

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, July 7, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US Army aims to attract more recruits by offering big bonuses

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army is handing out bonuses up to \$40,000 for people who join the infantry as the military's largest branch works to meet its 2019 recruitment goal with only months left in the fiscal year.

Army leaders believe the bonuses will help them increase the size of the service's force and attract more recruits to combat-arms positions, said Kelli Bland, the public affairs director for U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

Last year, the Army fell short of its recruiting goal of 76,500 by about 6,500 recruits, the first time it missed its year-end goal in 13 years.

By the end of this fiscal year on Sept. 30, the Army's goal is

to add 68,000 new active-duty recruits, according to Bland.

Recruits who select the infantry military occupation specialty could receive a bonus up to \$40,000, depending on the length of their initial contract, according to Bland. The recruit would have to sign a contract for a six-year commitment to receive the maximum \$40,000 bonus, Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, told Military.com.

The Army needs to fill 3,300 infantry spots by Sept. 30 and decided in mid-May to increase the infantry recruiting bonus from the maximum \$15,000, according to Bland.

The bonus is available only to recruits who leave for basic training before the end of September.

The Army also changed its

recruiting plans for this year to target several large cities and increase efforts on social media to find potential recruits. The service has more than 470,000 active-duty soldiers, according to the Defense Department.

For recruits who are not interested in the infantry but are willing to go to basic training within the next 60 days, the Army will give them bonuses from \$5,000 to \$16,000 depending on their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score and the date when they ship out to basic training, Bland said.

The Army is also offering critical skills bonuses up to \$25,000 for recruits who select military occupation specialties for fire control specialist or M1 armor crewman as their job, according to Bland.

Truck bomb kills at least 12 in Ghazni

BY J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 12 people were killed and scores wounded — including dozens of schoolchildren — in a truck bomb attack Sunday that targeted an Afghan intelligence headquarters.

The attack in Ghazni also injured at least 179 people, Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health, said in a tweet.

Thirteen of the wounded are in critical condition, Baz Mohammad Himmat, the head of Ghazni city's government hospital, told Stars and Stripes.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack, in which a truck filled with explosives detonated at the entrance of an office of the country's main intelligence unit, the National Directorate of Security, at 8 a.m. Sunday.

Marine accused in Tokyo assaults faces new charge

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Police say they'll recommend a new charge — attempted murder — for a Marine awaiting trial for alleged assaults this past spring in Japan's capital.

Lance Cpl. Kahsai Tyree Hill, 21, has been in Japanese police custody since he was arrested May 25 on suspicion of punching a taxi driver in the face after not paying a \$7.40 fare and then assaulting others while fleeing the scene in Tokyo's Shinjuku ward, according to local media reports.

Hill, who is assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, is due in court July 30 on bodily injury charges stemming from alleged

attacks on the driver and a 22-year-old man, according to Tokyo District Court officials.

However, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department decided Thursday that Hill should also be charged with attempted murder in connection with an attack on a 19-year-old Japan Self-Defense Force official at a Shibuya restaurant, a police spokeswoman said.

The rules of her job do not allow her to be named.

Hill put his right arm around the woman from behind and put pressure on her neck with an intent to kill her, the spokeswoman said.

The woman fainted and broke a bone in her face when she fell onto the floor.

Hill entered the restaurant after the other assaults, according to a report by the Kyodo news agency.

Police planned to present their recommendation for the attempted murder charge to prosecutors on Saturday, the spokeswoman said.

In May, the III Marine Expeditionary Force said it was aware of theft and assault allegations against Hill. The Marines didn't immediately respond Friday to questions about the latest developments in the case.

Hill came to Japan for training at Camp Fuji, according to Japan's Sankei newspaper.

Stars and Stripes reporter Seth Robson contributed to this report.

Iran raises uranium enrichment above limit

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran increased its uranium enrichment Sunday beyond the limit allowed by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, inching its program closer toward weapons-grade levels while calling for a diplomatic solution to a crisis heightening tensions with the U.S.

Iran's move, coupled with earlier abandoning the deal's limit on its low-enriched uranium stockpile, intensifies pressure on Europe to find any effective way around U.S. sanctions that block Tehran's oil sales abroad.

But the future of the accord that President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. from a year ago remains in question. While Iran's recent measures could be easily reversed, Europe has struggled to respond, even after getting a 60-day warning that the increase was coming.

Meanwhile, experts fear a miscalculation in the crisis could explode into open conflict, as Trump already has nearly bombed Iran over Tehran shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone.

International reaction to Iran's decision came swiftly, with Britain warning Iran to "immediately stop and reverse all activities" violating the deal, Germany saying it is "extremely concerned," and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a longtime critic of the accord, urging world powers to impose so-called "snapback sanctions" on Tehran.

The European Union says parties to the deal are discussing a possible emergency meeting after Iran's announcement, with EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic saying the bloc is "extremely concerned" about the move. There was no immediate response from the White House.

At a news conference, Iranian officials said the new level of uranium enrichment would be reached later in the day, but did not provide the percentage they planned to hit. Under the nuclear deal, the cap for enrichment was set at 3.67%, a percentage closely monitored by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog.

