

US sub visits S. Korea amid North threats

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A U.S. Navy fast-attack submarine arrived at South Korea's southern island of Jeju on Monday, nearly a week after another U.S. submarine sailed into the country in response to North Korea's ballistic missile tests.

Hours after the sub's arrival, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into its eastern sea, South Korea's military said Tuesday, adding to a recent streak in weapons testing that is apparently in protest of the U.S. sending major naval assets to South Korea in a show of force.

In its third round of launches since last week, North Korea fired the missiles consecutively between around 11:55 p.m. local time Monday and midnight from an area near its capital, Pyongyang, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. It said both missiles traveled around 248 miles before landing in waters off the Korean Peninsula's eastern coast and that the South Korean and U.S. intelligence agencies were analyzing the launches.

Japan's Coast Guard said the missiles

were already believed to have landed but still urged vessels in affected areas to watch out for falling debris.

The launches came hours after the USS Annapolis, a Los Angeles-class submarine, sailed into South Korea's Jeju Naval Base to replenish its ordnance, South Korean navy spokesman Jang Do-young told reporters Monday during a Ministry of National Defense briefing in Seoul.

The Annapolis is the third U.S. submarine reported to have visited the country so far this year, behind two larger, Ohio-class boats.

The USS Kentucky, a ballistic-missile submarine capable of carrying nuclear weapons, arrived July 18, and the USS Michigan, a guided-missile submarine, arrived June 16. Both submarines docked at Busan, the largest port in South Korea.

The Annapolis is one of 28 Los Angeles-class submarines in active service and is crewed by 143 sailors, according to the Navy's website. It was commissioned in 1992 and is homeported at Naval Base Guam.

The boat is equipped with 12 vertical launch system tubes that fire Tomahawk cruise missiles and four tubes that fire

MK-48 torpedoes, according to the Navy. It last visited South Korea in September for an anti-submarine drill with South Korean and Japanese warships, the first such drill since 2017.

The Kentucky sailed into South Korea's Naval Fleet Headquarters on July 18 for a four-day stay to signal Washington's commitment to defend Seoul from Pyongyang's threats, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in a speech at the headquarters Wednesday.

Yoon and President Joe Biden agreed in April to dispatch a U.S. ballistic-missile submarine as part of an effort to "further enhance the regular visibility of strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula" due to North Korea's provocations, according to their joint statement at the time.

Before Monday's missile launches, North Korea had fired 17 ballistic missiles in 12 separate days of testing so far this year, including a solid-fueled Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missile on Wednesday.

North Korea also fired cruise missiles on Saturday; the South Korean National Defense Ministry did not disclose how many were launched.

UN Command, N. Korea talking about detained soldier

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The American-led U.N. Command said Monday it has started a conversation with North Korea about a U.S. soldier who ran into the North last week across one of the world's most heavily fortified borders.

Andrew Harrison, a British lieutenant general who is the deputy commander at the U.N. Command, refused to say when the conversation started, how many exchanges have taken place and whether the North Koreans responded constructively, citing the sensitivity of the discussions. He also declined to detail what the com-

mand knows about Pvt. Travis King's condition.

"None of us know where this is going to end," Harrison said during a news conference in Seoul. "I am in life an optimist, and I remain optimistic. But again, I will leave it at that."

It wasn't immediately clear whether Harrison's comments referred to meaningful progress in communications after the command said in a statement last week that it was "working with" its North Korean counterparts. The U.N. Command, which was created to fight the Korean War, has remained in South Korea to supervise the implementation of the

1953 armistice that stopped the fighting in the conflict.

The contact happened through "mechanisms" set up under the armistice, Harrison said. That could refer to the so-called pink phone, a telephone line between the command and the North Korean People's Army at the border truce village of Panmunjom, where King crossed.

The Koreans are still technically at war since a peace treaty was never signed. The U.S., which fought alongside the South Koreans and other allies during the war, never established diplomatic relations with the North, but the line is a common

way they communicate.

North Korea has remained publicly silent about King, who crossed the border during a tour of Panmunjom, while he was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

U.S. officials have expressed concern about his well-being and said previously that North Korea ignored requests for information about him.

Analysts say North Korea may wait weeks or even months to provide meaningful information about King to maximize leverage and add urgency to U.S. efforts to secure release.

Air Force resumes PCS moves, bonuses

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force this week will resume permanent changes of station after stopping most of them earlier this month, but the resulting rush may leave some airmen scrambling to move to their new bases on short notice.

Airmen who were expecting to move by the end of September should receive orders at least 30 days before their departure date and possibly as early as the end of July, the service said in a statement Friday. Orders are usually issued two to three months in advance.

The Air Force on July 10 abruptly announced it was halting most moves beginning in August and not awarding bonuses due to a funding shortfall attributed to inflation, as well as spending recruitment

and retention bonuses.

But Congress approved a request that restores funding to most military personnel programs through the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, the service said in a statement.

