

## Retired Marine sues over denied promotion

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A retired Marine has filed a lawsuit against the Navy and Defense Department for denying him a promotion after he was falsely accused of war crimes, according to court documents.

Maj. Fred Galvin of Platte City, Mo., is suing acting Navy Secretary Thomas Harker and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in Washington, D.C., District Court to overturn a decision in 2018 by the Board of Correction of Naval Record not to award him a post-service promotion to lieutenant colonel, according to court documents.

Galvin was first denied promotion after receiving a poor fitness report — “the first ever in his career” — following accusations of his team “firing indiscriminately at civilians” in Afghanistan in March 2007 when he led a Marine special operations company there, according to the lawsuit, which was filed Wednesday.

The accusations, which were later disproven, stemmed from an incident when Galvin

and 29 other Marines in his company were ambushed by a suicide bomber and roadside fighters before Galvin’s company returned fire and escaped, according to court documents.

But as the convoy returned to its base, disinformation spread and initial media reports in Afghanistan accused the company of killing eight civilians and wounding 31 others in the firefight.

An initial investigation first upheld the claims, leading to Galvin’s poor fitness report. However, a 2008 court of inquiry exonerated Galvin and his company, finding they “defended themselves appropriately and proportionately,” according to the lawsuit.

The court of inquiry also found the investigator’s “findings and conclusions ran counter to the weight of the evidence” and faulted military leaders who had reviewed the case “for being unable or unwilling to respond appropriately to what was described as an ‘enemy information operation,’” according to the lawsuit.

But despite the exoneration, Galvin’s poor

fitness report remained in his service record, affecting his subsequent reviews for promotion, his lawyers argued in the suit.

In 2017, Galvin submitted his case for review to the naval records correction review board, which recommended his service record be reviewed without the adverse fitness report, noting the false accusations had “corrupted the judgment” of promotion review boards previously, according to court documents.

But when a special selection board convened to review Galvin’s record without the adverse report and compared him to the records of others considered for promotion that year, he was still denied a corrective promotion and the board did not provide an explanation of their reasoning, according to court documents.

The Navy and Pentagon have yet to file responses to the lawsuit, according to online federal court records. Federal government agencies typically have up to 60 days to submit their response to a complaint in district court.

## Iran wary of aftereffects of US withdrawal from Afghanistan

*The Washington Post*

As Western forces exit Afghanistan, Iran is watching with alarm. The resolution of one long-standing aim, the withdrawal of U.S. troops, is unleashing a separate challenge: what to do about the Taliban, another longtime problem for Iran, swiftly regaining power and territory next door.

The Afghan government said Friday that the Taliban had captured a key border crossing between Iran and Afghanistan.

Iran, ruled by Shiite clerics, and the Taliban, a radical Sunni movement, are at fundamental odds, and Iran has long bristled at the Taliban’s treatment of non-Sunni minorities.

Tehran fears both Taliban rule and Afghanistan returning to civil war, a destabilizing prospect likely to imperil the country’s ethnic Persian and Shiite communities, send more waves of Afghan refugees across the border and empower Sunni militancy in the region.

Seeking an upper hand, Iran has cultivated ties with some Taliban factions and softened its tone toward the extremist group, which it sees as all but certain to remain in power.

That gamble has elicited fierce debate in Iran, where the repressive Taliban is viewed unfavorably and skepticism of U.S. intentions runs high, even as the Biden administration makes slow headway in talks to return to the 2015 nuclear deal, from which then-President Donald Trump withdrew.

“Iran is going to be harmed immensely by chaos and civil

war in Afghanistan,” said Fateh-meh Aman, a nonresident senior fellow at the Middle East Institute, citing in particular Tehran’s fear of the Islamic State’s Afghanistan affiliate gaining ground. “They see partial rule, as the best-case scenario, with the Taliban in power.”

But Iran’s increasingly public overtures to the Taliban “could be a miscalculation,” said Aman, as “Iran believes they are using the Taliban, but some could argue that the Taliban is using Iran to present themselves as more powerful, worthy of ruling a country.”

Iran was excluded from U.S.-Taliban talks in Doha, Qatar, which last year led to a troop withdrawal deal to end two decades of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. Biden set a Sept.

11 deadline, but the U.S. military said last week that the exit was more than 90% complete.

The Taliban, thought to control around a third of Afghanistan, has so far largely gained ground without full-scale fighting and has instead relied on cutting deals with local leaders.

Still, more than 1,500 Afghan soldiers fled across the border to neighboring Tajikistan in recent weeks to escape Taliban advances, while some 200,000 Afghans have fled their homes this year.

The Taliban’s fast-paced advances have left Tehran fearing the possibility that the Taliban could retake Kabul — but even more so the specter of widespread violence emboldening the flow of extremists, narcotics and weapons, said Aman.

# Biden fires head of Social Security

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has fired the commissioner of Social Security after the official refused to resign, and Biden accepted the deputy commissioner's resignation, the White House said.