"Within hours, the technical tasks will be done and enrichment above 3.67% will

begin," Iran nuclear agency spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. "We predict that the IAEA measurements early tomorrow morning will show that we have gone beyond 3.67%."

The IAEA said it was aware of Iran's comments and "inspectors in Iran will report to our headquarters as soon as they verify the announced development."

Ali Akbar Velayati, an aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made remarks in a video Saturday about Iran's need for 5% enrichment. Bushehr, Iran's only nuclear power plant, is now running on imported fuel from Russia that's enriched to around 5%.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sent a letter to European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini outlining the steps it had taken, said Abbas Araghchi, a deputy foreign minister. Discussions with European powers are continuing and ministerial level talks are planned later this month, he said.

Enriched uranium at the 3.67% level is enough for peaceful pursuits but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%.

NATO-Russia talks yield no progress as expiration of key missile ban looms

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

High-level talks between the U.S.-led NATO alliance and Russian officials Friday failed to produce a solution in a dispute over a new Russian missile system that is putting at risk a Cold War-era arms control treaty.

"The treaty is now in danger. Unfortunately, we have not seen any signs of a breakthrough, and time is running out," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said after talks at alliance headquarters in Brussels.

During a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, discussions centered on the soon-to-expire Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which bans missiles with a range of between 310 and 3,400 miles.

The United States and its

allies say Russia's nuclear-capable SSC-8 missile system violates the ban and could potentially strike European capitals within minutes.

While the U.S. has complained about the system dating back to the Obama administration, last year Washington warned that it would pull out of the INF treaty unless Moscow comes back into compliance. The treaty is set to expire Aug. 2.

Should the 1987 landmark weapons ban break apart, NATO will take defensive countermeasures, Stoltenberg said. He declined to detail steps the allies will take, but NATO has ruled out putting new land-based nuclear missiles in Europe.

"We will respond in a united way, coordinated and defensive," he said.

Air Force cuts a year from special duty tours

BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS

Stars and Stripes

Tours for Air Force military training instructors have been cut from four years to three after a survey found a sharp increase in assignment fatigue after three years in the roles, officials said.

"The Air Force is committed to returning our experienced and professional workforce to their operational career fields and reducing the unique stressors associated with these special duty tours," said Maj. Gen. Timothy Leahy, 2nd Air Force commander, in a statement Tuesday.

The decision to shorten the tours came after a 2019 survey found that the number of military training leaders and instructors who lose motivation increases sharply after three years.

The change affects military

training instructors, military training leaders, certain Air Education and Training Command technical instructors and stateside professional military education instructors, the Air Force said in a statement.

Airmen who are newly assigned to any of these training roles will remain in them for three years, while trainers who were already serving in one of these positions between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, will have 30 days to choose to complete their original four-year tour or change down to three years.

Also exempted from the changes are those on overseas tours or assigned to special duty assignments that are outside their military specialty if they started before July 1, 2018. They will finish their tours as scheduled, the statement said.

Warmbier's parents file claim for seized North Korean ship

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The parents of Otto Warmbier have filed a claim for a seized North Korean cargo ship, seeking to collect on a multimillion-dollar judgment awarded in the American college student's death.

The Warmbiers filed court papers Wednesday in New York federal court, saying they have a right to the assets after North Korea failed to respond to a wrongful death claim that accused it of abducting Warmbier, who had traveled there for a guided tour ahead of a study abroad program in Hong Kong.

The Warmbiers say their son was tortured after being convicted of trying to steal a propaganda poster and imprisoned for months.

He suffered severe brain

damage, but doctors were unable to determine what led to it. The 22-year-old died days after being returned to the U.S. in a vegetative state in 2017.

"The Warmbiers are committed to holding North Korea accountable for the death of their son Otto, and will work tirelessly to seize North Korean assets wherever they may be found," Ben Hatch, an attorney for the family, said in an emailed statement.

North Korea has rejected accusations by relatives that it tortured Warmbier and said he was provided "medical treatments and care with all sincerity."

U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell ruled last year that North Korea "more likely than not barbarically tortured Otto to extract a false confession" and used his lengthy prison

sentence as leverage to further its foreign policy objectives.

She ordered North Korea to pay \$501 million for its "barbaric mistreatment" of Warmbier, saying the student's family "experienced North Korea's brutality first-hand."

In the latest court filings, Warmbier's parents claim a right to the North Korean cargo ship, which the U.S. seized in May because it was carrying coal in violation of U.N. sanctions.

The vessel, North Korea's second-largest cargo ship, was first detained in April 2018 by Indonesia while transporting a large amount of coal. The U.S. later announced it had seized the 17,061-ton carrier in a first-of-its-kind enforcement that came amid a tense moment in relations with North Korea.

Thousands ride in honor of 7 bikers killed in NH

Associated Press

LACONIA, N.H. — Thousands of motorcyclists, waved on by bystanders with American flags, rode through New Hampshire on Saturday to the site where seven bikers were killed in a collision with a truck last month.

