

## Trump injured but 'fine' after rally attack

*Associated Press*

On the heels of an apparent attempt to kill him, former President Donald Trump called Sunday for unity and resilience as shocked leaders across the political divide recoiled from the shooting that left him wounded but "fine."

A former fire chief attending the rally with family was killed, as was the gunman. Two other people were also critically wounded.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee said the upper part of his right ear was pierced in the shooting. His aides said he was in "great spirits" and doing well.

"I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin," he wrote on his social media site. "Much bleeding took place."

In a subsequent social post Sunday, Trump said "it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening."

"In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Char-

acter as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win," his post said.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro on Sunday identified the attendee who was killed as Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief from the area, and said he "died a hero."

"His wife shared with me that he dove on his family to protect them," Shapiro said. He declined to discuss the condition of two others who were wounded.

The FBI identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pa., which is about 50 miles from the scene of the shooting. An FBI official said investigators had not yet determined a motive.

Secret Service agents fatally shot Crooks. The gunman attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue at a farm show in Butler, the agency said.

Law enforcement officials told The Associated Press that bomb-making materials were found inside the vehicle of the man suspected in the Trump rally shooting. There were also bomb-mak-

ing materials found at his home. The two officials were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Investigators believe the weapon Crooks used was purchased by his father at least six months ago, the law enforcement officials said. Federal agents were still working to understand when and how his son obtained the gun and to gather additional information about Crooks, according to the officials.

Crooks' political leanings were not immediately clear. Records show Crooks was registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave \$15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day President Joe Biden was sworn in to office. Crooks graduated from Bethel Park High School in 2022.

Authorities told reporters that Crooks was not carrying identification, so they were using DNA and other methods to confirm his identity. Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene, according to a person fa-

miliar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation.

The attack was the most serious attempt to kill a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. It drew new attention to concerns about political violence in a deeply polarized U.S. less than four months before the presidential election. And it could alter the tenor and security posture at the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday in Milwaukee.

Organizers said the convention would proceed as planned.

Trump flew to New Jersey after visiting a local Pennsylvania hospital, landing shortly after midnight at Newark Liberty International Airport. Trump on his social platform Sunday said he would travel to Milwaukee on Sunday ahead of the convention.

Biden was briefed on the attack and spoke to Trump several hours after the shooting, the White House said.

"There's no place in America for this type of violence," the president said. "It's sick. It's sick."

## Secret Service probing how gunman got so close to Trump

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get close enough to shoot and injure former President Donald Trump at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania, a monumental failure of one of the agency's core duties.

The gunman, who was killed by Secret Service personnel, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said.

An Associated Press analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos taken at the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of

the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking. A video posted to social media and geolocated by the AP shows the body of a man wearing gray camouflage lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds, where Trump's rally was held.

The roof was less than 150 yards from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 150 yards is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a human-sized silhouette to

qualify with the M16 assault rifle in basic training. The AR-style rifle, like that of the gunman at the Trump rally, is the semiautomatic civilian version of the military M16.

The FBI on Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pa.

The Secret Service did not have a speaker at a late-night news conference where FBI and Pennsylvania State Police officials briefed reporters on the shooting investigation. FBI Special Agent in Charge Kevin Rojek said it was "surprising" that the gunman was able to fire at the stage before he was killed.

# Eisenhower air wing back from Red Sea

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT  
*Stars and Stripes*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — “Who is going to run the fastest to Daddy?” Lynn Moreno asked her two daughters, 2-year-old Olivia and 4-year-old Anna.

The girls, in their matching Navy blue- and white-striped dresses, were among the people gathered Friday at Naval Air Station Oceana to welcome home four Virginia Beach-based fighter jet squadrons.

A group of about 50 family members and friends erupted into cheers and vigorously waved American flags as the fighter jets — each unit in a V formation — appeared over the horizon.

The squadrons returned to the U.S. after nearly nine months on deployment with the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean Sea. Most of the time was spent in and near the Red Sea defending commercial and military vessels against Houthi drones and missiles launched from Yemen.

Capt. Marvin Scott, commander of the air wing, said the air wing and strike group responded “precisely and, when required, violently” to Houthi attacks on merchant vessels and military ships. The Houthi rebels are using adapted low-tech kits as one-way attack drones and anti-ship ballistic and cruise missiles to attack ships, he said.

“It was very dynamic. It was something we really have not seen — for the carrier strike group to be that close to that kind of fight — since World War II. It has been a constant evolution,” Scott said.

Many of the aircraft return-

ing to the air station Friday wore victory marks to showcase how many Houthi assets they had shot down during what several pilots described as “an intense deployment.” One jet from the “Wildcats” of Strike Fighter Squadron 131 had 11 missiles and two other munitions stenciled on its fuselage.

The group’s air wing expended 60 air-to-air missiles and released 420 air-to-surface weapons. All told, the strike group completed more than 13,800 flights totaling about 31,500 hours.

“The numbers and varieties of weapon expenditures are for the most part unprecedented, especially from the surface ships,” Rear Adm. Kavon Hakimzadeh, commander of Carrier Strike Group 2, said earlier in the week.