Biden asked commissioner Andrew Saul to resign, and his employment was terminated Friday after he refused the Democratic president's request, a White House official said.

Deputy Commissioner David Black agreed to resign, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters.

Both officials had been put in place under President Donald Trump, a Republican.

Biden named Kilolo Kijakazi as acting commissioner while the administration conducts a search for a permanent commissioner and deputy commissioner.

Kijakazi currently is the deputy commissioner for retirement and disability policy at the Social Security Administration.

Saul's removal followed a Justice Depart-

ment legal opinion that found he could be removed, despite a statute that says he could only be fired for neglecting his duties or malfeasance.

The opinion — researched at the request of the White House — concluded that a re-evaluation because of a recent Supreme Court ruling meant that Saul could be fired by the president at will.

Biden's move got immediate support from the Democratic senator who would be in charge of confirming a successor to Saul. Republican lawmakers accused Biden of politicizing the agency and pointed to Saul's confirmation by a bipartisan Senate vote in 2019.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said in a statement that "every president should choose the personnel that will best carry out their vision for the country."

"To fulfill President Biden's bold vision for improving and expanding Social Security, he needs his people in charge," Wyden added, pledging to work to confirm a new

commissioner "as swiftly as possible."

Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., who several months ago began demanding the ouster of Saul and Black, celebrated their Friday firings.

"Social Security is in deep trouble," Pascrell said.

Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho, the top Republican on the finance committee, and Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, issued a joint statement calling Biden's decision "disappointing." The pair claimed "Social Security beneficiaries stand the most to lose from President Biden's partisan decision to remove Commissioner Andrew Saul."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called the personnel move an "unprecedented and dangerous politicization of the Social Security Administration."

Saul was confirmed by a Senate vote of 77-16 in 2019 to a six-year term that would have expired in January 2025, tweeted Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa.

## Robert E. Lee statue is removed in Charlottesville

*Associated Press*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — A statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was hoisted away from its place of prominence in Charlottesville on Saturday and carted off to storage, years after its threatened removal became a rallying point for white supremacists and inspired their violent 2017 rally that left a woman dead and dozens injured.

Work to remove the statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee began early Saturday morning. Crews have also removed a statue of Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

Spectators by the dozens lined the blocks surrounding the park, and a cheer went up as the Lee statue lifted off the pedestal. There was a visible police presence, with streets blocked off to vehicular traffic by fencing and heavy trucks.

Charlottesville Mayor Nikuyah Walker gave a speech in front of reporters and observers as the crane neared the monument.

"Taking down this statue is one small step closer to the goal of helping Charlottesville, Virginia, and America, grapple with the sin

of being willing to destroy Black people for economic gain," Walker said.

The removal of the statues follows years of contention, community anguish and litigation. A long, winding legal fight coupled with changes in a state law that protected war memorials had held up the removal for years.

Saturday's removal of the Lee and Jackson statues comes nearly four years after violence erupted at the infamous "Unite the Right" rally. Heather Heyer, a peaceful counterprotester, died in the violence, which sparked a national debate over racial equity, further inflamed by former President Donald Trump's insistence that there was "blame on both sides."

The work seemed to proceed smoothly and fairly easily as couples, families with small children and activists looked on from surrounding blocks. The crowd intermittently chanted and cheered as the workers made progress. Music wafted down the street as a pair of musicians played hymns from a church near the Lee statue.

There were at least a handful of oppo-

nents of the removal, including a man who heckled the mayor after her speech, but no visible, organized protester presence.

Ralph Dixon, a 59-year-old Black man born and raised in Charlottesville, was documenting the removal work Saturday morning, a camera around his neck.

Dixon said he was brought to the park where the Lee statue stood as a school-aged child.

"All the teachers, my teachers anyway, were always talking about what a great person this was," he said.

He said his understanding of Lee's legacy and the statue's message evolved as he became an adult. He said it was important to consider the context of the Jim Crow era during which the statue was erected and said especially after Heyer's death there was no reason the statue should stay.

"It needed to be done," he said.

Only the statues, not their stone pedestals, were to be removed Saturday. They will be stored in a secure location until the City Council makes a final decision about what should be done with them.

# CDC: No masks in schools if vaccinated

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Vaccinated teachers and students don't need to wear masks inside school buildings, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday in relaxing its COVID-19 guidelines.

The changes come amid a national vaccination campaign in which children as young as 12 are eligible to get shots, as well as a general decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths.

"We're at a new point in the pandemic that we're all really excited about," and so it's time to update the guidance, said Erin Sauber-Schatz, who leads the CDC task force that prepares recommendations designed to keep Americans safe from COVID-19.

The nation's top public health agency is not

advising schools to require shots for teachers and vaccine-eligible kids. And it's not offering guidance on how teachers can know which students are vaccinated or how parents will know which teachers are immunized.

That's probably going to make for some challenging school environments, said Elizabeth Stuart, a John Hopkins University public health professor who has children in elementary and middle schools.