That includes resuming PCS moves and restoring bonus programs for aviation, new assignments, foreign language proficiency and reenlistment for careers with retention shortfalls or high training costs.

The Air Force in its statement did not say when lawmakers agreed to the request, which authorizes the service to shift money from other accounts.

The temporary pause in PCS moves didn't affect airmen who already had their orders.

Airmen overseas with pending moves between October and December, however,

may have to wait until as late as next March for orders, service officials said, noting mandatory moves will be given priority.

If the delay creates a hardship, airmen can request an exception from their wing commanders and the Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin said in an email to commanders Friday, according to a memo shared the same day on the popular Air Force *amn/nco/snco* Facebook page.

New enlisted airmen and officers will continue to move, Allvin said, while airmen awaiting assignments for short overseas tours starting in December should expect to receive their orders soon.

Most bonuses stopped earlier this month will be reinstated in the next week, the Air Force said.

New app identifies drone threats using phone photos

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

One of the Army's newest tech testing groups is working on an app that it says will make American service members in the Middle East less susceptible to drone attacks.

Task Force 39 launched an experiment Tuesday on the CARPE Dronvm phone app, which uses pictures to identify drones and determine their flight path.

Task force members flew a drone along a route from McEntire Joint National Guard Base in South Carolina to Poinsett Range, about 30 miles away. About 25 soldiers, airmen and police who were standing beneath the flight path took out their phones and tried to photograph it.

"The more eyes that we can have on a situation, the better off everybody's going to be," said Army Sgt. Mickey Reeve, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the task force.

The Army envisions the sky-scanning app being used by soldiers and civilians near American bases in the Middle East to report drone sightings.

Task Force 39 was formed in November and operates from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

The Army group follows similar initia-

tives by the Navy and the Air Force to test military tech for use in the Middle East.

CARPE Dronvm is funded by the Pentagon and was developed by Mitre, a company based in Massachusetts and Virginia. Last week's app test was the largest so far, the Army said in a recent report.

The U.S. military has said in recent years that one of its priorities is counteracting the small unmanned aerial systems used by Iran and its allies in the Middle East.

"The threat is real, and it is credible," said Reeve, who recently returned from a deployment to Saudi Arabia. "These drones are very small; they're very hard to detect sometimes."

In a 2019 drone attack on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, civilians saw the drones but didn't know how to warn authorities, an Army video about the app in June said.

The recent test also had a UH-60 Black Hawk flying alongside the drone, and the app's artificial intelligence determined the helicopter pictured wasn't a drone, said Maj. Anton Swanson, the deputy commander of the group.

Reeve, who was at the command center, said he could see his maps update in real time as drone sighting reports arrived. These reports allowed the researchers to

map where the drone is headed, he said.

The task force also tested the app by adding three smaller quadcopters flying in a swarm pattern, Reeve said, referring to a tactic often used by drone operators in Iranian-backed militias in the Middle East.

The app passed this additional test with flying colors, Reeve and Swanson said. The next step is getting the app to scan a photo and then identify what kind of drone is in the air, Swanson added.

Smaller suicide drones like those provided by Iran to Russia in its war in Ukraine as well as to its proxy groups in Yemen, Iraq and Syria have made an outsized impact in those conflicts, experts have said.

Iran's drones are among the most advanced in the world after decades of development and experience in proxy wars in the Middle East, experts and U.S. military officials have said.

The app would allow a soldier or a civilian in the region to notify troops that a threat is incoming, Reeve said.

"There's no worse feeling than seeing something and not being able to do something about it," he said. "This really enables everybody to be a part of the solution and to increase situational awareness."

Microsoft hack puts more than just emails in danger

The Washington Post

The suspected China-backed hackers who breached U.S. Commerce and State Department officials' email accounts could also have copied documents and other files protected by Microsoft login information, researchers said last week.

The hack, disclosed earlier this month, alarmed officials because the attackers used a stolen or forged Microsoft signing key of the kind that the company uses to authenticate customers. With that key, they could masquerade as any Microsoft Exchange or Outlook email customer and approve access to employee inboxes.

Researchers from cloud security company Wiz studied the technique described by Microsoft and concluded that anyone with the signing key could have extended their access and signed into other Microsoft offerings including SharePoint and Teams.

"The compromised MSA key could have allowed the threat actor to forge access tokens for multiple types of Azure Active Directory applications, including every application that supports personal account authentication," including customer applications that offer the ability to "login with Microsoft," Wiz said in a blog post detailing its findings.

Microsoft has revoked the key, so it can-

not be used in new attacks. But Wiz said the attackers might have left back doors in applications that would let them return, and it said some software would still recognize a session begun by an expired key.

Microsoft played down the likelihood that the attackers had gone beyond the email accounts of targets, who included Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and U.S. ambassador to China Nicholas Burns.

