

## Study: Military sees chlamydia rates rise

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

The rate of chlamydia infections among active-duty U.S. service members dropped during the coronavirus pandemic but remains higher over the longer term, underscoring the importance of annual sexually transmitted infection screenings, researchers said.

Annual chlamydia incidence rates grew by 67% for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps from 2013 to 2019, according to data highlighted in the Medical Surveillance Monthly Report for May.

Rates dropped from a 2019 high during the past two years, but researchers attribute the short-term trend to less reporting and testing during the pandemic. The 2021 rates still were higher than they were in 2013.

Chlamydia by far was the most common sexually transmitted infection among active service members in all branches, with 233,886 reported cases over the 2013-21 period studied.

By comparison, there were 37,592 and 55,040 reported incidents of gonorrhea and human papillomavirus, or HPV, respectively, over the same time, according to the

report.

The annual gonorrhea incidence rate grew by nearly 42% over the same period, researchers said.

“The number of incident chlamydia infections among active component service members was greater than the sum of the other four STIs combined and 4.2 times the total number of genital HPV infections — the next most frequently,” the report stated.

The long-term increase and short-term decline in chlamydia infections among military members mirrored the trend in the civilian population, the report said. Incidence rates for all STIs studied except syphilis fell among service members and generally in the U.S. during the onset of the pandemic.

The data underscore the difficulty of detecting and treating chlamydia infections, which are often asymptomatic, before transmission to a sexual partner, according to health.mil.

The report evaluated medical data involving the five most common STIs: chlamydia; gonorrhea; HPV; genital herpes simplex virus, or HSV; and syphilis.

It didn’t include data on sexual risk behaviors, but a 2018 survey of military per-

sonnel revealed that nearly 35% of respondents said they’d had sex with a new partner in the past year without using a condom, researchers noted in the report.

Women 24 and under and men 29 and under were the primary sources of the increase in chlamydia cases, the report stated.

Annual chlamydia incidence rates for female service members generally were three times higher than those of male military personnel over the nine-year period studied, 454 out of 10,000 versus 149 out of 10,000, the report showed.

Rates for gonorrhea, HPV and HSV also were markedly higher in women over the same period, according to the report.

Those increased rates likely were due to screening programs for women entering military service and subsequent annual screenings for those 25 and younger, researchers said.

The Defense Department has stepped up efforts to address the sexual and reproductive health of military members, in part through the establishment of a research program known as MARSH, short for Military Active-duty Reproductive and Sexual Health.

## Army court allows split verdict in assault case

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — A Germany-based military judge’s ruling that a unanimous guilty verdict was required to convict an Army officer facing sexual assault charges was rejected by the service’s top appeals court.

Lt. Col. Andrew Dial initially faced a court-martial in January, but proceedings were delayed after military judge Col. Charles Pritchard said that allowing a split verdict would violate Dial’s constitutional rights.

Prosecutors challenged that decision before the Army Court

of Criminal Appeals, arguing that Pritchard’s ruling was based on faulty reasoning.

In a June decision, the appeals court concurred, saying it was not persuaded by the argument that because military and civilian court procedures are generally similar, military defendants are “similarly situated” to civilian counterparts.

“Rather, we adhere to the well-established view that ‘the military is a specialized society separate from civilian society’ which has, by necessity, developed laws and traditions of its own during its long history,” the court said.

It also issued a relatively rare writ of prohibition to prevent a lower court, in this case the one in Kaiserslautern, from exceeding its authority. Pritchard’s decision “was in error and our inquiry is at an end,” the appellate court ruled.

Dial, a member of the Belgium-based Allied Forces North Battalion, will stand trial on three counts of sexual assault at an October court-martial in Kaiserslautern.

Pritchard’s ruling came in response to a motion by Dial’s defense team. His attorneys asserted that Congress has consistently narrowed the gap between the

military and civilian legal systems, bringing the former more into line with the latter.

For that reason, service members must be provided the same rights as their civilian counterparts when it comes to the necessity for unanimous guilty verdicts, Pritchard said.

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws in Oregon and Louisiana that allowed defendants to be convicted without jury unanimity on guilt. They were the last two states with that threshold.

Dial’s court-martial is scheduled to last five days. No judge for the case has yet been named.

# Putin offers fast Russian citizenship to Ukraine

*Associated Press*

KHARKIV, Ukraine — As Russian missiles struck a key Ukrainian city, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree Monday expanding a fast-track procedure of obtaining Russian citizenship available to all Ukrainians, yet another effort to expand Moscow's influence in war-torn Ukraine.

Until recently, only residents of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as residents of the southern Zaporizhzhia and the Kherson regions, large parts of which are now under Russian control, were eligible to apply for the simplified passport procedure.

Ukrainian officials haven't yet reacted to Putin's announcement. The decree Monday also

applies for any stateless residents currently in Ukraine. Between 2019, when the procedure was first introduced for the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk, and this year, more than 720,000 people living in the rebel-held areas in the two regions — about 18% of the population — have received Russian passports.