"It would be a very weird dynamic, socially, to have some kids wearing masks and some not. And tracking that? Teachers shouldn't need to be keeping track of which kids should have masks on," she said.

Another potential headache: Schools should continue to space kids — and their desks — 3 feet apart in classrooms, the CDC

says. But the agency emphasized that spacing should not be an obstacle to getting kids back in schools. And it said distancing is not required among fully vaccinated students or staff.

All of this may prove hard to implement, and that's why CDC is advising schools to make decisions that make the most sense, Sauber-Schatz said.

The biggest questions will be at middle schools where some students are eligible for shots and others aren't. If sorting vaccinated and unvaccinated students proves too burdensome, administrators might choose to just keep a masking policy in place for everyone.

"The guidance is really written to allow flexibility at the local level," Sauber-Schatz said.

## Haiti's interim leader makes request for US troops

*Associated Press*

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti's interim government said it asked the U.S. to deploy troops to protect key infrastructure as it tries to stabilize the country and prepare the way for elections in the aftermath of President Jovenel Moise's assassination.

"We definitely need assistance and we've asked our international partners for help," Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph told The Associated Press in a phone interview late Friday. "We believe our partners can assist the national police in resolving the situation."

The stunning request for U.S. military support recalled the tumult following Hai-

ti's last presidential assassination, in 1915, when an angry mob dragged President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam out of the French Embassy and beat him to death. In response, President Woodrow Wilson sent the Marines into Haiti, justifying the American military occupation — which lasted nearly two decades — as a way to avert anarchy.

But the Biden administration has so far given no indication it will provide military assistance. For now, it only plans to send FBI officials to assist with the ongoing investigation into a crime that has plunged Haiti, a country already wracked by gaping poverty and gang violence, into a destabilizing battle for power and constitutional standoff.

On Friday, a group of lawmakers declared loyalty and recognized Joseph Lambert, the head of Haiti's dismantled senate, as provisional president in a direct challenge to the interim government's authority. They also recognized as prime minister Ariel Henry, whom Moise had selected to replace Joseph a day before he was killed but who had not yet taken office or formed a government.

"I'm not interested in a power struggle," said Joseph, who assumed leadership with the backing of police and the military. "There's only one way people can become president in Haiti. And that's through elections."

## Police testimony will lead 1st hearing on Jan. 6 riot

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A new House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol is expected to hold its first public hearing this month with police officers who responded to the attack and custodial staff who cleaned up afterward, chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson said.

Thompson, D-Miss., said Friday the committee hopes to "set the tone" of the investigation by hearing from those first responders, many of whom were brutally beaten and verbally abused by former President Donald Trump's supporters as they pushed past law enforcement and broke into the Capitol to interrupt the certification of President Joe Bi-

den's victory.

Referring to the police officers, Thompson told The Associated Press in an interview, "We need to hear how they felt, we need to hear what people who broke into the Capitol said to them."

He said the members of the panel, who held an initial strategy session last week, want to frame that first hearing so that it is clear that they are serious, and also that they care about "those individuals who either secure the Capitol or clean the Capitol."

Thompson said the select committee is eyeing the week of July 19 for the hearing, which is likely to be a dramatic curtain-raiser for the new investigation. An increasing number of

police officers who responded to the attack, including members of the U.S. Capitol Police and Washington's Metropolitan Police Department, have lobbied for Congress to launch an independent, bipartisan investigation of the insurrection, but that proposal was blocked by Senate Republicans. The officers have pressured Republicans who have downplayed the violence to listen to their stories, and several watched from the gallery earlier this month as the House voted along party lines to form the select committee. Two Senate committees have already investigated the attack and made security recommendations, but they did not examine the origins of the siege, leaving many unanswered questions.



# Heat and wind spur fire in California

*Associated Press*

BECKWOURTH, Calif. — A California wildfire that closed nearly 200 square miles of forest forced evacuations across state lines into Nevada on Friday as winds and scorching, dry weather drove flames forward through trees and brush.

The Beckwourth Complex — which began as two lightning-caused fires in Plumas National Forest — showed “extreme behavior,” fire information officer Lisa Cox said Friday evening.

Hot rising air formed a gigantic, smoky pyrocumulus cloud that reached thousands of feet high and created its own lightning, Cox said.

Spot fires caused by embers leapt up to a mile ahead of the northeastern flank — too far for firefighters to safely battle, Cox said.

Winds up to about 20 mph on ridgetops were funneling flames up draws and canyons full of dry fuel, where “it can actually

pick up speed,” Cox said.

By evening, the fire was approaching U.S. 395, a main interstate in the northern Sierra Nevada not far from the border. Although the flames hadn’t crossed that divide, the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office told people to evacuate some areas in the rural communities of Ranch Haven and Flanagan Flats, north of Reno.

“Evacuate now,” a Sheriff’s office tweet said.

Although there are no confirmed reports of building damage, the fire already prompted evacuation orders or warnings for hundreds of homes and several campgrounds in California along with the closure of nearly 200 square miles of Plumas National Forest.