More than 3,000 bikers, some from as far away as California and Florida, participated in the 90-mile tribute trip, the Ride for the Fallen 7, from Laconia to the somber crash site in Randolph, where a memorial of flags and a color guard stood. A memorial service was held in a field just beyond the crash site.

"This is what happens when good people die," said Manny Ribeiro, president of the Jarheads Motorcycle Club, to which the victims of the crash belonged. He didn't attend the ride, saying it was "too soon" for him to be at the crash site, but he said the event and turnout was "just amazing."

The Jarheads is a New England motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses. On Saturday, the crowd of bikers said a prayer and sang the Marines' Hymn before heading out from Laconia, according to organizers.

The seven bikers were killed last month when a pickup truck hauling a flatbed trailer crashed into the group. The pickup driver, Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, pleaded not guilty to negligent homicide and remains behind bars.

Those killed were: Michael Ferazzi, 62, of Contoocook, N.H.; Albert Mazza Jr., 59, of Lee, N.H.; Desma Oakes, 42, of Concord, N.H.; Aaron Perry, 45, of Farmington, N.H.; Daniel Pereira, 58, of Riverside, R.I.; and Jo-Ann and Edward Corr, both 58, of Lakeville, Mass.

Organizer Steve Allison told WMUR-TV that he was overwhelmed by the turnout Saturday.

At least 21 hurt in blast at Fla. mall

Associated Press

PLANTATION, Fla. — A vacant pizza restaurant exploded Saturday in a thundering roar at a South Florida shopping plaza, injuring more than 20 people as large chunks of concrete flew through the air.

The blast flung debris widely along a busy road in Plantation, west of Fort Lauderdale. The restaurant was destroyed, and nearby businesses and cars were damaged. Though firefighters found ruptured gas lines afterward, authorities said it was too early to determine a cause.

"We thought it was thunder at first, and then we felt the building shake and things started falling," said Alex Carver, a worker at a deli across the street from the explosion. "I looked outside and it was almost like the world was ending. It was nuts, man. It was crazy."

The explosion hurled large

pieces of concrete up to 50 yards away and sent pieces of metal scattering as far as 100 yards across the street. Carver said two of his co-workers' cars were destroyed.

At least 21 people were injured, though none of the injuries was life-threatening, police Sgt. Jessica Ryan said.

The explosion demolished the building, leaving behind only part of its metal frame. The restaurant, called PizzaFire, had been out of business for several months. The blast also blew out the windows of a popular fitness club next door at the shopping plaza in Broward County.

Jesse Walaschek had just left the fitness club with his wife and three children, ages 4, 6 and 8. They were parked near the restaurant and had just driven about 50 yards away when they heard the blast.

"It was a massive explosion like I have never experienced,"

he said. Walaschek said dust and debris filled the air.

"Everything just stopped. You didn't see anybody. I just wanted to get these guys safe," he said, pointing to his children. "If this had happened a minute before, when we were getting the kids in the car, it would have been really bad."

Dozens of firefighters responded and could be seen picking through the rubble, with dogs sniffing through the debris to make sure people weren't trapped underneath. There were no known fatalities immediately after the explosion.

Fire department Battalion Chief Joel Gordon said there were ruptured gas lines when firefighters arrived, but he couldn't say for certain that it was a gas explosion.

"At this point, nobody was killed," Gordon said. "Thank goodness for that."

Calif. governor urges more preparedness

Associated Press

RIDGECREST, Calif. — The two major earthquakes that hit Southern California should alert people across the nation of the need to be prepared for natural disasters, the state's governor said as officials expressed relief that the damages weren't worse.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Saturday that governments must strengthen alert systems and building codes, and residents should make sure they know how to protect themselves during an earthquake.

"It is a wake-up call for the rest of the state and other parts of the nation, frankly," Newsom

said at a news conference to update the public on the state's efforts to help the region hit by earthquakes on Thursday and Friday.

Friday's earthquake was the largest one in Southern California in nearly 20 years. Officials voiced concerns about the possibility of major aftershocks in the days and even months to come.

No fatalities or major injuries were reported after the magnitude 7.1 quake, which jolted an area from Sacramento to Mexico and prompted the evacuation of the Navy's largest single landholding, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in the

Mojave Desert. The quake struck at 8:19 p.m. Friday and was centered 11 miles from Ridgecrest, the same area of the desert where a magnitude 6.4 temblor hit on Thursday. It left behind cracked and burning buildings, broken roads, obstructed railroad tracks and leaking water and gas lines.

The light damage was largely due to the remoteness of the area where the earthquake occurred, but Newsom cautioned after touring Ridgecrest that "it's deceiving earthquake damage. You don't notice it at first."

Newsom estimated more than \$100 million in economic

damage and said President Donald Trump called him to offer federal support in the rebuilding effort.

"He's committed in the long haul, the long run, to help support the rebuilding efforts," Newsom said of Trump.

Only 28,000 people live in the Ridgecrest area, which is sandwiched between more populated areas of Southern California and Las Vegas' Clark County. Seismologists warned that the area could see up to 30,000 aftershocks over the next six months, though many of those will be too small for people to notice.