"Many of the claims made in this blog are speculative and not evidence-based," said Jeff Jones, a Microsoft spokesperson.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Department of Homeland Security unit responsible defending civilian arms of government, said it had not seen reason to believe that the attackers had chosen to go beyond email.

"Available information indicates that this activity was limited to a specific number of targeted Microsoft Exchange Online email accounts. We continue to work closely with Microsoft as their investigation continues," said Eric Goldstein, executive assistant director for cybersecurity at CISA.

No classified information is believed to have been taken. Microsoft said it could see every time the pirated key had been used and only about two dozen organizations worldwide were hit.

Minneapolis backs off some arrests for use of psychedelics

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis is backing away from enforcing laws that criminalize buying psychedelic plants or using them in private.

Mayor Jacob Frey on Friday ordered police to stop using taxpayer dollars to enforce most laws against hallucinogenic plants. Minneapolis still prioritizes enforcing laws against selling psychedelic plants, bringing them to schools or using them while driving.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara in a statement said he stands by the mayor's decision.

Announcing the order, Frey cited the potential for hallucinogenic plants to treat mental illnesses including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Experts are telling us that these plants help people, and that's the business we should be in — helping people," Frey said in a statement. "With a rise in deaths of despair in our city, and in our society, the data is showing that these plants can help be a remedy."

Some researchers believe psilocybin, the compound in psychedelic mushrooms, changes the way the brain organizes itself and can help users overcome things like depression, alcoholism and post-traumatic stress disorder. A drug that's related to the anesthetic ketamine was cleared by the Food and Drug Administration to help people with hard-to-treat depression.

But medical experts caution that more research is needed on the drugs' efficacy and the extent of the risks of psychedelics, which can cause hallucinations.

The American Psychiatric Association has not endorsed the use of psychedelics in treatment, noting the Food and Drug Administration has yet to offer a final determination. The FDA designated psilocybin as a "breakthrough therapy" in 2018, a label that's designed to speed the development and review of drugs to treat a serious condition. MDMA, also known as ecstasy, also has that designation for PTSD treatment.

The FDA in June released draft guidance for researchers designing clinical trials testing psychedelic drugs as potential treatments for a variety of medical conditions.

Children were safer around guns after watching a 1-minute video

The Washington Post

Could a short video save lives?

That's the implication of a new analysis published in JAMA Pediatrics, which observed children's behaviors after they watched a brief gun-safety video.

In the study, researchers at Ohio State University investigated whether safety videos could decrease children's unsafe behaviors around guns.

They had 226 8-to-12-year-olds watch either a randomly assigned, minute-long gun-safety or car-safety video at home.

A week later, the kids were paired up in the lab and shown 20 minutes of a violent PG-rated movie with or without guns. After that, the children were left in another room

with toys and games — and two unloaded and disabled 9 mm handguns hidden in a file cabinet drawer. The guns were real but had been modified so they couldn't fire. The children were told to play with what they wanted, then left alone for 20 minutes while a hidden camera recorded their actions.

Although the guns were out of sight, that didn't stop the preteens from finding them: 216 kids, or 95.6% of them, discovered the firearms.

Preteens who had seen the gun-safety video were much likelier to tell an adult they had found a gun: 33.9% of those who watched the gun-safety video told an adult vs. 10.6% of those who had watched the car-safety video.

Russia: Ukraine-fired drones hit near Kremlin

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian authorities accused Ukraine of launching a drone attack on Moscow early Monday that saw one of the aircraft fall near the Defense Ministry's main headquarters, while the Russian military unleashed new strikes on port infrastructure in southern Ukraine.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyannin said there were no casualties when the drones struck two non-residential buildings in Moscow. Separately, a Ukrainian drone struck an ammunition depot in Russian-annexed Crimea, forcing a halt in traffic on a major highway, Russian authorities said.

In Moscow, Russian media reported that one of the drones fell on the Komsomolsky highway near the capital's center, shattering shop windows and damaged the roof of a house just over 200

yards away from the towering riverside Defense Ministry building. The ministry's main headquarters has Pantsyr air defense systems placed on the roof.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the drone targeted the Defense Ministry's headquarters, which is located 1.7 miles away from the Kremlin, or was heading to some other target in central Moscow.

Another drone hit an office building in southern Moscow, gutting several upper floors — more visible damage compared to earlier drone strikes on the Russian capital.

Emergency workers were inspecting the damage and traffic was halted on sections of highways where the drones fell.

Ukrainian authorities didn't immediately claim responsibility for the strike, which was the second drone attack on the Russian

capital this month.

In the previous attack on July 4, the Russian military said four of the five drones were downed by air defenses on the outskirts of Moscow and the fifth was jammed by electronic warfare means and forced down. The raid prompted authorities to temporarily restrict flights at Moscow's Vnukovo airport and divert flights to two other airports.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted Monday that "the intensity of attempts to attack our regions with drones has grown."