The blaze, which was only 11% contained, officially had blackened more than 38 square miles but that figure was expected to increase dramatically when fire officials

were able to make better observations.

Nearly 1,000 firefighters were aided by aircraft but the blaze was expected to continue leaping through trees and chaparral that already are bone-dry because of low humidity and a heat wave forecasted to continue through the weekend.

“We’re expecting more of the same the day after and the day after and the day after,” Cox said.

The air was so dry that some of the water dropped by aircraft evaporated before it reached the ground, she said.

The fire was one of several burning in the West, including several that destroyed dozens of California homes in recent days.

In the region between the Oregon border and the northern end of the Central Valley, the big Lava and Tennant fires were significantly contained, and progress was reported at the Salt Fire as containment improved to 45%.

## Death toll in Fla. condo collapse rises on 16th day

*Associated Press*

SURFSIDE, Fla. — The death toll in the collapse of a Miami-area condo building rose to 79 on Friday, a number the mayor called “heartbreaking” as recovery workers toiled for a 16th day to find victims in the rubble. Another 61 people remain unaccounted for.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said the work to recover victims was “moving forward with great urgency” in order to bring closure to the families of victims who have spent an agonizing two weeks waiting for news.

“This is a staggering and heartbreaking number that affects all of us very deeply,” Levine Cava said of the latest death toll.

“All those who have passed ... are leaving behind loved ones. They’re leaving behind devastated families. The magnitude of this tragedy is growing each and every day,” she said.

Rescue workers and emer-

gency support teams from Florida and several other states have labored in 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day at the site of the devastated beachfront condominium in Surfside — physically and emotionally taxing work performed amid oppressive heat and in dangerous conditions.

“We know that there will be long-term impacts for the teams on the front line,” Levine Cava said. “They have given so much of themselves in these first two weeks.”

Miami-Dade Fire Chief Alan Cominsky said taking care of the mental health and well-being of the first responders is a priority. He said it is critical that the first responders communicate with each other: “It’s important for us to talk,” he said. To that end, Levine Cava said officials have added peer support personnel at the fire stations.

Cominsky said it is unclear how long the recovery effort will take, but said crews are making progress.

## FDA head urges probe into its dealings with drug maker

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — In the latest twist in the controversial approval of a new Alzheimer’s disease drug, the head of the Food and Drug Administration on Friday asked for a federal investigation to determine whether her own agency’s interactions with the drug’s maker “were inconsistent with FDA policies and procedures.”

FDA acting commissioner Janet Woodcock acknowledged in a letter to Christi Grimm, the acting inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services, that there has been “significant attention and controversy” surrounding the approval of Aduhelm, which is manufactured by Biogen, a Cambridge, Mass., biotech company. In particular, she said, concerns continue to be raised about the agency’s contacts with Biogen, including “some that may have occurred outside of the formal correspondence process.”

The letter was the newest development in the saga of Aduhelm, a monoclonal antibody that breaks up toxic amyloid clumps in the brain. The drug’s approval on June 7 unleashed a torrent of criticism from lawmakers and scientists who argue there is scant evidence that the drug, which carries a list price of \$56,000 a year per patient, helps patients.

In a statement, Biogen said, “We will, of course, cooperate with any inquiry in connection with a possible review of the regulatory process.”

Stat, a news site covering medical and science news, reported last month that Biogen waged a secret effort, dubbed “Project Onyx,” to secure FDA approval for the drug after it stumbled badly in clinical trials. The site said there was an informal meeting in May 2019 between Alfred Sandrock Jr., a top Biogen official, and Billy Dunn, the head of the FDA’s neuroscience office, at a conference in Philadelphia.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Woman eats 50 chili dogs in 22 minutes**

**MI** ROCKFORD — A competitive eater wolfed down 50 chili dogs in 22 minutes, setting a local record at a bar in western Michigan where thousands of customers have their names on the wall for eating just a fraction.

Molly Schuyler showed up and just started eating at The Corner Bar in Rockford while other customers watched with their own meals, WOOD-TV reported.

After 19 minutes, she had eaten 44 hot dogs.

"Brought her out six more dogs. In 22 minutes, she ate 50," server Lisa Paavo said.

Anyone who eats 12 in four hours gets their name on the wall.

**2 dead, 1 injured as car flies into swimming pool**

**CA** CHINO — A speeding car flew into the air and landed in a backyard swimming pool in Southern California, killing two people in the car and injuring a third, authorities said.

Nobody was on the ground when the crash occurred in Chino, east of Los Angeles.

The orange Corvette convertible was going too fast when it failed to make a turn, hit a center median, flew over a hedge and landed in the pool, police and witnesses said.

Three people were thrown from the car.

Investigators were trying to determine whether alcohol or drugs played a role in the accident.

**7 illegally enter US from Canada via library lawn**

**VT** DERBY LINE — Seven people apprehended after entering Vermont illegally from Quebec by driving across the lawn of a library built in both the United States and Canada were immediately returned to Canada, the U.S. Border Patrol said.