Protesters in Hong Kong target Chinese visitors

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Tens of thousands of people, many wearing black shirts and some carrying British colonial-era flags, marched in Hong Kong on Sunday, targeting a mainland Chinese audience as a month-old protest movement showed no signs of abating.

Chanting "Free Hong Kong" and words of encouragement to their fellow citizens, wave after wave of demonstrators streamed by a shopping district popular with mainland visitors on a march to the high-speed railway station that connects the semi-autonomous Chinese territory to Guangdong and

other mainland cities.

Hong Kong has been riven by huge marches and sometimes disruptive protests for the past month, sparked by proposed changes to extradition laws that would have allowed suspects to be sent to the mainland to face trial. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam suspended the bill and apologized for how it was handled, but protesters want it to be formally withdrawn and for Lam to resign.

Organizers said 230,000 people marched on Sunday, while police estimated the crowd at 56,000.

"We want to show our peaceful, graceful protest to the

mainland visitors because the information is rather blocked in mainland," march organizer Ventus Lau said. "We want to show them the true image and the message of Hong Kongers."

Chinese media have not covered the protests widely, focusing on clashes with police and damage to public property.

As the crowd broke up Sunday night, a few hundred remained and taunted police who had retreated behind huge barriers set up outside the railway station while others moved to Canton Road, a street lined with luxury boutique stores.

The march was the first

major action since two simultaneous protests July 1, the 22nd anniversary of the 1997, return of Hong Kong from Britain to China.

One of those protests, a massive march through central Hong Kong, drew hundreds of thousands of people.

It was overshadowed, however, by an assault on the legislature building by a few hundred demonstrators who shattered thick glass walls to get in and then wreaked havoc for three hours, spray-painting slogans on the walls, overturning furniture and damaging electronic voting and fire prevention systems.

3 gored at Pamplona, 2 Americans among those injured

Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain — Five people were hospitalized after the opening bull run of this year's San Fermin festival in Pamplona, including two Americans and a Spaniard who were gored by bulls, officials in the northern Spanish city said Sunday.

A man, 46, from San Francis-

co, was gored in the neck in the city's bullring at the end of the 930-yard course. He was undergoing surgery, the regional government reported.

A man, 23, from Florence, Ky., and a Spanish man, 40, were both gored in their thighs. Two young Spanish men sustained head injuries.

The nine-day San Fermin fiesta, where six bulls are run

every morning in the city's narrow streets before being killed in afternoon bullfights, draws about a million visitors annually, including many citizens from the United States. Every year, hundreds of "runners" race ahead of or next to the bulls, while the more risk-averse watch from balconies.

Some arrive following in the steps of American novelist and

Nobel literature laureate Ernest Hemingway, who became fascinated by bullfighting and immortalized the festival in his 1926 book "The Sun Also Rises."

Sunday morning's inaugural run featured bulls from the Puerto de San Lorenzo cattle breeder, which caused one goring last year.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police ID ice cream licker as teenage girl

TX LUFKIN — Police in East Texas said a teenager from San Antonio is suspected of taking a tub of ice cream from a Walmart freezer, removing the top to lick the ice cream and then returning it to the freezer.

Blue Bell Creameries said in a statement that it determined a Walmart store in Lufkin was where “the malicious act of food tampering took place.”

A video posted to social media shows the teenage girl laughing as she places the top back on the half-gallon container and returning it to the freezer.

Blue Bell said the container that was “compromised” was found and removed.

Lufkin police said they don’t intend to charge the teen with tampering with a consumer product.

Truck carrying ramen noodles rolls over

IL MORTON — Police said a truck carrying ramen noodles overturned in central Illinois.

The 60-year-old driver from Columbus, Ohio, apparently was driving too fast on a ramp connecting two interstates near Morton in Tazewell County.

Any injuries weren’t considered to be life-threatening.

State police Sgt. Tony Halsey didn’t know if the trailer broke open, but he said all the ramen had to be unloaded.

State modifies ban on deer urine lures

LA NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana has modified its ban on urine-scented lures used to attract deer, legalizing those that are certified

free of the malformed protein that causes chronic wasting disease and meet a second standard.

A statement said producers now can test for the fatal disease in urine-based deer lures.

Louisiana said products must both use the test and be certified by the Archery Trade Association Deer Protection Program.

The commission banned urine lures last August, saying they might carry prions that spread the disease.

Police: Man collected ticket stubs for cash

NC MORRISVILLE — Police arrested a North Carolina man who they say posed as a theater worker to collect ticket stubs from patrons and take them to the box office to redeem for cash.

In an arrest warrant, Morrisville police said Benjamin Chigozie Ashmole, 41, collected about \$187 in March. He was caught last week trying to redeem \$126 worth of tickets, police said.

A spokeswoman for Stone Theaters said the chain refunds money or issues passes to theatergoers if they have an emergency or there’s a power outage.

Police charged Ashmole, saying he gave officers a Mississippi driver’s license that wasn’t his and refused to provide his real identity.