He said the air wing numbers were about 1.5 times those expected during a full deployment.

“That hasn’t happened before,” Hakimzadeh said.

For the families back home, news headlines and limited contact with their loved ones brought worry each day.

“It has been frightening — him being part of it all,” Molly Girard said as she adjusted 1-year-old daughter Evie on her hip. Maggie Ruth, 3, clung to her mother’s dress as they waited to greet father and husband Lt. Cmdr. Britton Girard.

With two young children, Molly Girard said it was important that the stress of the deployment not impact the children. The family worked to communicate as often as possible, utilizing the ship’s Wi-Fi.

“We just had to wake up and take each day as it came,” she said.

# Marines impose sobriety checks at its Japan bases

BY BRIAN McELHINEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps is imposing 100% sobriety checks Friday and Saturday evening at its bases in Japan following complaints from Japanese leaders about recent charges against U.S. service members for alleged sexual offenses.

The gate checks at Marine bases are a prelude to changes across the board for the U.S. military, according to an opinion piece from III Marine Expeditionary commander Lt. Gen. Roger Turner and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel.

The op-ed, emailed by III MEF on Friday, states the U.S. military will “introduce one set of liberty time rules across all branches of the armed forces, so

that every service member, regardless of branch, follows the same rules of conduct and behavior.”

No further details about liberty changes or other restrictions on U.S. troops were available Friday, according to U.S. Forces Japan spokeswoman Lt. Col. Mindy Yu.

“Everything right now is in discussion at this point,” Yu said.

Kadena Air Base, on Okinawa, has not instituted 100% gate checks, but will continue “upholding the highest standards of conduct including sobriety checks at gates,” 18<sup>th</sup> Wing spokeswoman Col. Erin Dick said Friday.

“Appropriate leadership are evaluating the current liberty policy and procedures,” Dick said.

# USS Wasp visits Greece ahead of its key mission

BY ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — The amphibious assault ship USS Wasp made its first port call in Europe last week to allow sailors and Marines some rest ahead of a busy deployment, as the Pentagon works to deter a wider conflict in the Middle East.

Wasp’s visit to Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete comes more than a month after it began its deployment, and shortly after it relieved the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea earlier this month.

After months of cross-border conflict, fears are increasing of a war between Israel and the Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah.

Israel has warned that the

time for a diplomatic solution is short as it prepares for escalation.

In announcing the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group’s deployment to the region last month, Pentagon spokesman Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said it would serve as a deterrent and enable the military to respond to a multitude of contingencies.

The Defense Department has mostly kept a carrier strike group or amphibious ready group in the Eastern Mediterranean since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7.

The Wasp group, which includes the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York and dock landing ship USS Oak Hill along with elements of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, arrived in the Mediterranean late last month.

# Air Force, Navy, USMC suicide rates rise

By CAITLYN BURCHETT  
*Stars and Stripes*

Suicide rates among troops in the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps for the first quarter of 2024 topped pandemic-era rates while the Army saw a significant dip, according to new data released by the Defense Department.

Seventeen active-duty airmen, 24 sailors and 13 Marines died by suicide from Jan. 1 to March 31 of this year, according to the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. The Air Force and Marine Corps met or surpassed first-quarter suicide trends for the fourth year in a row, and the Navy set a record, toppling its previous high of 23 suicides set in

early 2018.

The Defense Department began collecting and reporting quarterly surveillance data on service member suicides in 2018 to help guide prevention efforts. The data for the first quarter of 2024 includes all known or suspected suicides—confirmed and pending—as of April 15.

The Navy had the greatest increase in suicide deaths, from 17 to 24. The Air Force increased from 13 to 17. There was no change for the Marine Corps, which has sat at 13 for the first quarter in two consecutive years. Meanwhile, the Army saw a significant decrease, from 48 to 39, and the Space Force decreased

from two to one, the Defense Department report states.

There were 94 service member suicides in early 2024 — up from 91 in the first quarter of 2023. Among Reserve troops, there was an increase from 18 to 24 suicides, and a decrease from 26 to 21 among National Guard members.

“At this time, it is too early to determine whether suicide rates will increase or decrease for calendar year 2024,” the report read.

Pentagon data has shown a rise in military suicides in the past decade, including a significant spike from 169 suicides in the first half of 2020 to 214 in the sec-

ond half of the year after the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Defense Department has spent millions of dollars on efforts to try to prevent suicides, including enacting the long-awaited Brandon Act in 2023 to let troops seek mental health services confidentially and any time that they need it, moving sailors off ships in shipyards and working to provide free Wi-Fi in barracks.

But for years, troops and their families have grappled with soaring living costs, substandard housing, limited access to child care, long wait times for medical care and spousal unemployment.

# Airman appears in court in kidnapping case

By BRIAN McELHINEY  
AND KEISHI KOJA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A U.S. airman stationed at Kadena Air Base, in his first appearance Friday in a Japanese court since his indictment in March, denied charges against him of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a minor.

Senior Airman Brennon R.E. Washington, 25, assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, was charged with kidnapping and non-consensual sex with a minor in December.