Surveillance videos released by the Border Patrol show the car drive by the Haskell Free Library and Opera House, nearly hitting a car as it turns onto a street in the Vermont community.

Agents apprehended the vehicle a short time later as it headed south on Interstate 91. The occupants were from Canada, France and Romania.

The Haskell Free Library was deliberately built straddling the border in the early 20th century so people from both countries could use it.

**Woman charged with driving 137 mph**

**WI** TOWN OF CAMPBELL — Prosecutors in La Crosse County have charged a woman with fleeing from police at speeds of nearly 140 mph on Interstate 90.

Online court records show Amy Torres, 36, of Fargo, N.D., was charged with attempting to elude an officer, a felony and misdemeanor counts of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

According to a criminal complaint obtained by the La Crosse Tribune, a town of Campbell police officer was running radar checks on Interstate 90 and clocked Torres traveling west at

119 mph in a 70 mph zone.

The officer tried to stop her but she sped away. A chase ensued with Torres reaching a top speed of 137 mph. She ultimately ran out of gas on an I-90 bridge over the Mississippi River linking Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Police found a half-empty beer can in the car but field sobriety tests showed Torres wasn't impaired. Police also found a smoking device with marijuana residue and a grinder with one gram of marijuana.

**Boy accidentally shoots woman with gun in car**

**LA** GRETNA — A toddler sitting in a car in a suburban New Orleans parking lot found a handgun in the vehicle and accidentally fired it, wounding a woman who also was in the vehicle, authorities said.

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office says the shooting happened in Terrytown.

It's unclear if the child was related to the wounded woman, 30, who was hospitalized.

Details on her injury weren't available, but the sheriff's office said she is expected to survive. Capt. Jason Rivarde, a Sheriff's Office spokesman, said that the boy, 3, found the gun in the backseat area of the car.

**Teen's interstate joyride ends with arrest**

**ME** BETHEL — A teenager led police on a chase across New Hampshire and Maine before state police used spike mats to end the joyride, police said.

The teen, 17, driving a pickup

truck stolen in Berlin, N.H., drove across the state line and continued after hitting a Jersey barrier in a construction zone in Bethel, police said.

She avoided three sets of spike mats before arriving in Rumford, where she escaped a dead-end street by driving through a yard, smashing through a fence, narrowly avoiding a swimming pool and hitting a vehicle, police said.

All told, the pursuit covered more than 50 miles.

The driver, who was eventually stopped by spike mats after heading back toward Bethel, was turned over to police in Berlin.

**Officials: 7 penguins die at aquarium**

**FL** TAMPA — Seven African penguins have died at The Florida Aquarium, officials announced.

Initial necropsy results were inconclusive, but the Tampa facility's veterinary team is conducting further medical tests and evaluations to determine a possible cause, according to a news release. The Florida Aquarium's remaining penguins are receiving around-the-clock observation and care, officials said.

"It's never easy to communicate the loss of a species ambassador, especially one as iconic as our African penguins," spokeswoman Dale Wolbrink said in the news release.

"The Florida Aquarium will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to understand this tragic course of events. Unfortunately, we may never know the cause of death," she said.

—From wire reports

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# United Milwaukee hosts NBA Finals

*Associated Press*

MILWAUKEE — Much has changed in Milwaukee since the Bucks won their last NBA title a half-century ago.

Nothing reflects the differences more than the melting pot of fans swarming together outside Fiserv Forum playoff games. Fans will flock there again Sunday in hopes of helping the Bucks rally from an 0-2 deficit in the NBA Finals when they host the Phoenix Suns in Game 3.

The diversity of the crowds is striking considering Milwaukee's history.

Team President Peter Feigin backtracked five years ago after calling Milwaukee "the most segregated, racist place I've ever experienced in my life," but 49-year-old Milwaukee native LaNelle Ramey — a Black man — believes it needed to be said.

"It forced those who were here, longtime Milwaukeeans, to look in the mirror — in particular those who didn't want to believe it," said Ramey, the execu-

tive director for MENTOR Milwaukee, a Bucks-backed organization that fosters mentorship programs for area youth.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said he took no personal umbrage over Feigin's 2016 comments. Barrett noted the diversity of his own administrative team while adding, "I'm also very cognizant of the fact we have a very large income gap, education gap, public safety gap in not only the city of Milwaukee but all of southeastern Wisconsin."

Feigin believes what the Bucks have done off the court is at least as important as what they have accomplished on the court.

When asked what his proudest moment is with the Bucks, Feigin doesn't mention the Eastern Conference title the team just won. He instead cites the players' decision not to take the floor for a postseason game inside the bubble at Walt Disney World last year following the police shooting of Jacob Blake

in Kenosha, Wis.

Their decision led to a league-wide postponement of playoff games.

"It really kind of sparked a global pause and awareness for social justice," Feigin said.