City gets name wrong on honorary street

PA PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia honored singer Patti LaBelle with her very own street last week. Unfortunately, the signs didn’t get her name right.

The city’s Streets Department didn’t capitalize the “b”

in the legendary soul singer’s last name on the signs that were put up before the ceremony on Broad Street. A stretch between Locust and Spruce streets was renamed “Patti LaBelle Way” in honor of the Philadelphia native.

City spokeswoman Deana Gamble told The Philadelphia Inquirer the city is aware of the error and plans to install signs with the correct capitalization of LaBelle’s name this week.

A sign that LaBelle autographed and held during the ceremony was spelled correctly.

12 arrested, 5 injured in fireworks fight

AR LITTLE ROCK — Twelve people were arrested after firing fireworks at each other and at sheriff’s deputies during a large fight in a small central Arkansas town that sent several people who lost fingers to the hospital.

Pulaski County sheriff’s Lt. Cody Burk said more than 200 people were gathered and some were firing large fireworks at each other.

He said five people who had lost fingers were sent to the hospital but he did not have information on their conditions.

Police, residents rescue snake from car

CT EAST WINDSOR — Police and bystanders teamed up to rescue a six-foot-long snake that had wrapped itself around the engine block of a car in Connecticut.

East Windsor police said the reptile, possibly a boa constrictor, had to be removed from a resident’s vehicle.

The reptile was put in a crate and will be turned over to a nature center.

Police speculated that the

snake was an escaped pet and said they tried calling an animal control officer or some other expert, but none was available because of the holiday.

Man runs in 50 states before turning 50

KS LENEXA — A suburban Kansas City man who recently completed his quest of running marathons in all 50 states before the age of 50 credits a pair of gloves “delivered from the heavens” with getting him through his first one.

Austin Braithwait, 49, whose final stop was a June 22 race in Duluth, Minn., ran his first marathon in Kansas City, Mo., during an ice storm.

When Mile 16 rolled around, his hands were “freezing” and Braithwait was ecstatic to spot what looked like a pair of gloves lying in the middle of the course. Braithwait, then 26, was convinced one of the three runners ahead of him would snatch them up, but none did.

Braithwait, of Lenexa, called the experience “miserable,” and he waited eight years before running another one.

Salt Lake City to host 2021 Quidditch cup

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Salt Lake City was chosen to host the U.S. Quidditch World Cup in 2021.

Mayor Jackie Biskupski announced the event location selection Friday and said the city was chosen for its proximity to an airport and its walkable downtown area. The event is expected to host 84 teams and draw than 7,000 attendees.

Quidditch is a full contact sport inspired by the “Harry Potter” book series.

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.

US wins 2nd straight Women's World Cup

Associated Press

LYON, France — The United States won its record fourth Women's World Cup title and second in a row, beating the Netherlands 2-0 Sunday night when Megan Rapinoe converted a penalty kick in the second half and Rose Lavelle added a goal.

Rapinoe, the pink-haired U.S. captain who grabbed worldwide attention on and off the field, scored in the 61st minute after a video review determined Stefanie van der Gragt had fouled Alex Morgan with a kick to the shoulder in the penalty area.

Two days past her 34th birthday, Rapinoe slotted the ball past goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal for her sixth goal of the tournament to win the Golden Boot as scoring leader. The oldest player to score in a Women's World Cup final, she struck a familiar victorious pose with arms outstretched.

"It's surreal. I don't know how to feel like now. It's ridiculous," Rapinoe said. "We're crazy and that's what makes us so special. We just have no quit in us. We're so tight, and we'll do anything to win."

Lavelle, at 24 the team's up-and-coming star, added her third goal of the tournament on an 18-foot left-footed shot in the 69th after a solo run up the center of the field.

"She's superstar, not even in the making; she's straight up superstar at this point," Rapinoe said.

Fans, many dressed in red, white and blue, chanted "Equal Pay!" at the final whistle, a reminder players sued the U.S. Soccer Federation in March claiming gen-

der discrimination.

Rapinoe drew the ire of President Donald Trump during the tournament by saying she and teammates would refuse to visit the White House, part of the team's wider push for gender equity. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio needed just a few seconds after the final whistle to invite the team to a ticker-tape parade up the Canyon on Heroes in Manhattan on Wednesday.

The Americans never trailed in the tournament and set records with 26 goals and a 12-game World Cup winning streak dating to 2015. U.S. coach Jill Ellis became the first coach to lead a team to two Women's World Cup titles, and the U.S. joined Germany in 2003 and 2007 as the only repeat champions.

"It's just chemistry. They put their hearts and soul into this journey," Ellis said. "They made history."

FIFA president Gianni Infantino handed over the trophy, a stark contrast to four years ago in Canada, when then-president Sepp Blatter was a no-show as U.S. prosecutors investigated corruption in soccer's governing body.

With confidence and brashness that some called even arrogant — triggering a backlash that the angry response was sexist — this American team established a standard of excellence that exceeded the American champions of 1991, 1999 and 2015, becoming a goal for other U.S. teams and the rest of the world to match. Former American players joined the current generation on the field for the postgame celebration.