In late May, three months after Russia invaded Ukraine, the fast-track procedure was also offered to residents of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions and a month ago, the first Russian passports were reportedly handed out there.

The Russian passport move appears to be part of Putin's strategy, which could also involve annexation of territory into the Russian Federation. The

Russian president set the stage for such moves even before the invasion, writing an essay last summer claiming Russians and Ukrainians are one people, attempting to diminish the legitimacy of Ukraine as an independent nation.

The passport announcement came as Russian shelling of Ukraine's second-largest city killed at least six people on Monday and injured 31 others, prosecutors and local officials said. Hours earlier, Russian troops launched three missile strikes on Kharkiv, which one official described as "absolute terrorism."

Russia's Defense Ministry said the attacks struck at the points of deployment of the "nationalist battalions." Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov

said on Telegram that the shelling came from multiple rocket launchers, and those hospitalized for injuries in the attacks included children aged 4 and 16.

"Only civilian structures — a shopping center and houses of peaceful Kharkiv residents — came under the fire of the Russians. Several shells hit the yards of private houses," Syniehubov wrote.

Earlier, he said one of the missiles the Russian forces launched on Kharkiv overnight destroyed a school, another hit a residential building, and the third landed near warehouse facilities.

"All (three were launched) exclusively on civilian objects, this is absolute terrorism!" Syniehubov said.

# DOD, Kirtland satellites launched into orbit

*Albuquerque Journal*

A Virgin Orbit flight named after Paula Abdul's breakthrough hit "Straight Up" successfully carried seven Department of Defense satellites into space, including an experimental space vehicle designed and built at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

The Air Force Research Laboratory announced last week that its Recurve satellite, which was made at Kirtland, was one of several satellites launched into low-earth orbit by the Virgin Orbit space system from the Mojave Air and Space Port in California earlier

this month.

The space vehicle was launched using a system similar to the one Virgin Galactic used to launch passengers into space from Spaceport America in southern New Mexico last year. The satellites were essentially launched from an aircraft already at altitude.

The mission was significant for several reasons, including that it is a cost-effective way for the Department of Defense to launch several satellites into space at the same time, said Lt. Col. David Johnson, AFRL's Space Vehicles Directorate's Integrated Experiments

and Evaluations division chief.

"At the end of the day, the Space Force is looking into what's going to be the most cost-effective way to get the things that we need to get to orbit to orbit," he said.

Johnson said researchers at Kirtland have been working on the Recurve satellite for four years and have several months' worth of experiments planned for the small satellite, including some related to communications between satellites and electronics on the ground. The satellite is expected to be operational for up to one year, he said.

# Navy relieves submarine commander in Pacific Fleet

**BY KELLY AGEE**

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy relieved the commander of the fast-attack submarine USS Scranton on Wednesday after eight months at the helm, according to a news release.

Cmdr. Seth Rumler was relieved by Rear Adm. Rick Seif,

commander of Submarine Group 7, "due to loss of confidence in his ability to command," according to the Navy release on Friday.

Rumler had assumed command of the Los Angeles-class submarine Nov. 6, according to a tweet on the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force's official

Twitter account.

"Navy commanding officers are held to high standards of personal and professional conduct," said Lt. Cmdr. Amelia Umayam, spokeswoman for the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, in the release. "They are expected to uphold the highest standards of responsibility, re-

liability and leadership, and the Navy holds them accountable when they fall short of those standards."

Cmdr. Michael McGuire, deputy commodore of Submarine Squadron 15, was named interim commanding officer, according to the Navy.

# Abe's legacy: Foreign policy, defense goals that keep living

BY ALEX WILSON AND SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Shinzo Abe's assassination shocked the world, but his vision of a militarily strong Japan and a secure Indo-Pacific will live long after him, experts told Stars and Stripes.

"I think Abe's legacy is in dramatically shifting Japan's security posture and challenging the pacifist identity that is deeply embedded in the national psyche and also in the constitution," Jeff Kingston, head of Asian studies at Temple University's Tokyo campus, told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

Abe, 67, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, was shot delivering a campaign speech in Nara, about 300 miles west of Tokyo. He died later in a hospital.

Abe served as prime minister between 2006 and 2007 and again from 2012 to 2020.

While in office, he pushed for a reinterpretation of Japan's Article 9 to permit a more flexible role for the Japan Self-Defense Force and advocated for increased defense spending, although he left office before either goal was realized. Article 9 renounces war and establishment of an offensive military force.

Abe's greatest achievement, however, was engineering widespread adoption of the free and open Indo-Pacific strategy among allied nations, according to James Brown, an international affairs expert at Temple University's Japan campus.

"Promoting and popularizing the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision can be seen as one of the largest successes of Abe's term in office and Japanese foreign policy more broadly," Brown told Stars and

Stripes by email Monday. "It is a rare case in which Japan has been a leader rather than a follower, when it comes to major initiatives."