Barrett said the Bucks "embody not only the team spirit that you see with all the players, but they embody the community spirit of wanting to be a part of the community. It has been true since the day they got here."

Bucks players engaging in social issues isn't new.

Bob Dandridge, a recent Hall of Fame selection who played on the Bucks' 1971 championship team and the 1974 squad that lost the NBA Finals to Boston, said there were plenty of outspoken players on those teams.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's activism inspired the NBA to give out a social justice award bearing his name. Oscar Robertson filed the lawsuit that helped bring free agency to the NBA.

Dandridge also wasn't shy about sharing his views.

The difference today, Dandridge says, is the support players receive from management.

"I think it's an entirely different approach as far as outspokenness with today's owners and the owners back in the 70s when I was in Milwaukee," Dandridge said.

When Feigin took over as Bucks president in 2014 after Wes Edens, Marc Lasry and Jamie Dinan bought the team, the franchise was struggling.

Milwaukee's 2001 Eastern Conference finals appearance marked the only time the Bucks advanced beyond the first round of the playoffs from 1990 to 2018. The Bucks were playing in the Bradley Center, one of the NBA's oldest venues.

"It was like finding a unicorn, finding a Bucks fan six years ago," said Sean Marus, a 28-year-old Bucks fan from the Milwaukee suburb of Wauwatosa.

Times have changed.

## 'He loves to win': Durant seeking third gold medal

*Associated Press*

LAS VEGAS — USA Basketball didn't blow up Kevin Durant's phone with repeated calls to beg and plead for him to play in the Tokyo Olympics. It was a much more dignified process: They asked, then they waited.

It was the right move.

"They helped me make the decision by letting me be me," Durant said.

Already an owner of two Olympic gold medals, Durant ultimately chose to try for three. The Brooklyn Nets forward will lead the U.S. Olympic team into Tokyo this month and could become just the second men's player in USA Basketball history to win three golds, joining Carmelo Anthony.

And not that this matters to Durant, because it doesn't, but he could simply rewrite the USA Basketball Olympic record book in the next few weeks as well.

"I committed to USA Basketball when I was coming out of college, and every chance

that I get that I'm healthy and my mind's in the right place to play basketball, I go out there and play," Durant said. "I finished the year off healthy, regular season and playoffs. So, I felt like it'd be cool to get I guess a kickstart on next season by getting in shape a lot earlier in the summer with Team USA."

Already the top three-point shooter in U.S. men's Olympic history, Durant is 25 points shy of tying Anthony (336) for the most in team Olympic play, 39 rebounds away from Anthony's mark in rebounds (125), 12 away from Anthony's mark in field goals made (113), three away from Anthony's mark in free throws made (53).

"You know his famous quote? 'I am Kevin Durant.' There's nothing changing," U.S. guard Bradley Beal of the Washington Wizards said. "We know who he is. We know what he's capable of doing and he's doing the same thing in practice ... and his leadership is just terrific. He's like 39-0 in USA

Basketball. That's crazy and we want to keep that going."

Beal had it right: Durant is 39-0 in major international events with USA Basketball. He has two NBA championships, two NBA Finals MVP awards. He came back after a yearlong layoff from an Achilles injury this season in Brooklyn and was, again, his typical unguardable self.

There's long been nothing left for him to prove, and he signed up for another Olympics anyway. Camp started Tuesday and Durant immediately began setting the tone for a roster that is mostly composed of first-time Olympians other than Durant, Draymond Green and Kevin Love.

"There's this very cliché line that everyone uses in basketball when you're working out: Go game speed every rep," said Green, Durant's former Golden State teammate. "Quite frankly, I've never seen anyone do it, except him. That's how he plays the game. That's how he works."



# Barty wins Wimbledon for 2nd major

*Associated Press*

WIMBLEDON, England — Everything came so easily for Ash Barty at the start of the Wimbledon final. Hard to believe one player would grab the first 14 points of a major championship match.

Surely, it couldn't stay that one-sided, right? Of course not.

Still, Barty used that perfect start and a strong-enough finish to get the job done, holding off Karolina Pliskova's comeback bid to win 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3 at the All England Club on Saturday for her second Grand Slam title.

"It took me a long time to verbalize the fact that I wanted to dare to dream it and say I wanted to win this incredible tournament. ... I didn't sleep a lot last night. I was thinking of all the 'What-ifs,' " the No. 1-ranked Barty said. "But I think when I was coming out on this court, I felt at home, in a way."

She adds this trophy to the one she won at the French Open in 2019.

Barty is the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon since Evonne Goolagong in 1980. Barty was a teenager when she first met Goolagong and considers her an inspiration and a mentor.

"I hope I made Evonne proud," said Barty, who wore an outfit that was a tribute to the dress Goolagong played in when she won the tournament for the first time, 50 years ago.

Barty, 25, was the Wimbledon junior champion a decade ago, then left the tennis

tour for nearly two years in 2014 because of burnout. She played professional cricket back home, then eventually returned to her other sport.

Good call.