Alyssa Naeher, 31, who succeeded Hope Solo in goal, faced repeated questions en-

tering the tournament but allowed just three goals in the tournament and finished with her fourth shutout.

The U.S. had scored within the first 12 minutes of its previous six matches in the tournament but the European champions sat back to keep their defensive shape and kept the score 0-0 through the first half.

Video review, adopted by FIFA for the men's World Cup last year, showed its impact when Stephanie Frappart, the first woman to referee a men's Ligue 1 match, went to the screen at the side of the field and then signaled toward the spot.

Rapinoe, who missed Tuesday's semifinal win over England with a hamstring injury, became the first woman to score on a penalty kick during a Women's World Cup final, her 50th goal in 158 international appearances. She matched teammate Morgan and England's Ellen White for most goals in the tournament and won the Golden Ball based on fewer minutes.

Rapinoe was given a standing ovation by the crowd when she subbed out in the 79th minute. The crowd of 57,900 at Stade de Lyon for Le Grand Finale included French President Emmanuel Macron.

The Americans opened the tournament with a record 13-0 rout of lowly Thailand, triggering debate over whether the celebrations after each goal were excessive. Morgan responded the next match by following a goal with a polite golf clap. Then she stirred it up again when she scored against England with a tea sip, pinkie outstretched.

Teunissen keeps yellow jersey after team time trial

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Dutch rider Mike Teunissen kept the Tour de France yellow jersey after his Jumbo-Visma squad outclassed rivals to win Sunday's team time trial.

Putting on a well-choreographed display in the streets of Brussels, the Dutch team's riders covered the 17.1-mile flat stage in 28 minutes, 58 seconds — 20 seconds faster than defending champion Geraint Thomas' Ineos team.

Deceuninck Quick-Step completed the podium, 21 seconds off the pace.

Teunissen, the first Dutch

rider to wear the race leader's jersey in 30 years, was a surprise winner of Saturday's opening leg that was marred by a crash near the finish.

As the first-placed squad on the team classification, Jumbo-Visma rolled down last from the starting ramp near Brussels' Royal Palace. In perfect weather conditions, they posted the best time at both intermediate points on the very flat course going through Woluwe Saint-Pierre — five-time champion Eddy Merckx's childhood home — and leading to the Atomium, the iconic Brussels monument built for the 1958 World Fair.

Surrounded by teammates

best suited for the flat terrain, including former time trial world champion Tony Martin, Teunissen was up to the task too, taking solid turns at the front in his aerodynamic skinsuit and helmet.

"We heard that we were fastest ... We were flying, it was unbelievable," Teunissen said. "It's not that I'm getting used to winning stages at the Tour de France but it's two out of two now and it's really, really nice."

Teunissen now leads teammate Wout Van Aert by 10 seconds in the general classification, with another Jumbo-Visma rider Steven Kruijswijk

in third place.

With the No. 1 bib on his back, Thomas showed no signs of weakness following his crash in the opening stage and was happy with his team's second place.

"I felt really good today. We got a good speed and we managed to hold onto it," Thomas said. "We could have taken some curves faster but that was a minimal loss."

After two days in Belgium, the peloton will enter France during Monday's Stage 3 which leads riders from the Belgian town of Binche to Epernay in the Champagne region.

Williamson out for rest of summer league

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Zion Williamson's summer league is over.

The New Orleans Pelicans announced Saturday that the No. 1 pick in this year's NBA draft will not play any more at the Summer League in Las Vegas because of a bruised left knee. The team stressed the move is precautionary.

"Zion will move forward from this incident without issue," Pelicans Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations David Griffin said. "However, in an abundance of caution, we have made the determination that he will not appear in game action for the remainder of the NBA Summer League."

Williamson's presence helped the Summer League sell out its opening day Friday and reach another sellout Saturday — when he was scheduled to play in his second game of the summer against Washington.

Instead, he was watching from the bench area in a polo shirt and not a jersey. That'll be his game-time role until the NBA preseason starts in October.

Every seat in the lower bowl of the Thomas & Mack Center was taken Friday night for Williamson's debut. That wasn't the case Saturday, when a generous estimate might have been that two-thirds of the seats were taken even though all were sold.

Williamson scored 11 points in nine minutes of his debut game against New York. But he took a knee-to-knee hit in the first half and was ruled out at halftime of a game that was eventually shortened after the tremors of an earthquake were felt in Las Vegas.

"He will continue to take part in training and conditioning with our performance team," Griffin said.

Jones squeaks out decision, Nunes wins big at UFC 239

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Amanda Nunes won in spectacular fashion. Jon Jones barely hung on.

Both champions still emerged from UFC 239 with their belts around their waists.

Nunes stopped Holly Holm late in the first round to defend her bantamweight title, and Jones squeaked out a split-decision victory over Thiago Santos to defend his light heavyweight title on Saturday night.

