dozier in the ninth inning of a 3-2 win.

"We're out there to catch the uncatchable," Broxton said. "The routine plays, anybody can catch them but the uncatchable balls, those are the ones we get paid for."

## Gregorius grand slam helps Yankees crush Dodgers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Scratching for runs while losing three straight in Oakland left the New York Yankees in a foul mood heading south to Los Angeles.

They took out their frustration on the Dodgers, who had a rare night of swinging and missing.

Didi Gregorius hit a grand slam off All-Star Hyun-Jin Ryu and added a solo shot to help the Yankees set a club record for homers in a month in a 10-2 victory Friday night in a matchup of the two teams with the best records in baseball.

"We needed a rebound game," slugger Aaron Judge said. "We were looking forward to this."

Judge, Gary Sanchez and

Gleyber Torres also homered as the Yankees ended a four-game skid. They have a major league-leading 57 homers in August, their most in any month.

Starting on five days' rest, James Paxton (10-6) allowed two runs and five hits in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings to win his fifth straight start. He struck out 11 — one off his season high — and walked none.

"I feel like he's been on the verge of having this outing for a while," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

The teams' first meeting in three years had a postseason feel, even though neither club looked the part. The Yankees' pinstripes and Dodgers' blue and white uniforms were cast aside on Players' Weekend. The Yankees wore all black and the

Dodgers (85-45) donned all white with player-chosen nicknames on the back.

"Before the first pitch, you could feel the energy," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

The sellout crowd of 53,775 saw a potential October preview between two franchises that used to battle in New York before the Dodgers moved West before the 1958 season. They've met 11 times in the World Series, with the Yankees winning eight titles.

"To come play a big inter-league series at Dodger Stadium, I think our guys relished that," Boone said. "To have those impact at-bats with slug against a guy like Ryu, up and down the lineup, it was really nice to see."

After scoring just nine runs

in Oakland, the Yankees (84-46) cranked up their offense early. They led 2-0 in the third on the homers by Judge, who has gone deep to left field twice in four days after not pulling a homer previously this season, and Sanchez.

Ryu (12-4) opened the fifth by allowing consecutive singles to DJ LeMahieu and Judge. After Torres grounded out, Ryu intentionally walked Sanchez to load the bases.

That set up Gregorius, who launched a 90 mph fastball into the right field pavilion for his fifth career grand slam and first allowed by Ryu in his career. Gio Urshela doubled to chase Ryu before Brett Gardner's RBI double off Adam Kolarik made it 7-1.



# Hard-hitting Nats roll to win over Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Anibal Sanchez wanted to help his weary teammates with a strong performance on the mound.

The solid afternoon at the plate was an unexpected bonus.

Sanchez (8-6) pitched one-hit ball into the ninth inning and helped himself with two perfectly placed bunts, leading the Washington Nationals to a 9-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Friday.

"I'm not a good hitter, but if I can do something for the team on the home plate, it's good," Sanchez said.

Washington had a short turnaround with an early start after its 7-1 victory at Pittsburgh on Thursday night. The Nationals didn't arrive in Chicago until early Friday

morning, but their loaded lineup looked as if it got more than enough rest.

"Proud of the boys," manager Dave Martinez said. "They battled through a long night last night, came back here and (were) ready to play. They played really well and Anibal led that."

Juan Soto and Adam Eaton homered as Washington improved to 13-4 in its past 17 games, putting pressure on NL East-leading Atlanta and strengthening its position atop the wild-card standings. It has outscored its opponents 129-66 since Aug. 5.

Chicago had won five in a row, but it was unable to overcome a shaky start by Jon Lester (10-9) and another rough performance at the plate. The Cubs finished with three hits, including two in their three-run ninth, a day after they had two in a 1-0 vic-

tory over San Francisco.

"It's my job to do better, and I'm not," Lester said. "I let a five-game winning streak basically go down the wayside because I didn't throw the ball very well."

Sanchez, who flew into Chicago ahead of time on Thursday, allowed one earned run while improving to 8-0 with a 3.13 ERA in his past 16 starts. Matt Grace got the last two outs.

The 35-year-old Sanchez "did a good job moving the ball in and out, mixing up speeds," Cubs slugger Kyle Schwarber said. "When he was missing, he was missing off the plate."

He also delivered with his bat, going 2-for-3 after beginning the day with two hits on the year.

## MLB roundup

# Braves halt Mets' streak at five games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With Jacob deGrom and the Mets' hard-throwing bullpen missing bats at a historic pace, the NL East-leading Braves were ready to win with small ball Friday night.

That's exactly what Billy Hamilton is there for — although this first contribution wasn't exactly on script.