"So measures are being taken, a very intense daily 24-hour work is underway," Peskov said, without offering any details about whether Russia's air defense systems have been enhanced because of the increased attacks.

Russian authorities said that another Ukrainian drone attack early Monday struck an ammunition

depot in northern Crimea and forced a halt in traffic on a major highway and a railway crossing the Black Sea peninsula that was illegally annexed by Moscow in 2014. Railway traffic was restored several hours later.

The Moscow-appointed head of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, said the military shot down or jammed 11 attacking drones, while the Defense Ministry claimed later that 11 of the 17 attacking drones were jammed and crashed into the Black Sea and another three were shot down.

Mykhailo Fedorov, Ukraine's digital transformation minister, noted on his messaging app channel that Monday's drone attacks on Moscow and Crimea signaled that Russia's electronic warfare means and air defenses are "less and less able to protect the skies of the invaders," adding that "there will be more of it."

New evacuations in Greece as heat, winds fuel wildfires

Associated Press

RHODES, Greece — A week-long wildfire on the Greek island of Rhodes tore past defenses Monday, forcing more evacuations, as three major fires raged elsewhere in the country fueled by strong winds and successive heat waves.

The latest evacuations were ordered in south Rhodes after 19,000 people, mostly tourists, were moved in buses and boats over the weekend out of the path of the fire that reached several coastal areas from nearby mountains.

Help continued to arrive from the European Union and elsewhere, with Turkish firefighting planes joining the effort in Rhodes, where eight water-dropping planes and 10 helicopters buzzed over flames up to 16 feet tall despite low visibility.

"The risk of fire will be extreme in several areas of

Greece today," Fire Service spokesperson Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said a day after temperatures on the southern Greek mainland soared as high as 113 degrees Fahrenheit.

Overnight, evacuations were also ordered on the western island of Corfu, where more than 2,000 people including tourists were moved to safety, on the island of Evia and in a mountainous area in the southern Peloponnese region.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen contacted Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis late Sunday to offer additional assistance.

On Rhodes, officials from the Greek Foreign Ministry were working at the international airport with several embassies and diplomats who traveled from the U.K. to assist tourists who had lost their travel documents.

Key part of PM's judicial overhaul in Israel passes

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli lawmakers on Monday approved a key portion of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's divisive plan to reshape the country's justice system despite massive protests that have exposed unprecedented fissures in Israeli society.

The vote came after a stormy session in which opposition lawmakers chanted "shame" and then stormed out of the chamber. Mass demonstrations erupted outside the parliament building in Jerusalem and in central Tel Aviv after the vote.

The vote reflected the determination of Netanyahu and his far-right allies to move ahead with the plan, which has tested the delicate social ties that bind the country, rattled the cohesion of its powerful military and repeatedly drawn concern from its closest ally, the United States.

In Monday's vote, lawmakers

approved a measure that prevents judges from striking down government decisions on the basis that they are "unreasonable."

Proponents say the current "reasonability" standard gives unelected judges excessive powers over decision-making by elected officials. But critics of the government say it removes a key element of the court's oversight powers and opens the way for corruption and improper appointments.

With the opposition out of the hall, the measure passed by a 64-0 margin.

After the vote, Justice Minister Yariv Levin, the architect of the plan, said parliament had taken "first step in an important historic process" of overhauling the judiciary.

The vote came only hours after Netanyahu was released from the hospital, where he had a pacemaker implanted.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Paddleboarder escapes close whale encounter

AK ANCHORAGE — An Alaska man on a paddleboard escaped a close encounter with a humpback whale, not even getting wet during a tense few seconds caught on camera by friends and family as the giant creature surfaced right in front of him, then glided under his board.

"It's just so massive. You're puny against this whale," Kevin Williams, of Anchorage, said Thursday, a week after his adventure with an adult humpback whale in Prince William Sound. Adult females can weigh up to 70,000 pounds and average about 49 feet in length, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Males are a little smaller.

Williams said anyone who claims they wouldn't be afraid in that situation is crazy.

"If you have a whale that doesn't know you were there and is that close, that's not a good situation," he said. One flick of the animal's fin "or anything it does could be the end of my life."

Mom blames FBI agents for son trying to join ISIS

CO DENVER — The mother of an 18-year-old who is accused of trying to become a fighter for Islamic State said her son has never had the motivation to follow through with things.

Deanna Meyer testified Thursday that she does not think her son, Devin Meyer, would have taken action to travel to the Middle East were it not for the support of people he recently met who shared his views. That

included FBI informants posing as ISIS facilitators.

"I bet my life he would never do that without that encouragement," Deanna Meyer said in federal court in an unsuccessful attempt to convince a judge to allow her son to stay with her while he is being prosecuted.

He was arrested this month as he tried to board a plane to Turkey and has been charged with attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Deanna Meyer was responding to a question from Magistrate Judge N. Reid Neureiter about whether her son, who has autism, understood the gravity of the situation, given his condition.