The free-and-open strategy espouses maritime security and economic cooperation between Japan and its allies, and it significantly strengthened the U.S.-Japan alliance. Abe also helped initiate the first Quadrilateral Security Dialogue between Japan, the U.S., India and Australia.

In practice, maintaining a "free and open Indo-Pacific" are bywords frequently invoked by the U.S. military for demonstrations of free navigation by air or sea through areas of the South and East China seas claimed by China and neighboring countries.

Abe "consistently worked to strengthen the alliance by cultivating the friendship between our two countries and deepening relationships with other nations who share our common values," said Adm. John Aquilino, chief of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, in a Saturday statement. "Many of the advancements we see with other countries in the region today, such as the Quad, are due to the Prime Minister's efforts."

The Quad formed in 2004 to further maritime interests but has morphed into an interest group, not a formal alliance, bound together by the challenges presented by a rising China, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

Kingston said Abe's assassination may reinvigorate public support for some of his goals.

"I think that this boost of Japan's military capacity and constitutional revision are seen as legacy agendas of Abe's," Kingston said. "I think that will increase the likelihood of those happening."

## Iran enriches to 20% with centrifuges at fortified site

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran announced Sunday that it has begun enriching uranium up to 20% using sophisticated centrifuges at its underground Fordo nuclear plant, state TV reported, an escalation that comes amid a standoff with the West over its tattered atomic deal.

That Tehran is enriching uranium up to 20% purity — a technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90% — with a new set of its most advanced centrifuges at a facility deep inside a mountain deals yet another blow to the already slim chances of reviving the accord.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, a spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said uranium enriched to 20% was collected for the first time from advanced IR-6 centrifuges on Saturday. He said Iran had informed the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, about the development two weeks ago.

Centrifuges are used to spin enriched uranium into higher levels of purity. Tehran's 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers had called for Fordo to become a research-and-development facility and restricted centrifuges there to non-nuclear uses.

Iran had previously told the IAEA that it was preparing to enrich uranium through a new cascade of 166 advanced IR-6 centrifuges at its underground Fordo facility. But it hadn't revealed the level at which the cascade would be enriching.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid called on the U.N. to reimpose multilateral sanctions on Iran — a bid that was met with stiff opposition when pushed by the Trump administration.

## Japan ruling party wins big at polls

*Associated Press*

TOKYO — Japan's governing party and its coalition partner scored a major victory in a parliamentary election Sunday imbued with meaning after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe amid uncertainty about how his loss may affect party unity.

The Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito raised their combined share in the 248-seat chamber to 146 — far beyond the majority — in the elections for half of the seats in the less powerful upper house.

With the boost, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stands to rule without interruption until a scheduled election in 2025.

That would allow Kishida to work on long-term policies such as national security, his signature but

still vague "new capitalism" economic policy, and his party's long-cherished goal to amend the U.S.-drafted postwar pacifist constitution.

A charter change proposal is now a possibility. With the help of two opposition parties supportive of a charter change, the governing bloc now has two-thirds majority in the chamber needed to propose an amendment, making it a realistic possibility. The governing bloc already has secured support in the other chamber.

Kishida welcomed the major win but wasn't smiling, given the loss of Abe and the hard task of unifying his party without him. In media interviews late Sunday, Kishida repeated: "Party unity is more important than anything else."

He said responses to COVID-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and rising prices will be his priorities.



# Firm seeks OK on birth control pill over counter

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — For the first time, a pharmaceutical company has asked for permission to sell a birth control pill over the counter in the United States.

HRA Pharma's application on Monday sets up a high-stakes decision for health regulators amid legal and political battles over women's reproductive health.

The company said the timing was unrelated to the Supreme Court's recent decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Hormone-based pills have long been the most common form of birth control in the U.S., used by millions of women since the 1960s. They have always required a prescription, generally so health professionals can screen for conditions that raise the risk of rare, but dangerous, blood clots.

The French drugmaker's ap-

plication compiles years of research intended to convince the Food and Drug Administration that women can screen themselves for those risks and use the pill effectively.

"For a product that has been available for the last 50 years, that has been used safely by millions of women, we thought it was time to make it more available," said Frederique Welgryn, HRA's chief strategy officer.

An FDA approval could come next year and would only apply to HRA's pill, which would be sold under its original brand name, Opill.

The company acquired the decades-old drug from Pfizer in 2014, but it's not currently marketed in the U.S.

Reproductive rights advocates are hoping to see other prescription contraceptives move over the counter and, eventually, for abortion pills to

do the same.

That potential for a precedent-setting decision once again places the FDA under an intense political spotlight.

Late last year, the agency was condemned by abortion opponents and praised by women's rights advocates when it loosened access to abortion pills.

Many common medications have made the switch from behind the pharmacy counter, including drugs for pain relief, heartburn and allergies.

In each case, companies must show that consumers can understand the drug's labeling, evaluate its risks and use it safely and effectively without professional supervision. HRA spent seven years conducting the FDA-required studies, including a trial that followed 1,000 women taking its pill for six months.