She was at her best at the beginning of each set against the eighth-seeded Pliskova, a 29-year-old from the Czech Republic with a big serve.

Pliskova dropped to 0-2 in major finals; she also was the runner-up at the 2016 U.S. Open.

"I was fighting very hard to make it difficult for her," said Pliskova, a former No. 1 who got choked up during the trophy ceremony and lamented to the capacity crowd: "I never cry. Never."

Barty's most significant wobble came in the second set. She led 3-1, gave that break back, then went ahead again and served for the victory at 6-5. But she sailed consecutive forehands long to get broken, then was shaky in the ensuing tiebreaker, ceding it with a double-fault.

But in the first Wimbledon women's final to go three sets since 2012, Barty went up 3-0 in the decider and never relented. It also was the first since 1977 between two participants who never had been that far at the All England Club.

The match was played under a cloud-filled sky and, because of the threat of showers, Barty and Pliskova shared a warmup session under the closed roof at No. 1 Court earlier in the day, standing side-by-side.

They shared smiles and chatter during the coin toss before the final, but once things got serious, Barty didn't mess around.

Right from the get-go, there was not a hint of uneasiness or uncertainty. Her strokes were confident. Her demeanor, too. During the match-opening run that put her up 3-0, love-30 and, after Pliskova finally won a couple of points, 4-0 after 11 minutes, Barty showed off her varied skills.

She returned Pliskova's speedy serves — the ones that produced a tournament-high 54 aces entering Saturday — without any trouble. She lobbed Pliskova, who at 6-foot-1 is 8 inches taller than the 5-foot-5 Barty. She hit winners with heavy topspin forehands and set up others with sliced backhands. She threw in an ace of her own, and even compiled more than Pliskova, 7-6.

The key stat probably was this: Barty won 22 of 31 points that lasted nine strokes or more.

Pliskova finally got the measure of her strokes in the second set. That could have shaken Barty. Except here's the thing: She speaks clearly about never letting anything get her too down, including the hip injury that knocked her out of the French Open last month and prevented her from her usual preparation for Wimbledon.

And so, with her typical grit, Barty managed to get back to the steadier version of herself down the stretch. When she got a second chance to serve it out, Barty didn't flinch.

## Offseason promises changes to NHL landscape

*Associated Press*

Pausing the Stanley Cup celebration and with his voice still hoarse from partying, Alex Killorn acknowledged the back-to-back champion Tampa Bay Lightning will not be back together on the ice when the NHL returns in the fall.

"We're all grown men, and we understand that in a salary-cap system, the team is definitely going to look different now than it will next season," Killorn said. "Whatever happens, happens."

Whatever happens is going to happen quickly. Before the Lightning even enjoy their second Stanley Cup boat parade, the rest of the league is already deep in preparations for next season as part of a frantic offseason that could see NBA or NFL-level player movement of big names to new places.

"There's a number of teams that — there's just really big decisions to be made," former Lightning general manager Brian Lawton said. "Now it's fast and furious trying to figure out what they can get done."

And not much time to do it. Lawton, now an NHL Network analyst, said it's going to feel like the shortest offseason in league history.

It will soon be a far cry from a team president joking to Lawton, "This is like the Not Happening League: nothing happening." The buyout window opened Friday, teams must submit expansion draft protected lists by next Saturday, the Seattle Kraken reveal their picks July 21, the entry draft starts July 23 and free agency opens July 28.

The entire hockey landscape will look very different, all in the next three weeks.

By the time the calendar flips to August, the list of players traded could include Columbus defenseman Seth Jones, St. Louis winger Vladimir Tarasenko, Buffalo captain Jack Eichel and teammate Sam Reinhart, Washington center Evgeny Kuznetsov, Carolina defenseman Dougie Hamilton and Philadelphia winger Jakub Voracek.

"It's huge names," Lawton said. "It'll be pretty much unprecedented if it all were to happen."

And that's even before considering the free agents who could hit the market: wingers Taylor Hall, Gabriel Landeskog and Mike Hoffman, Hamilton and fellow defensemen Alec Martinez and Tyson Barrie as well as goaltenders Philipp Grubauer, Frederik Andersen, Petr Mrazek and Chris Driedger.

# Yankees' arms combine to blank Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON—New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone hoped he could get three innings out of Nestor Cortes in a spot start against the Houston Astros.

Instead, the left-hander almost made it through the fifth Friday night, setting the tone in a three-hitter that led the Yankees to a 4-0 win.

After Cortes left, three relievers completed the shutout while Brett Gardner and DJ LeMahieu each drove in two runs to provide a cushion.

Cortes allowed two hits in 4½ innings, striking out two and walking two and lowering his ERA to 1.05.

"He was terrific," Boone said. "Then the rest of the bullpen was able to take it from there. He gave us more than we could have hoped as we continue to build him up."

Cortes was glad to finally solve the Astros. In four previous appearances against them, he'd given up six home runs.

"I have bad history against the Houston Astros," he said. "So to give 4½ innings of strong baseball was good. And we got the win, so that's what was most important."