Coral reefs bleaching as water temps hit new high

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Some Florida Keys coral reefs are losing their color weeks earlier than normal this summer because of record-high water temperatures, meaning they are under stress and their health is potentially endangered, federal scientists said.

The corals should be vibrant and colorful this time of year, but are swiftly going white, said Katey Lesneski, research and monitoring coordinator for Mission: Iconic Reefs, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration launched to protect Florida coral reefs.

Scientists with NOAA last week raised their coral bleaching warning system to Alert Level 2 for the Keys, their highest heat stress level out of five. That level is reached when the average water surface temperature

is about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit above the normal maximum for eight straight weeks.

Surface temperatures around the Keys have been averaging about 91 degrees, well above the normal mid-July average of 85 degrees, said Jacqueline De La Cour, operations manager for NOAA's Coral Reef Watch program.

DNA tech ID'd killer in 1981 unsolved death

NH CONCORD — More than four decades after a young New Hampshire woman was killed, law enforcement officials have solved the crime through DNA analysis and the use of forensic genealogy technology, the state attorney general said Thursday.

But solving the case doesn't bring with it the satisfaction of seeing justice: The man responsible for killing 23-year-old Laura Kempton died from an overdose in 2005, Attorney General John Formella said.

Formella told reporters at a news conference in Portsmouth, where the killing took place in September 1981, that the investigators' conclusion was "bittersweet" but underscored their resolve.

'Help me' sign leads to rescue of kidnapped girl

CA LONG BEACH — A 13-year-old girl kidnapped in Texas was rescued in Southern California when passersby saw her hold up a "help me" sign in a parked car, police said.

The rescue occurred July 9 in Long Beach, south of Los Angeles, when officers responded

to a trouble call and found the "visibly emotional and distressed girl," police said in a news release Thursday.

Steven Robert Sablan, 61, of Cleburne, Texas, was arrested and was indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury on charges of kidnapping and transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles.

The girl was placed in the custody of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

Cop indicted for using Taser on restrained man

NY MOUNT VERNON — A police sergeant in a New York City suburb has been indicted on federal civil rights charges, accused of using his stun gun multiple times on a handcuffed man in mental crisis who was being involuntarily taken for medical treatment, prosecutors announced Thursday.

Sgt. Mario Stewart, a commander on the force in Mount Vernon, fired his Taser at the man seven times in two minutes, according to the indictment. He is charged with violating the person's constitutional rights by using excessive force.

Kevin Conway, Stewart's attorney, said his client was doing his duty and did not violate anyone's rights or commit a crime.

Stewart, of Brooklyn, pleaded not guilty at an appearance before a federal judge in White Plains on Thursday and was released on a personal bond, the lawyer said.

— From wire reports

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At 36, Harman captures British Open

Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — All anyone seemed to care about Brian Harman was his skill with a bow, not with a putter. How he could harvest elk and skin a deer, not dissect a landscape dotted with pot bunkers at Royal Liverpool. Instead of birdies, Harman can spin tales about hunting turkey.

But there was no mistaking what mattered to him.

Next to him on a table Sunday evening at the British Open was the silver claret jug, the oldest trophy in golf, his name now engraved on the base.

“To win what I consider is the greatest prize in golf, it’s as good as it gets,” Harman said.

His golf was even better, and any reflection on the week and golf’s latest major champion cannot overlook that in favor of shooting pigs and turkeys.

For four days in sunshine and rain, short sleeves and rain suits, Harman hit into only three bunkers at Royal Liverpool, the key to scoring. He took only 106 putts, key to any golf course. Off the tee, he rarely missed his mark.

And between the ears, he was strong as ever.

Harman had his name atop the leaderboard for the last 51 holes that he played, from the second of his four straight birdies Friday morning on No. 3 all the way until he walked toward the 18th green at Royal Liverpool with a six-shot lead.

Only after he blasted out of the damp sand to 8 feet for one final par and a 1-under 70 did he allow himself to begin celebrating his first major — and only his third win — at age 36.

“I really didn’t truly think about winning the tournament

until hitting the last bunker shot there. I’m really proud of that,” Harman said.

And then?

“Just overwhelming joy,” he said. “Not relief, because you want to enjoy this. But sleeping on a five-shot lead is tough. It’s really, really tough.”

Harman was up to the task. He slept on a five-shot lead for two straight days. On Saturday, when he made two bogeys in four holes and his lead over Jon Rahm was down to two, he smashed a 3-wood onto the green at the par-5 fifth for a birdie.

It was on that hole, on that day, that Harman said he heard a spectator say, “Harman, you don’t have the stones for this.”

Nothing motivates him like being told he can’t do something.

He felt the same way when

there were boos — not many, but audible — on the first tee Sunday.

“I heard them,” Harman said with a smile. “If they wanted me to not play well, they should have been really nice to me.”