Birth control pills are avail-

able without a prescription across much of South America, Asia and Africa. Last year, Paris-based HRA won U.K. approval for the first birth control pill available there without a prescription.

The pill contains a single synthetic hormone, progestin, which prevents pregnancy by blocking sperm from the cervix. Most birth control pills also contain estrogen, which can help make periods lighter and more regular.

But estrogen also accounts for most of the blood clot risk associated with oral contraceptives.

For most women, the drugs are overwhelmingly safe. For every 10,000 women taking combination pills annually, three to nine will suffer a blood clot, according to FDA data. That compares with one to five clots among 10,000 women who aren't taking birth control.

## Bannon now willing to testify before 1/6 panel

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON—Steve Bannon, a former White House strategist and ally of Donald Trump who faces criminal charges after months of defying a congressional subpoena over the Capitol riot, has told the House committee investigating the attack that he is now willing to testify.

Bannon's turnaround was indicated in a letter late Saturday from his attorney, lawmakers said, as the committee prepares to air some of its most striking revelations yet this week against Trump in what may be its last set of hearings.

"I expect that we will be hearing from him, and there are many questions that we have for him," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. She and other committee

members said in television interviews Sunday that they intend to have Bannon sit for a private interview, which they typically conduct in a deposition with sworn testimony.

Bannon had been one of the highest-profile Trump-allied holdouts in refusing to testify before the committee, leading to two criminal counts of contempt of Congress last year for resisting the committee's subpoena. He has argued that his testimony is protected by Trump's claim of executive privilege.

The committee contends such a claim is dubious because Trump had fired Bannon from the White House in 2017, and Bannon was thus a private citizen when he was consulting with the then-president in the run-up to the riot on Jan. 6, 2021.

## Uber reportedly lobbied, used 'stealth' tech to block scrutiny

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — As Uber aggressively pushed into markets around the world, the ride-sharing service lobbied political leaders to relax labor and taxi laws, used a "kill switch" to thwart regulators and law enforcement, channeled money through Bermuda and other tax havens and considered portraying violence against its drivers as a way to gain public sympathy, according to a report released Sunday.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, a nonprofit network of investigative reporters, scoured internal Uber texts, emails, invoices and other documents to deliver what it called "an unprecedented look into the ways Uber defied taxi laws and upended workers' rights."

The documents were first leaked to the British newspaper *The Guardian*, which shared them with the consortium.

In a written statement, Uber spokesperson Jill Hazelbaker acknowledged "mistakes" in the past and said CEO Dara Khosrowshahi, hired in 2017, had been "tasked with transforming every aspect of how Uber operates. ... When we say Uber is a different company today, we mean it literally: 90% of current Uber employees joined after Dara became CEO."

Founded in 2009, Uber sought to skirt taxi regulations and offer inexpensive transportation via a ride-sharing app. The consortium's Uber Files revealed the extraordinary lengths the company undertook to establish itself in nearly 30 countries.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Elderly driver arrested after police chase**

**AZ** COTTONWOOD — A 74-year-old New York woman who was allegedly driving erratically on a revoked driver's license has been arrested following a pursuit through three northern Arizona cities and towns, authorities said.

Sedona police said they received numerous calls about the driver Saturday and unsuccessfully attempted a traffic stop.

Authorities said the driver ran a red light, almost struck several vehicles and drove the wrong way on State Route 89A before crossing into Clarkdale where that town's police picked up the chase.

Police used stop sticks to deflate two tires, but the driver tried to get away by backing into a Clarkdale police vehicle before being arrested.

Cottonwood police said Laura Duffy has been booked into the Yavapai County jail on suspicion of felony flight, aggravated assault on law enforcement, endangerment, criminal damage, resisting arrest and several criminal traffic violations.

**Convicted rapist flees after GPS device cut**

**NM** Prosecutors in Bernalillo County are questioning the use of GPS ankle monitors after a convicted rapist was able to cut his off and flee.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported Friday that Ralph Vasquez is the fifth person this year who was able to separate an ankle monitor device.

Lauren Rodriguez, a spokeswoman for the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office, said Vasquez cut it off just hours before he was supposed to head to prison.

Rodriguez says prosecutors are having misgivings about the GPS monitoring system. She said the GPS ankle monitor is supposed to be one of the strictest conditions yet "it's just not doing its job."

**Lake swimmer infected by brain-eating amoeba**

**IA** BEDFORD — A Missouri resident is hospitalized in intensive care after being infected with a rare brain-eating amoeba that likely happened after swimming in a southeastern Iowa lake, health officials said Friday.

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services has shut down the beach at Lake of Three Fires State Park in Taylor County after the person was diagnosed with primary amebic meningoencephalitis, a rare and usually fatal infection caused by the naegleria fowleri amoeba.

Iowa state health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are testing to confirm the presence of the infection in the lake, which could take several days to complete.