A two-division champion on a nine-fight winning streak, Nunes (18-4) remained the pound-for-pound ruler of her sport with her usual devastating flair. After she floored Holm (12-5) with a perfectly timed kick to the head, she mercilessly finished Holm with punches on the ground with 50 seconds left in the first round.

"I told my coaches I wanted to knock her out the same way she knocks people out," Nunes said of her opponent, an accomplished kickboxer. "I did it tonight. She was the only former champion I didn't beat yet. Now I beat her, and I'm very happy."

Jones (25-1) had much more trouble with Santos (21-7), who nearly scrapped his way to victory despite injuring his left knee early in the fight. Jones fought cautiously and earned a 48-47 decision on two of the three judges' scorecards.

"He implemented a game plan I think a lot of people have wanted to for a very long time," Jones said. "He did a good job. He exploited a hole in my game that won't be there next time."

Until Jones' tactical victory, UFC 239 was all about violence.

Jorge Masvidal knocked out previously unbeaten Ben Askren with a sensational flying knee just 5 seconds into their bout on a card peppered with jaw-dropping finishes until Jones' decision.

Jan Blachowicz also knocked

out Luke Rockhold with a devastating left hand in the second round of ex-champ Rockhold's light heavyweight debut.

Nunes took a few minutes to find her groove against Holm, who famously knocked out Ronda Rousey with a head kick nearly four years ago. When Nunes felt comfortable, she unleashed a sophisticated array of strikes and eventually caught Holm with a kick that sent her straight to the canvas.

Nunes completed the knockout with punches, sending Holm to her fifth loss in seven fights.

After her fourth successful bantamweight defense, Nunes said she wants to defend the 145-pound belt next. UFC President Dana White is trying to book a rematch with long-reigning featherweight champion Cris "Cyborg" Justino, who lasted just 51 seconds against Nunes in December.

"This woman is tough, man," White said of Nunes. "She's unbelievable. Pound for pound, one of the greatest of all time. But there will be somebody next."

Jones was a significant favorite against Santos, a longtime middleweight who moved up in weight last year. But Santos' power and energy caused problems for Jones from the opening minutes, forcing the champion to be cautious and to use his superior length.

"We all knew Thiago's best chance was to knock me out," Jones said. "I played it smart and brought home this gold for my family and team. He was technically a lot more sound than I thought. Thiago Santos is a black belt in Muay Thai. I'm proud of myself, because I stood with a guy who's been kickboxing way longer than me."

Santos landed several significant strikes in the first round, but Jones briefly floored the challenger with a big kick in the second.

"I thought I hit him more and out-pointed him, but with my knee like that, it was all I could do," Santos said. "I knew it was a very close fight. In the condition I was in, I thought I fought a good fight."

Jones found his rhythm midway through the fight, using his size to keep Santos away. Santos also hurt his knee along the way, although he kept striking even while he struggled for balance.

"I felt like I was winning, so there was no need to take him down," Jones said. "We were playing a very high level game of chess in there."

Masvidal (34-13) played a less complicated game to get his star-making finish.

Masvidal authored one of the most dramatic knockouts in UFC history when he destroyed Askren (19-1), a high-level wrestler in his second UFC fight after a prosperous career in other promotions. Masvidal and Askren had an intense personal rivalry heading into the fight, exchanging voluminous trash talk rooted in years of mutual dislike.

After listening to the opening bell while touching his own fence, Masvidal took three running steps out of his corner and sailed directly into the face of Askren, who had ducked for a wrestling takedown. The knee landed flush, and Askren was unconscious.

Masvidal then landed two punches to the defenseless Askren's head before the referee could stop the bout after only 5 seconds. Masvidal then celebrated in the cage while Askren struggled for several minutes to gain coherence.

"I'm glad I got to end that dude, man," Masvidal said. "He's so predictable. He's a scrub. ... It was like, 'Come and eat.' He probably thought he was going to get a three-piece (dinner). Nah, you're getting a whole MGM Grand buffet to the face, man."

Nationals, Scherzer stay hot, blank KC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A few days after the birth of his second daughter, Kacy, Max Scherzer was back to work.

His wife wouldn't have it any other way.

Scherzer sustained a dominant stretch with seven strong innings two days after the birth of his daughter, Kurt Suzuki homered and the Washington Nationals beat the Kansas City Royals 6-0 on Saturday.

The NL pitcher of the month for June, Scherzer (9-5) allowed four hits and struck out 11 with one walk in his final outing before heading to Tuesday's All-Star Game, where he won't pitch. Kacy was born Thursday.

"I know my wife, Erica, she wanted me to pitch today," Scherzer said. "She wants me out there pitching, she doesn't want me sitting at home. We got the in-laws in, we got help. She's a baseball wife, she (was) a pitcher (in college). She knows she wants me out there competing."

Scherzer has won seven straight starts and has an 0.84 ERA over his last nine appearances. On Saturday, he settled in after a 22-pitch first inning and later struck out the side in the seventh inning as Washington won for the ninth time in 11 games.

"I played in Atlanta (with Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine) and those guys they had were pretty good, but what I've seen out of Max is incredible, it really is," manager Dave Martinez said. "I don't know how many games now where he keeps getting better and better as we go along."