Otherwise, it was a clinic. When he hit into a gorse bush on the fifth hole Sunday and made his second bogey of the round — the five-shot lead was at three — he responded with a 6-iron to 15 feet for birdie on the par-3 sixth and a 25-foot birdie putt on No. 7.

When he had a rare miss from inside 8 feet on the 13th — his lead was down to four — he dropped a 40-foot birdie and an 8-foot birdie on the next two holes.

The surprise was that Harman didn’t have a history of this kind of performance.

He had two wins in 12 years on the PGA Tour.

Vingegaard wins Tour de France for 2nd straight year

Associated Press

PARIS — Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard won the Tour de France for a second straight year as cycling’s most storied race finished Sunday on the famed Champs-Élysées.

With a huge lead built up over main rival Tadej Pogacar, the 2020 and 2021 winner, Vingegaard knew the victory was effectively his again before the largely ceremonial stage at the end of the 110th edition of the Tour.

The 26-year-old Vingegaard drank champagne with his Jumbo-Visma teammates as they lined up together and posed for photos on the way to Paris.

“It’s been a long journey, yet it went by so fast,” Vingegaard said. “Day after day, it was a super hard race with a super nice fight between me and Tadej. I’ve enjoyed every day. I hope to come back next year and see if I can take a third win.”

It had been a three-week slog over 2,116 miles with eight mountain stages across five mountain ranges. Vingegaard seized control of the race over two stages in the Alps.

Little had separated the two rivals until Vingegaard finished a time trial 1 minute, 38 seconds ahead of Pogacar on Tuesday, then

followed up the next day by finishing the toughest mountain stage of the race almost 6 minutes ahead of his exhausted rival.

“I’m dead,” Pogacar said.

The Slovenian rider responded by winning the penultimate stage on Saturday, but Vingegaard still had an insurmountable lead of 7 minutes, 29 seconds going into the final stage — a mostly ceremonial stage which is contested at the end by the sprinters.

“We have to be careful not to do anything stupid,” Vingegaard warned Saturday, “but yeah, it’s amazing to take my second victory in the Tour de France.”

Vingegaard kept that lead and was able to celebrate early Sunday as organizers decided to take the times one lap before the finish when it started raining on the cobblestones of the Champs-Élysées. The decision invited the sprinters to fight for the stage victory — the only remaining uncertainty.

Belgian cyclist Jordi Meeus prevailed in a photo finish between four riders on the line, just ahead of Jasper Philipsen, Dylan Groenewegen and Mads Pedersen.

“It was my first Tour. It was a super nice experience already so far, and to take the

win today is an indescribable feeling,” said Meeus, who clocked a top speed of 42.8 mph at the very end.

Pogacar, who attacked after just one lap of eight altogether on the Champs-Élysées, was wearing the white jersey as the best young rider for the 75th day — extending a career Tour record. The 24-year-old Slovenian rider has won the best young rider classification every year since 2020.

But Pogacar had to be content with second place in the general classification again.

British rider Adam Yates, Pogacar’s teammate, finished third overall, ahead of his twin brother Simon.

Colombian rider Egan Bernal, the 2019 Tour winner, completed the race as he made his impressive comeback from a life-threatening crash. The 26-year-old Bernal said he narrowly avoided becoming paralyzed after an accident with a bus while training in Colombia in January 2022.

“It’s difficult to compare with the year I won, but it’s almost the same feeling because for me it’s a great victory,” Bernal said. “Yesterday, in the last climb, I was so lucky I was alone and could enjoy the last kilometers (miles). I was so emotional.”

Hamlin gets record 7th win at Pocono

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Denny Hamlin chalked up his record seventh win at Pocono Raceway — “Eight, right?” he quipped — to nothing more than coming out ahead after a hard, respectful duel with Kyle Larson over the furious final laps.

Hamlin’s take: His Toyota held firm in the middle lane while Larson’s Chevrolet ran out of room on the outside when it got choked in a tight aerodynamic situation and sailed into the wall.

Larson’s view: His so-called good buddy Hamlin ran him up the track, smashed him into the wall and derailed his chance at the win.

Larson was furious. Hamlin shrugged it off. After all, he had the win at Pocono — and this time it counted.

Hamlin returned to victory lane Sunday a year after his first-place finish was thrown out, giving him a track-record seven wins and 50 overall in his Cup career.

Hamlin won for the second time this season and also gave Toyota its 600th NASCAR victory. Afterward, he stood firm that he did not even brush Larson.

“I’m not here to defend anything,” Hamlin said. “How can you wreck someone you don’t touch?”

Hamlin passed Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon — for the second straight year — for most wins at the tri-oval track. Hamlin and his former Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch had their 1-2 finishes stripped a year ago by NASCAR for aerodynamics violations.

That made Hamlin the first disqualified Cup winner since April 17, 1960, when Emanuel Zervakis’ victory at Wilson Speedway in North Carolina was thrown out because of an oversized fuel tank.