People become infected when water containing the amoeba enters the body through the nose, usually while victims are swimming or diving in lakes and rivers. The fatality rate is over 97%, according to CDC statistics. Only four people out of 154 known infected individuals in the U.S. from

1962 to 2021 have survived.

**Father charged after son fatally shoots self**

**LA** BATON ROUGE — A Louisiana father has been charged with negligent homicide after police said his 4-year-old child found a gun and fatally shot himself.

The shooting happened Friday evening in Baton Rouge, The Advocate reported Saturday.

The East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office said Lynzell Anderson, 34, was arrested. The sheriff's website showed Anderson remained in jail Saturday.

In a statement Saturday, Mayor Sharon Weston Broome called the death "equally sad and frustrating," and asked people to keep the child's loved ones in their prayers. She said free gun locks are available at Baton Rouge City Hall.

**Family found living with weapons in museum**

**NV** CARSON CITY — A Nevada couple was found secretly keeping a cache of weapons and living with their two kids at a northern Nevada children's museum where they worked, authorities said.

A janitor at the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada was arrested late last week, KRNVTN in Reno reported Friday. The 41-year-old man has been charged with child neglect and endangerment and possession of a suppressor and a short barrel rifle.

Authorities discovered the arsenal in a storage room, they said. A police report listed an AK-47 rifle, three handguns, a

pistol, ammunition, knives and a taser that could have been reached by a child. The stash also included drug paraphernalia like a bong and a used marijuana joint.

Officials realized the family was living in the museum after the man's 2-year-old child was spotted walking nearby unsupervised, the Carson City Sheriff's Office said.

It was not the first time police interacted with the man over his child being left alone. But this time, the toddler's older sister gave deputies the museum as their address.

**Caregiver acquitted in accidental vinegar death**

**WA** SPOKANE — A former caregiver charged in connection with the 2019 poisoning death of a developmentally disabled woman has been acquitted of felony assault.

Fikirte T. Aseged mistakenly gave cleaning vinegar instead of colonoscopy prep medicine to her 64-year-old client Marion Wilson.

Spokane County Superior Court Judge Harold Clarke rendered his verdict through an Ethiopian language interpreter, Northwest News Network reported.

The judge said that Aseged's actions met the definition of criminal negligence, but he couldn't find that the vinegar was wielded as a weapon — a requirement for conviction based on a previous Supreme Court finding. Clarke also noted that when Aseged gave Wilson the vinegar, she was 13 hours into a 16-hour double-shift.

— From wire reports

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# Woods' St. Andrews moments go past wins

Associated Press

The greatest feat of Tiger Woods at St. Andrews was never captured on television.

There was nothing extraordinary about his victory in the 2005 British Open. It was the second claret jug Woods won on the Old Course, cementing an affection so deep for St. Andrews that he was never going to miss it this year as long as he could walk.

Woods never trailed over the final 63 holes. He led by as many as six shots in the final round and won by five. Still, he knew right away that Sunday was going to be special based on the practice range.

Starting his warm-up of full swings with a wedge, his first shot hit the wooden 100-yard sign.

And then he did it again. And again. And again.

"Four straight times," Woods said in an interview later that year with The Associated Press. "I hit a couple of little wedges to loosen up, then hit to the sign. Peppered it four straight times in the air on the right zero — not the middle zero, the right zero."

The story gets better.

Standing behind him was Hank Haney, his swing coach at the time, who watched quietly before leaning in to give some advice to caddie Steve Williams.

"He hit that sign four times in a row — and five out of eight," Williams said. "Hank says to me, 'The first time he gets inside 100 yards, you might want to tell him to aim away from the flag.'"

Williams laughed. Except that it wasn't a joke.

"First time I'm inside 100 yards is on No. 6," Woods said. "I had 98 yards to the hole. What happens? I one-hop it off the flag and it spins off the shelf."

Whether he can summon moments like that again are doubtful given his age and the nature of his injuries. If the four knee surgeries and five back surgeries were not enough, Woods shattered bones in his right leg and ankle in a February 2021 car crash in Los Angeles. He said doctors briefly considered amputation.

Fourteen months later, he took on the toughest walk in championship golf at the Masters and competed well enough to make the cut. He didn't know in April how much he could play the rest of the year — so much remains unknown — except that it would include St. Andrews.

"It's my favorite golf course in the world," Woods said, strong words from a Californian who delivered the most dominant performance in a major at Pebble Beach and who has five Masters green jackets from Augusta National.

The Old Course is special to so many others before him, from Bobby Jones to Jack Nicklaus, and it helps to have experienced that moment standing in front of the Royal & Ancient clubhouse holding a silver claret jug and being introduced as the "champion golfer of the year."

But the memories he created extend to one moment that took him a century back in time, during a practice round in 2000 when he won to complete the career Grand Slam.

The goal that week was to add to the histo-

ry at the home of golf. On the eve of the Open, Woods had a chance to relive history.

He was on the 352-yard ninth hole during a practice round Wednesday when his swing coach, Butch Harmon, gave him a replica of the gutta-percha golf ball used more than a century earlier. It was a brown, molded rubber ball with score lines across the surface.