Hamilton singled home the go-ahead run in the 14th inning for his first hit as a Brave, and Atlanta beat the Mets 2-1 for its sixth straight win despite yet another sensational two-way effort by deGrom.

"Might be one of the best feelings of my life except for my first stolen base in the major leagues," Hamilton said. "I mean this might be the top."

The Mets tied a major league record by striking out 26 batters, including 13 by deGrom, and 21-year-old Braves star Ronald Acuna Jr. became the second-youngest player with a 30-homer, 30-steal season — only Mike Trout did it younger.

Yet the game came down to Hamilton, who delivered to snap New York's five-game

winning streak.

The seventh-year major leaguer was claimed by Atlanta off waivers from Kansas City last week to be a pinch-running specialist down the stretch. The speedster did just that in the 10th, replacing a runner at first and stealing a base, but he was left stranded.

Four innings later, his grounder against Jeurys Familia (4-2) was just out of reach for diving second baseman Joe Panik, allowing Tyler Flowers to score from third. The hit came in Hamilton's fourth plate appearance since changing teams, and the 28-year-old looked back into Atlanta's dugout after reaching first and saw a booming celebration.

**Red Sox 11, Padres 0:** J.D. Martinez hit two three-run homers and drove in a career-high seven runs, helping Eduardo Rodriguez and visiting Boston to the easy win.

Martinez hit a drive to left in the first inning off rookie Chris Paddack (7-7) and again off rookie Eric Yardley with one out in the sixth, this time into the second deck in left. He has a team-high 30 homers.

**Mariners 7, Blue Jays 4:** Omar Narvaez and J.P. Crawford homered, and host Seattle beat Toronto for its fifth win in six games.

Narvaez led off the second inning with his 18th homer and Crawford did the same leading off the fifth.

**Astros 5, Angels 4:** Zack Greinke won his fourth straight start since being traded to host Houston and Yuli Gurriel hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning.

Greinke (14-4) allowed 10 hits, but just three runs — two earned — in 6 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings. The 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner came over in a July 31 deal with Arizona.

**Brewers 6, Diamondbacks 1:** Jordan Lyles was pulled after pitching six no-hit innings for host Milwaukee, and reliever Devin Williams gave up a bloop single with two outs in the seventh.

Lyles (8-8) was taken out after throwing 99 pitches. He struck out five and allowed just two walks, both to Christian Walker.

**Cardinals 8, Rockies 3:** Jack Flaherty pitched six scoreless innings for host St. Louis, Mar-

cell Ozuna homered and drove in three runs.

**Indians 4, Royals 1:** Brad Hand bounced back from his recent struggles to record his 30th save, Francisco Lindor hit a two-run homer and host Cleveland beat Kansas City.

**White Sox 8, Rangers 3:** Dylan Cease settled down after a tough start and Yoan Moncada hit a two-run homer for the second straight night, leading host Chicago to the victory.

**Pirates 3, Reds 2:** Pablo Reyes hit a game-ending RBI single, driving in pinch-runner Joe Musgrove, and host Pittsburgh rallied to beat Cincinnati.

**Rays 7, Orioles 1:** Austin Meadows hit his first career grand slam to cap a seven-run second inning, Trevor Richards shined in his second start with his new team and visiting Tampa Bay beat Baltimore.

**Tigers 9, Twins 6:** Ronny Rodriguez had three hits, including a grand slam, and Drew VerHagen struck out 11 in a career-high six innings as visiting Detroit beat AL Central-leading Minnesota.

## NFL preseason roundup

## Bills, Lions each suffer significant losses

Associated Press

DETROIT — Matthew Stafford got on the field for the first time in the preseason and left the game unscathed.

Some teammates and opponents were not as fortunate.

Stafford threw a go-ahead touchdown pass and the Buffalo Bills came back to beat the Detroit Lions 24-20 Friday night in a preseason game that became significant because key players on both teams were hurt.

"It's an interesting feeling, going out there," Stafford said. "You prepare as hard as you can to play and you're hoping nothing too bad happens."

Detroit linebacker Jarrad Davis was carted off the field early in the first quarter with an injured right leg and center Frank Ragnow had to be helped off the field after appearing to hurt his right knee.

Bills guard Quinton Spain limped off the field with an ankle injury in the first quarter and cornerback Tre'Davious White left the game with a

bruised quadriceps in the second quarter.

Lions coach Matt Patricia and Buffalo coach Sean McDermott both said they didn't have updates on their injured players.

Stafford was 12-for-19 for 137 yards with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Ty Johnson, perfectly connecting with the rookie running back in the flat while linebacker Matt Milano was covering him closely, to give Detroit a 14-10 lead early in the second quarter.