“That was a bitter disappointment for us last year,” team owner Joe Gibbs said. “Hopefully today, that’s not going to be the case and we get through in-

spection.”

They did. Hamlin laughed as he referenced the reason for the DQ, saying, “there’s no tape on the car this time.”

But Hamlin might have to go to the videotape to see if his No. 11 Toyota really did make contact with Larson. The pair bumped and battled over the final laps before the three-time Daytona 500 winner pulled away on the final restart and won with the caution flag out.

“Damn, man, we’re all racing for a win and I guarantee you, roles reversed, it goes the same way,” Hamlin said.

The sold-out crowd — Pocono’s largest since 2010 — showered Hamlin with boos.

“I love it,” Hamlin said. “They can boo my rock out of here in a few years.”

Pocono paints rocks outside the garage to honor of some of NASCAR’s greats, such as Jimmie Johnson and Richard Petty. Hamlin swept two races at Pocono in his rookie season in 2006, and added wins in 2009,

2010, 2019 and 2020.

Larson faded to 20th and blamed Hamlin for shooting the No. 5 Chevrolet into the wall.

“I’ve never had to apologize to him about anything, anything I’ve done on the racetrack,” Larson said. “I can count four or five times where he’s had to reach out to me, ‘Oh, man, I’m sorry I put you in a bad spot there.’ Eventually, like he says, you have to start racing people a certain way to get the respect back.”

Hamlin won his 50th race in 635 career Cup starts spent entirely with Gibbs.

“He has been so loyal to us,” Gibbs said. “We went through one half of a year with Denny racing in Xfinity. We were struggling with our Cup car and we put him in there. It’s been going on 18 years.”

Tyler Reddick was second and Martin Truex Jr., who won last week at New Hampshire, was third. Kevin Harvick and Ty Gibbs rounded out the top five.

Popp’s first-half double powers Germany in opener

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Alexandra Popp scored twice in the first half and Germany added four more in the second in a 6-0 rout of Morocco in its Women’s World Cup opener on Monday.

The margin of victory is the largest of the tournament so far, with the two-time champions against a Moroccan team debuting at the tournament.

Popp scored her 63rd and 64th international goals, moving to third on Germany’s all-time list.

The Wolfsburg player quickly made her mark on the tournament after missing out on the final of the 2022 European Championship against England because of injury.

The second half featured two

Morocco own-goals sandwiched between goals from Klara Bühl and Lea Schüller. Morocco is the first Arab and North African country to qualify for the tournament.

In the 11th minute, Popp scored with a header off a cross from Kathrin Hendrich. She doubled her tally with another header in the 39th off Klara Bühl’s corner kick.

Bühl scored the third goal with a right-foot strike just 23 seconds into the second half. For the fourth goal in the 54th, Svenja Huth served a ball in off a rebound from a corner. The ball then bounced off Morocco defender Hanane Aït El Haj for an own goal.

Italy 1, Argentina 0: At Auckland, New Zealand, Cristiana Gi-

relli’s goal in the 87th minute broke a stalemate and Italy won its opener over Argentina.

Italy put the ball in the back of the net twice in the opening half but both times were offside, before Girelli’s breakthrough header. Girelli came into the match as a substitute in the 83rd minute.

The Italians have never dropped an opening match at the World Cup. But this time they faced tenacious Argentina, eager for its first-ever win in the tournament. Going into the World Cup, La Albiceleste were inspired by their men’s team and star Lionel Messi, who brought home the World Cup trophy from Qatar late last year.

Italy has had more success on the big stage, advancing to the

World Cup quarterfinals in 2019 after a 2-0 round of 16 victory over China.

Brazil 4, Panama 0: At Adelaide, Australia, Ary Borges scored a hat trick as Brazil made a flying start by rolling past Panama.

An early contender for goal of the tournament had to be Bia Zaneratto finishing off a move full of Brazilian flair. And Borges, playing in her first World Cup, was right at the heart of it with a back-heeled assist following a brilliant team move.

Brazil made an early statement by moving to the top of Group F and Borges was the star at Hindmarsh Stadium.

She struck twice in the first half and completed her treble in the 70th minute.

Rangers beat Dodgers to avoid sweep

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers were missing two injured All-Star sluggers and facing the prospect of getting swept in a matchup of division leaders when Max Muncy hit a first-inning grand slam for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Naturally, the surprise team in the AL West rallied to match the best 100-game start in franchise history.

Jonah Heim and Leody Taveras each had a two-run double, and Martín Pérez answered Muncy's slam with five scoreless innings as the Rangers avoided a three-game sweep with an 8-4 win Sunday.

"The thing I liked about it, we lost the first two games and we get down four runs," manager Bruce Bochy said. "We answered back right away."