The gutta-percha was the first game-changer in golf — yes, technology in the Royal & Ancient game began long before titanium and the Pro V1 — replacing a ball consisting of feathers packed into a pouch.

Woods couldn't resist.

After hitting driver to the front edge of the green, he smacked the gutta-percha replica and still had 120 yards remaining. Woods hit a full 5-iron just over the back. He made par.

And then he went on to make his own brand of history that year, winning by eight shots to become the fifth player to capture the career Grand Slam, and doing so without hitting into a single bunker all week on the Old Course.

This is the history that is so appealing to him, along with the names on the base of that silver claret jug, a trophy that first was awarded 150 years ago.

Woods is among only five players who have won the Open twice at St. Andrews. No one has done it three times and the odds are not in his favor. Even so, there is something magical about the gray old town, and there is a part of Woods who believes it might be his best chance, even on only one good wheel.

## Ohtani a two-way All-Star again; 6 Yankees make it

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a city of stars, the Angels' Shohei Ohtani and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw will be in the spotlight July 19 at Dodger Stadium.

"I think it's been a couple of years since I got to compete in an All-Star Game, and something about Dodger Stadium, too, is special," Kershaw said after pitchers and reserves were announced Sunday. "I don't take that for granted. Like I said before, I hope I didn't take anybody's spot that was more deserving than me, but now that it's official and I get to do it, I am very excited about it."

cited about it."

A year after he became the first two-way All-Star, Ohtani was picked for the American League pitching staff as a Major League Baseball selection, two days after he was elected by fans to start at designated hitter.

Kershaw, 6-2 with a 2.40 ERA, and pitcher Tony Gonsolin were chosen from the host Dodgers, joining starting outfielder Mookie Betts and shortstop Trea Turner. Kershaw was picked by MLB and is a favorite to open on the mound for the NL, which has lost eight straight All-Star Games and 20 of the last 23 played to a decision.

"I'm going to try to take it all in as best I can," said the 34-year-old left-hander, a three-time Cy Young Award winner. "As the years go by, you start to appreciate things a bit more, so every time I get to pitch at Dodger Stadium, every time we get a win, every time something significant happens, I try to take it in a little bit more now."

Pitchers Clay Holmes, Gerrit Cole and Nestor Cortes made the AL team from the Yankees along with catcher Jose Trevino, giving New York six All-Stars for the first time since 2011. Outfielders Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stan-

ton were elected to start.

Defending AL champion Houston has five All-Stars, with pitchers Justin Verlander and Framber Valdez, outfielder Kyle Tucker and designated hitter Yordan Alvarez selected along with starting second baseman Jose Altuve. Alvarez went on the injured list Sunday because of right hand inflammation.

World Series champion Atlanta also has five. Pitcher Max Fried, catcher Travis d'Arnaud, shortstop Dansby Swanson and DH William Contreras joined outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr., who was elected by fans..



# Griner's name talk of WNBA All-Star Game

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Brittney Griner was everywhere Sunday — before, during and after the WNBA All-Star Game.

Everywhere except where the league's best players felt she should be — playing alongside them on the court.

A'ja Wilson, Breanna Stewart and the rest of the WNBA All-Stars wore Griner's name and her No. 42 on the back of their jerseys for the second half of Team Wilson's 134-112 victory over Team Stewart. It was another moment in the league's continued push for Griner's release from her detention in Russia.

"BG's one of us. She's our sister," Wilson said, "and at the end of the day, we're going to do whatever we can to amplify the platform that we have to make sure that everyone is doing what they need to do to make sure that she gets home safely."

Griner, 31, has been detained since February after police at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage. The eight-time All-Star pleaded guilty Thursday to drug possession charges that could see a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

Griner was announced as an honorary All-Star starter before Sunday's game, drawing cheers from the crowd of 9,572 at

the home of the defending champion Sky. The players lined up along the sideline to show off their Griner jerseys before the start of the second half.

Team Wilson guards Sabrina Ionescu and Courtney Vandersloot hugged Chelle Griner, Brittney's wife, before play resumed.

"We just wanted to make sure at some point that we were able to, on national television, obviously in front of a [big] crowd, put Brittney's name in the forefront," Seattle Storm guard Sue Bird said. "That was our way of honoring her."

It was the last All-Star Game for Bird and Sylvia Fowles, two pillars of the league who plan to retire after this season. Fowles had the day's biggest highlight, picking up a steal and throwing down a dunk for Team Wilson with 4:04 left in the first half.

"It was just in the moment," Fowles said. "I didn't really think about it."

Bird received a huge ovation when she checked out with 2:10 left, and acknowledged the cheers with a wave.

Las Vegas Aces guard Kelsey Plum was named MVP after she scored 30 points for Team Wilson in her first All-Star appearance. Sabrina Ionescu had 19 points, six assists and six rebounds, and Chicago Sky forward Candace Parker finished with 15 points and eight boards.