Lucas Luetge (3-1) pitched 1½ hitless innings for the win. Chad Green gave up one hit in two innings and Jonathan Loaisiga threw a perfect ninth.

It was New York's first visit to Houston since Game 6 of the 2019 AL Championship Series. The Astros advanced to the World Series with a 6-4 win in that game on a two-run homer by Jose Altuve with two outs in the ninth.

The Astros are commemorating the event by giving away replica 2019 AL champions trophies Friday, 2019 AL cham-

pions replica rings on Saturday and Altuve jerseys for the finale on Sunday.

The powerful Houston hitters, however, didn't give their fans at Minute Maid Park anything to cheer about. The Yankees, meanwhile, got back on track at the plate after managing just one hit in a 4-0 loss at Seattle on Thursday.

Gardner admitted that New York's history in Houston crept into his mind on Friday.

"From time to time you can't help but think of the past, but when the time comes you have to be able to block that out and focus on the task at hand," he said.

Gleyber Torres singled with one out in the fourth inning, Gio Urshela singled with two outs and Gardner doubled to the right-field corner.

Gardner walked with one out in the seventh, Tyler Wade doubled and LeMahieu hit a two-

run double to push the lead to 4-0.

Houston starter Jake Odorizzi (3-4) yielded seven hits and two runs while striking out four in six innings. He had won three straight decisions.

Kyle Tucker hit a ground-rule double in the second and added a double in the seventh to lead the Astros in a game where the top four batters in Houston's lineup went a combined 0 for 16.

"We're in a situation where you're missing some of your big boys that probably would have made a difference," manager Dusty Baker said. "We couldn't really get anything going. We were behind the 8-ball all day."

Green, who struck out two on Friday night, has a 0.52 ERA with 23 strikeouts in his last 11 appearances. He's had eight outings this season of at least two innings and seven of them have been scoreless.

## Fill-ins Casali, Ruf homer as Giants top Nationals

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Nationals star Trea Turner turned to Curt Casali and asked the Giants catcher why Logan Webb had left the game so soon.

That's how good the right-hander looked in his first start for San Francisco since late May—he just had to contend with a pitch count.

"It was nice to see," Casali said. "We've been waiting a while to get Webby back."

Casali hit a two-run homer while filling in again for injured All-Star catcher Buster Posey, late lineup addition Darin Ruf added a go-ahead drive and the Giants beat Washington 5-3 on Friday night.

Webb allowed one hit over three innings and struck out four in his first outing since May 29 after missing time with a strained right shoulder. He struck out four. The Giants hoped to get him through three innings.

"Knowing there was a pitch count and inning limit was more of the tough thing than anything else," he said.

**Padres 4, Rockies 2:** Reliever Miguel Diaz rejoined host San Diego for the fourth time this season and was part of a dominant

performance his team's bullpen.

**Mariners 7, Angels 3:** Shohei Ohtani became the sixth player to reach the upper deck of T-Mobile Park with his 33rd homer, but Mitch Haniger's two-out grand slam in the eighth inning lifted Seattle past Los Angeles.

**Cubs 10, Cardinals 5:** Kyle Hendricks won his ninth straight decision, Patrick Wisdom hit a two-run homer and Chicago beat visiting St. Louis.

**Indians 2, Royals 1:** Bobby Bradley homered leading off the ninth inning as host Cleveland overcame some brutal baserunning that led to manager Terry Francona's ejection.

**Rangers 3, Athletics 2:** Adolis Garcia's two-run single highlighted host Texas' three-run sixth after Oakland's Cole Irvin took a no-hitter into the inning, and Jordan Lyles won his third straight start.

**Reds 2, Brewers 0:** Wade Miley pitched eight shutout innings and helped himself by doubling and scoring as Cincinnati beat host Milwaukee.

**Twins 4, Tigers 2:** At Minneapolis, Max Kepler hit a two-run triple during a four-run sixth inning and Minnesota waited out

Detroit rookie Matt Manning.

**Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 2:** Eduardo Escobar hit his 20th home run of the season and last-place Arizona beat host Los Angeles.

**Braves 5, Marlins 0:** Charlie Morton pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and visiting Atlanta beat Miami.

**Mets 13, Pirates 4:** Pete Alonso hit a three-run homer and Francisco Lindor clubbed his team's first grand slam this season during a 10-run sixth inning, and New York embarrassed visiting Pittsburgh.

**Red Sox 11, Phillies 5:** Kiké Hernández led off with a home run, J.D. Martinez hit a three-run shot and Rafael Devers also homered to lead host Boston past Philadelphia.

**Rays 7, Blue Jays 1:** At St. Petersburg, Fla., three relievers combined on five more scoreless innings, Ji-Man Choi drove in three runs and Tampa Bay won its fifth consecutive game.

**White Sox 12, Orioles 1:** Baltimore-area native Gavin Sheets homered in his first trip to Camden Yards as a major leaguer, and Chicago won big.