Both teams wore throwback uniforms in celebration of their franchise's 50 years since joining Major League Baseball in 1969, with the Nationals wearing the powder blue uniforms of the Montreal Expos.

Roundup

All-Stars Bieber, Lindor lead Tribe

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — In a foreboding tone, manager Terry Francona called Shane Bieber to his hotel room to deliver some important news on Cleveland's day off. The faked sternness soon yielded to tears of joy — the second-year pitcher was going to be an All-Star.

First, he had to go pitch like one of the best.

Bieber went eight innings in 90-degree heat on Saturday, and the Indians' All-Stars made their mark in a 7-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds, their fifth in a row at Great American Ball Park.

The Indians also got a pair of homers from Francisco Lindor, part of their four-player contingent for the All-Star Game in Cleveland on Tuesday. Roberto Perez had four hits, including a tiebreaking two-run shot in the eighth inning.

It was an ideal day for Bieber (8-3), who learned from his manager a day earlier that he'd been picked to replace Texas' Mike Minor on the AL All-Star squad.

"I was pretty shocked and just really excited," Bieber said. "I caught myself getting too excited. ... I was just trying to calm myself down."

The Indians are finally on a good run as they get ready to host the All-Star Game. They've won five in a row, matching their best winning streak of the season.

Rays 4, Yankees 3: Travis d'Arnaud hit a two-out homer off Chad Green in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting host Tampa Bay past New York.

D'Arnaud's winning homer against Green (2-3) into the right-field seats got the Rays back within 7½ games of the AL East-leading Yankees, who had won the first two games of a four-game series in extra innings. Tampa Bay is 3-9 against New York this season.

It was just the third loss for the Yankees in their last 19 games.

Twins 7, Rangers 4: Michael

Pineda struck out a season-high nine in six innings, Jason Castro had two hits and three RBIs, and Minnesota topped visiting Texas.

Shin-Soo Choo had three hits and Willie Calhoun added a two-run homer for the Rangers, who have lost six of seven.

Marlins 5, Braves 4: Yadiel Rivera hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the fifth and Miami beat host Atlanta for the second time this season.

Sergio Romo gave up a single in the ninth before recording three straight outs for his 16th save in 17 chances as Miami snapped a five-game skid.

Orioles 8, Blue Jays 1: Andrew Cashner won his third straight start, Renato Nunez hit a two-run home run and visiting Baltimore beat Toronto.

Stevie Wilkerson hit a solo home run and Jonathan Villar scored three times. The Orioles used a five-run fourth inning to win their third straight.

Astros 4, Angels 0: Yuli Gurriel homered for the fourth straight game and Gerrit Cole pitched seven scoreless innings before two relievers completed the four-hitter as host Houston beat Los Angeles.

Gurriel's solo shot extended Houston's lead to 3-0 in the sixth and gave him a 10-game hitting streak and the longest stretch of consecutive games with home runs in his career.

Pirates 12, Brewers 2: Kevin Newman and Starling Marte each drove in three runs, leading Pittsburgh over visiting Milwaukee.

Newman had four hits, including a home run. Melky Cabrera also homered for the Pirates.

Cubs 6, White Sox 3: Jon Lester pitched into the seventh inning, and the visiting Cubs beat All-Star Lucas Giolito and the crosstown White Sox.

The White Sox lost their second straight after winning five of six.

Mets 6, Phillies 5: Tomas Nido hit a three-run double that put host New York ahead to stay

in a victory over Philadelphia that included four hits batters.

Jeff McNeil had four hits for the fourth time this season and the Mets snapped a six-game losing streak to Philadelphia that marked their longest in more than a decade. New York won for only the third time in 12 games overall.

Red Sox 10, Tigers 6: Andrew Benintendi and Mookie Betts finished a homer short of the cycle as visiting Boston beat Detroit in a game delayed more than four hours at the start by rain.

Benintendi went 4 for 6 with two singles, a double, triple and an RBI. Betts was 3 for 5 with a single, double, triple, a walk and two RBIs.

Mariners 6, Athletics 3: Daniel Vogelbach and Kyle Seager hit two-run home runs in the fourth inning, Marco Gonzales won his 10th game and host Seattle beat Oakland.

The Mariners snapped a three-game losing streak. The Athletics had a two-game winning streak halted and lost for just the third time since June 24.

Giants 8, Cardinals 4: Austin Slater hit a pinch-hit grand slam, San Francisco overcame an early injury to Madison Bumgarner and beat visiting St. Louis.

Pablo Sandoval homered and drove in three runs as the Giants won for the sixth time in eight games.

Padres 3, Dodgers 1: Hunter Renfroe hit his second late-inning home run in as many days and San Diego held on for a win over host Los Angeles.

The Dodgers lost consecutive games for the fifth time since April 23.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 2: At Phoenix, Jake Lamb hit his first home run in more than a year and Robbie Ray threw six strong innings to lead Arizona over Colorado.

Daniel Murphy and All-Star Trevor Story homered for the Rockies, who have lost five straight.