Plum matched the league's All-Star Game scoring record. Maya Moore also scored 30 points in 2015.

"What a way to send off Syl and Sue," Plum said. "I think for me, I just personally wanted to go out and have a ton of fun."

Jonquel Jones, the reigning WNBA MVP who plays for the Connecticut Sun, had 29 points and 13 rebounds for Team Stewart. Jones also made the game's first 4-point shot with 7:04 left in the first quarter.

"I practiced them yesterday and shot it a lot in the warm-ups," Jones said. "I felt comfortable and confident shooting them."

It was the first WNBA All-Star Game in Chicago, and the league landed in the Windy City at perhaps its strongest position since it began play in 1997. Viewership is up, some major corporate partners have signed on and a wave of promising young stars such as Wilson, Ionescu and Plum are moving to the forefront.

Commissioner Cathy Engelbert announced this year's WNBA Finals teams will travel on charter flights, and the league is increasing its postseason bonus pools by almost 50% to \$500,000. Next season will be extended to 40 games, up from 36 this year, and Engelbert said the league has been meeting with potential ownership groups for expansion teams.

## Elliott holds off LaJoie's charge for 1st Atlanta win

Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — With the home crowd cheering his every move, Chase Elliott wanted this win so badly.

He saw Corey LaJoie coming up quickly in the rearview mirror.

No way Elliott was letting him by.

The Georgia-born driver powered past the upset-minded LaJoie with just under two laps to go and crossed the finish line under yellow after a big block sent LaJoie smashing into the wall Sunday at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

It was Elliott's first NASCAR Cup victory at what he considers his home track after coming up short on his first eight tries.

"I've witnessed guys win at

their home track, and you could tell it meant a lot to them," Elliott said. "But until you start competing at the sport's highest stage, you don't truly understand what it can mean for you. To have this moment is so special and one I'm grateful for."

Elliott pulled back around in front of the main grandstand, greeted by a boisterous ovation from fans who cheered loudly every time he went to the front and seemingly stretched all the way to Dawsonville, the north Georgia town that produced the winner and his father, longtime NASCAR Cup star Bill Elliott.

"Awesome Bill From Dawsonville" won five times at the historic Atlanta track.

Now, his kid has one, too.

The Elliotts are the only Ge-

orgia-born drivers to win a Cup race in Atlanta. They are the third father-son duo to take the checkered flag at the 1.54-mile trioval, joining the Jarretts (Ned and Dale) and the Earnhardts (Dale and Dale Jr.).

The wild capper to another eventful Atlanta race denied LaJoie the first victory of his career, which would've been a huge shocker for the low-budget Spire Motorsports team.

On a restart with three laps to go, LaJoie led the field from the inside lane and did everything he could to hold off Elliott. But, after they crossed the start-finish line for the next-to-last time, Elliott surged to the lead on the outside with a helpful push from Erik Jones.

LaJoie was setting up a good

run on the leader as they took the white flag, looking to pass Elliott in the same spot where he gave up the lead.

Elliott slid up the banking to cut off his challenger. LaJoie, who has only one top-five finish in his career, ran out of room and smashed the outside wall.

Ross Chastain looked to make a move on Elliott, but the yellow lights flashed with No. 9 still nearly a car length ahead.

That was it. Elliott could finally relax, becoming the first three-time winner in a season that has produced 13 different winners.

Chastain was the runner-up, followed by Austin Cindric, Jones and Ryan Blaney.

LaJoie settled for the 21st spot.

# Dodgers roar back, sweep Cubs

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers have reached the point in their latest roll when a five-run deficit and the early exit of a 20-game winner don't even seem like particularly daunting obstacles.

"We weren't going to be denied today," manager Dave Roberts said. "I just had a feeling we were going to come out on top."

Indeed, the Dodgers did it again Sunday — just as they did on nearly every day of their stellar homestand.

Freddie Freeman went 4-for-5 with a homer and two RBIs, and the top team in the National League rallied from a pair of huge early deficits for its seventh consecutive victory, 11-9 over the Chicago Cubs.

Trea Turner and Will Smith also drove in two runs apiece as Los Angeles finished 10-1 on a homestand for the first time since 1980 despite falling behind 5-0 in the first inning and 8-3 in the third. Gavin Lux reached base four times while the team surged from behind early and eventually held on to win its final home game before hosting Dodger Stadium's first All-Star Game in 42 years.

"This homestand, it's the best baseball we've played in the past couple of years," Roberts said. "It's Dodger baseball."

With a seventh straight win over the Cubs, Los Angeles swept its season series with Chicago for the first time in the venerable NL franchises' history. The Dodgers beat the Cubs for the 10th straight time overall, matching the longest winning streak in this rivalry since 1947, and swept a four-game series with Chicago at Chavez Ravine for the first time since 1965.

**Red Sox 11, Yankees 6:** Jeter Downs' bases-loaded blooper against Aroldis Chapman dropped in off second baseman DJ LeMahieu's glove to break a sixth-inning tie, and host Boston scored nine unanswered runs to rally past New York.