Heim cut LA's lead to 4-2 in the bottom of the first before RBI singles from Marcus Semien, Nathaniel Lowe and Josh Jung put Texas in front in the second.

Taveras extended the lead to 7-4 in the third, and Ezequiel Duran was the sixth Texas bat-

ter with a run-scoring hit off rookie Emmet Sheehan. The two-out RBI double in the fourth ended the right-hander's day.

With Corey Seager on the injured list because of a sprained right thumb and Adolis García out of the lineup a day after getting hit by a pitch on his right hand, the first-place Rangers beat LA for just the third time in the past 14 meetings.

Orioles 5, Rays 3: Gunnar Henderson and Ryan O'Hearn homered as AL East-leading Baltimore beat host Tampa Bay to take three of four in a weekend series.

The Orioles have a two-game lead over the Rays after winning for the 12th time in 15 games.

Angels 7, Pirates 5: Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 36th homer in the two-way superstar's final home game before the trade deadline, and host Los Angeles wrapped up a strong homestand.

Tyler Anderson (5-2) yielded eight hits while pitching into the seventh inning for the Angels. Carlos Estévez worked the

ninth for his 23rd save.

Yankees 8, Royals 5: Anthony Rizzo hit his first home run since May 20 and went 4-for-4 as host New York completed its third series sweep of the season.

Red Sox 6, Mets 1: Rafael Devers homered, Adam Duvall drove in two runs and host Boston beat New York to take two of three in their weekend series.

Blue Jays 4, Mariners 3: Pinch-hitter Santiago Espinal singled home the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning, and visiting Toronto closer Jordan Romano escaped a ninth-inning jam.

Braves 4, Brewers 2: Atlanta star Ozzie Albies hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, ending host Milwaukee's run of bullpen dominance.

Phillies 8, Guardians 5 (10): Bryce Harper drove in the go-ahead run with a 10th-inning single and flashed more solid defense in his second career start at first base, leading visiting Philadelphia to the victory.

Nationals 6, Giants 1: Lane Thomas matched a Nationals record with four stolen bases, and host Washington recorded

its first series sweep in nearly two years.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 3: Elly De La Cruz hit his first career leadoff homer and Nick Senzel connected for a two-run shot, helping host Cincinnati finish the three-game sweep of Arizona.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 2: Cody Bellinger homered and drove in three runs for host Chicago, and Jameson Taillon pitched into the sixth inning.

Marlins 3, Rockies 2 (10): Luis Arraez singled home the winning run with the bases loaded in the 10th inning, and host Miami ended an eight-game losing streak.

Twins 5, White Sox 4 (12): Ryan Jeffers hit a two-out RBI single in the 12th inning to cap a late rally by host Minnesota that secured a series sweep over Chicago.

Astros 3, Athletics 2: Mauricio Dubón homered with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting visiting Houston to the victory.

Tigers 3, Padres 1: Spencer Torkelson and Andy Ibañez homered, and host Detroit avoided a weekend sweep.

Rolen, McGriff officially inducted into Hall of Fame

Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — The greatest moment of Scott Rolen's 17-year career didn't come during his 2006 World Series run with the St. Louis Cardinals or even during his outstanding first full season in 1997 with the Philadelphia Phillies, which earned him unanimous National League Rookie of the Year honors.

For Rolen, one of two players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, that honor went to an unexpected moment with his parents after he was called up for his first major league game in 1996.

"Seeing Mom and Dad walk to their seats from my position at third base was a feeling never topped again in my 17 years," Rolen said during his 16-minute acceptance speech.

It took six tries, but Rolen's parents, Ed

and Linda, got to see their son earn his Hall of Fame plaque. He was joined by Fred McGriff, elected unanimously by the Contemporary Baseball Era Players Committee in December after falling off the writers' ballot in 2020.

"I'm grateful for this grand gesture," Rolen said. "At no point in my lifetime did it ever occur to me that I would be standing on this stage."

Rolen spent six of his 17 seasons with the Cardinals, where he earned four of his seven All-Star selections and three of his eight Gold Gloves. He batted .281 overall with 316 homers and 1,287 RBIs in 2,038 games.

Rolen credited his parents for the values they instilled in him.

"I was not raised to be a Major League Baseball player," he said. "I was raised to be honest, to work hard, to be accountable

for my words and actions, and to treat people with kindness and respect."

Joining Rolen on the stage was McGriff, who made sure to shake the hands of nearly all of the 50 Hall of Famers who welcomed him.

"I'm humbled and honored to be standing in front of you and now to be part of this fraternity," McGriff said during his 20-minute speech. "When your career is validated by former players and executives that saw you play, that's as good as it gets."

McGriff, who was affectionately nicknamed "Crime Dog" by ESPN's Chris Berman, batted .284 with 493 homers and 1,550 RBIs in 2,460 games in 19 seasons. He played for six teams, was a five-time All-Star and helped the Atlanta Braves win the 1995 World Series.