"He got a step on his defender and I was able to fit it in there," Stafford said. "Wasn't an easy catch."

Buffalo's Josh Allen was 3-for-6 for 49 yards in the first half and had an interception negated by a penalty. Allen played against starters and carried out the game plan that called for a heavy dose of runs with LeSean McCoy and Frank Gore. Against reserves, Matt Barkley completed 12 of 14 passes for 142 yards and a 16-yard touchdown pass to Duke

Williams late in the third quarter to give Buffalo (3-0) an 11-point lead.

Buffalo started McCoy and alternated Gore in the game and each had a 20-plus yard run. McCoy finished with 37 yards on six carries.

"We tried to set our minds to establishing the run first," Allen said.

**Buccaneers 13, Browns 12:** Matt Gay kicked a 21-yard field goal with 15 seconds remaining, giving host Tampa Bay Buccaneers a preseason victory over Cleveland.

The rookie's game-winner capped a 16-play drive lasting more than seven minutes. Cairo Santos booted a 23-yard field goal in the third quarter and third-string quarter Ryan Griffin threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Leggett for the Bucs (2-1).

Rookie Austin Seibert kicked four field goals for the Browns (2-1), who led 9-0 when Baker Mayfield and the rest of Cleveland's starters left the game.

Mayfield, the No. 1 overall

pick from the 2018 draft, started and played the entire first half after getting just one series of work in Cleveland's preseason opener against Washington and sitting out last week's game at Indianapolis.

Playing without starting receivers Odell Beckham Jr. (hip) and Jarvis Landry, the second-year quarterback led three short field-goal drives and was not particularly sharp while completing 10 of 26 passes for 72 yards and one interception.

Tampa Bay's Jameis Winston had an even tougher night, though it wasn't all his doing.

Gay missed a 37-yard field goal and Tampa Bay's leaky offensive line had difficulty protecting Winston, allowing five sacks while the fifth-year pro was in the game.

The No. 1 overall pick from the 2015 draft, who's closing in on becoming the franchise's career passing leader yet still trying to prove he's the club's long-term answer at quarterback, finished 9-for-19 for 88 yards without an interception.

## Koepka 1 shot up on Thomas in Tour Championship

Associated Press

ATLANTA—A storm delay at the Tour Championship slowed the momentum of Brooks Koepka and Justin Thomas, right when they were starting to pull ahead in the chase for the \$15 million FedEx Cup.

The final hour Friday showed how quickly it can change — and for Rory McIlroy, why no one is holding back in the season finale.

Koepka didn't make a birdie on the back nine until the par-5 18th, when he hit 5-iron from 239 yards to 8 feet behind the hole. He had to settle for a two-putt birdie, a 3-under 67 and a one-shot lead. Because he started the tournament at 7-under par as the No. 3 seed, he was at 13 under going to the

weekend.

"The lead is always nice, so I'll take that," Koepka said. "The rain delay kind of killed any momentum I had. I didn't feel like I had any good golf shots after the rain delay, but that's part of golf. Everybody's got to deal with the same thing."

He was one shot ahead of Justin Thomas, who played his final 10 holes in 1 over for a 68, and McIlroy, who had a birdie-birdie finish.

And just not any birdie.

McIlroy, who trailed by four shots early on the back nine, sent his drive on the 18th hole so far to the right it brought the out-of-bounds practice range into play. He was fortunate to have his ball in dirt under a pine tree, leaving him 242

yards away. McIlroy decided to choke up on a 5-wood and slice it around a tree some 50 yards in front of him, then over the water and near the green.

It came out perfectly, landing in a tiny strip of grass behind bunkers. He got up-and-down for a 67 and was right where he needed to be.

"I felt comfortable doing it," McIlroy said.

Xander Schauffele also made a late surge with a birdie-eagle finish, holing a 25-foot putt on the par-5 18th for a 69. He was two shots behind. Paul Casey had a 67 and was four shots behind at 9 under.

Giving McIlroy good vibes going into the weekend was the score no one sees. McIlroy and Casey are at 7-under 133 over two days, the best 36-hole score

in the 30-man field.

So he figures he's doing something right with his game.

The scoring for the FedEx Cup underwent a radical change this year, with players in the highest position in the FedEx Cup getting a head start in relation to par. Thomas is the No. 1 seed and started at 10 under before a shot was even hit. Koepka began at 7 under, McIlroy started at 5 under and Schauffele was at 4 under.

The lowest score to par wins the FedEx Cup and its \$15 million bonus.

McIlroy didn't want to waste any chances, and all he saw from the woods was opportunity.

"I had a little gap," he said. "Whenever you're on my side of the tree, you could see what's on the right-hand side."