After losing the first two games of the series and falling 16 games behind the first-place Yankees in the AL East, the Red Sox won the last two to manage a split. And they did it with a pair of comebacks sparked by Downs, a 23-year-old rookie named after former New York shortstop Derek Jeter who was supposed to start in Triple-A on Saturday but was scratched so he could head to Fenway Park.

J.D. Martinez hit a two-run homer to make it 6-all in the fifth, and Franchy Cordero and Christian Vazquez also homered to help Boston improve to 0-8-1 in series

against AL East foes.

Giancarlo Stanton and Matt Carpenter homered for the Yankees.

**Braves 4, Nationals 3 (12):** Austin Riley hit a tying home run in the eighth inning and a winning single in the 12th for defending World Series champion Atlanta, which has won six of seven and improved to 29-8 since June 1.

Visiting Washington has lost 10 of 11. Juan Soto extended his hitting streak to 13 games — he's batting .409 during the run.

**Marlins 2, Mets 0 (10):** Sandy Alcantara allowed six hits in seven innings and extended his shutout streak to 19 innings and pinch-runner Billy Hamilton scored on a throwing error by catcher Tomás Nido in the 10th for visiting Miami.

Luke Williams added an RBI single off Tommy Hunter (0-1), and the Marlins, who won for the eighth time in 11 games. Tanner Scott struck out Francisco Lindor with runners at the corners for his 12th save.

**Orioles 9, Angels 5:** Baltimore rolled to its eighth straight victory, using successive four-run innings and three RBIs by Ramón Urías to beat visiting Los Angeles.

The Orioles completed a 7-0 homestand. Baltimore had not won eight consecutive games in a season since April 22 to May 1, 2005.

**Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2:** Connor Joe drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single off All-Star Joe Mantiplay in the seventh and Colorado rallied from a 2-0 deficit to take three of four from Arizona for a rare road series win.

The Rockies took advantage of third baseman Josh Rojas' throwing error on a potential-inning-ending, double-play grounder to score three unearned runs in the seventh. Colorado arrived in the desert with a major league-worst 12-26 road record.

**Twins 6, Rangers 5:** Ryan Jeffers broke a 4-4 tie with a sixth-inning homer and visiting Minnesota avoided a three-game sweep. Jeffers was 5-for-8 in the series with four RBIs and two of his seven homers this season.

Byron Buxton hit his 23rd homer for the Twins, who opened a 4½-game lead over Cleveland in the AL Central and avoided what would have been their first four-game skid this season.

**White Sox 4, Tigers 2:** Left fielder Robbie Grossman dropped Luis Robert's short fly with two outs in the eighth to end his record errorless streak at 440 games since June 13, 2018, leading to two unearned runs

for host Chicago.

Pinch-hitter A.J. Pollock's two-out single broke a 2-2 tie, and Eloy Jiménez followed with a run-scoring single.

**Mariners 6, Blue Jays 5:** Toronto first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had a throw bust through the webbing of his glove and host Seattle took advantage for its eighth straight win, boosted by Carlos Santana's two home runs.

A day after Santana hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning for a 2-1 win, he connected for a go-ahead, two-run drive in the eighth off Adam Cimber (8-3). The Mariners are 16-3 for their best 19-game stretch since 2003.

**Reds 10, Rays 5:** Mike Moustakas, Tyler Stephenson and Jonathan India each hit a two-run homer in the third and host Cincinnati finished for a three-game sweep that extended its winning streak to four.

Randy Arozarena, Josh Lowe and René Pinto homered for Tampa Bay.

**Royals 5, Guardians 1:** Zack Greinke (3-5) pitched five scoreless innings of three-hit ball and combined with four relievers on a five-hitter for host Kansas City.

Greinke struck out five and walked one in his 222nd win.

**Giants 12, Padres 0:** Alex Wood (6-7) took a no-hit bid into the sixth before rookie C.J. Abrams singled, and Wilmer Flores had two home runs among his four hits and four RBIs for visiting San Francisco.

Wood went seven innings, allowing three singles while striking out eight and walking one.

**Cardinals 4, Phillies 3:** Albert Pujols hit his 684th homer and Tommy Edman drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly for host St. Louis in the eighth.

Pujols, who singled to start the go-ahead rally, has 1,377 extra-base hits to tie Stan Musial for third.

Kyle Schwarber hit his NL-leading 28th homer for Philadelphia.

**Pirates 8, Brewers 6:** Touted rookie Oneil Cruz hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth and Daniel Vogelbach added a three-run shot in the ninth for visiting Pittsburgh.

Michael Chavis and Ke'Bryan Hayes also went deep for the Pirates, who took two of three from the NL Central leaders.

**Astros 6, Athletics 1:** Corey Lee got his first three hits in the major leagues and drove in three runs, and All-Star outfielder Kyle Tucker hit his 17th home run, helping visiting Houston to its 11th victory in 13 games.