His case, and that of a Marine lance corporal charged in a separate case with attempted sexual assault, sparked protests from Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki of the U.S. military’s failure to discipline its troops.

He also protested to Tokyo of its and the

Naha Public Prosecutors Office’s failures to promptly notify the prefecture of the charges. The case only came to light in late June when Washington was scheduled for his first court appearance.

The hearing began at 1:40 p.m. before a full courtroom.

“Is anything wrong with the facts written in the charge sheet?” Naha District Court Judge Tetsuro Sato, head of a three-judge panel, asked Washington after the charges were read.

“I’m not guilty,” Washington said. “I did not kidnap, I did not rape.”

According to the indictment provided by the prosecutors’ office, Washington approached the girl in a Yomitan village park Dec. 24 “with the purpose of kidnapping and conducting indecent acts on her.”

Prosecutors allege Washington said to the girl, “Let’s talk in the car because it’s cold.”

From the park he drove the girl to his home off base, where he sexually assaulted her, knowing she was under 16, according to the indictment. Washington’s attorney told the court that the airman “admitted that he took the woman to his house and performed sexual actions.”

“But he asked the woman’s age, and he thought that she was 18 years old,” the attorney said. “He did not have intentions to molest her and abduct her. Until the time she left he was unaware that she was under 16. He did not pull down her lingerie; it was done with her cooperation.”

The Japanese prosecutor said the girl went to the park after a fight with her mother, which she explained to Washington using a translator app. Washington, who went to the park after fighting with his wife, told the girl he was a “special detective in the military,” the prosecutor said.

# Baldwin’s ‘Rust’ trial comes to swift, sudden end

*Associated Press*

SANTA FE, N.M. — The criminal case against Alec Baldwin was about the handling of bullets from the beginning. And the handling of bullets brought it to an end.

When cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was shot and

killed nearly three years ago on the New Mexico set of the film “Rust,” one question obsessed authorities yet was never definitively answered: How was it possible that live, lethal rounds had gotten into the mix with the blanks that traditionally make movie gun-

fire and the inert dummy rounds that play the role of bullets on screen, then into the revolver that Baldwin, in character, was pointing at Hutchins?

Evidence that Baldwin’s attorneys unearthed as part of a possible explanation — ammu-

nition turned over by a man who walked into the Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office in March — brought the actor’s involuntary manslaughter trial to a swift and sudden end Friday when a judge ruled prosecutors had improperly failed to share that evidence.

# N. Korea vows 'price' for US-South pact

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea threatened Saturday to boost its nuclear fighting capability and make the United States and South Korea pay “an unimaginably harsh price” as it slammed its rivals’ new defense guidelines that it says reveal an intention to invade the North.

On Thursday, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol authorized the signing of joint nuclear deterrence guidelines as part of efforts to enhance their capabilities to cope with North Korea’s growing nuclear arsenal. The guidelines were adopted a year after the two countries established a consultation body to bolster information-sharing on nuclear operations and discuss how to in-

tegrate U.S. nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons in contingencies.

In a statement carried by state media, North Korea’s Defense Ministry said the U.S.-South Korea guidelines betrayed “their sinister intention to step up their preparations for a nuclear war against” North Korea. The statement said its enemies’ escalating nuclear threats urgently require North Korea to further improve its nuclear deterrent readiness and add unspecified “important elements to the composition of the deterrent.” It said the U.S. and South Korea will “pay an unimaginably harsh price” if they fail to stop provocative acts.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry on Sunday called North Korea’s statement “sophistry,” say-

ing the guidelines would not have been needed if there were no North Korean nuclear threats. The South Korean Defense Ministry warned in a statement that any attempt by North Korea to use nuclear weapons will invite an overwhelming response by the South Korean-U.S. alliance and result in the end of the North’s government.

Details of the U.S.-South Korean guidelines weren’t available, but experts say they are largely about how the two countries would integrate U.S. nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons to respond to various potential contingencies caused by North Korean attacks and provocations. Experts say the U.S. and South Korea are expected to map out

detailed concept and operation plans based on the guidelines and review them via bilateral military exercises.

The guidelines are the first of their kind between the allies. The U.S. has repeatedly promised to use all its military capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to protect South Korea if it is attacked by North Korea, but many experts in South Korea believe the U.S. lacks plans on how it would implement its extended deterrence to its ally. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

North Korea has argued it was forced to pursue nuclear weapons to deal with U.S.-led nuclear threats. American and South Korean officials insist that they have no intention of attacking North Korea.

## Japan sees signs, pursues increased defense spending

BY HANA KUSUMOTO  
AND ALEX WILSON

*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — The severely weakened Japanese yen won’t deter Japan from pursuing its goal of increased defense spending as it prepares for the “most severe and complex security environment” since World War II, Japan’s Defense Ministry said Friday.

Japan is pushing to increase defense spending to about \$68 billion, or 2% of the gross domestic product in fiscal 2022, as concerns grow over Russian, Chinese and North Korean activity in the Indo-Pacific region, according to Japan’s annual defense paper released Friday.

“The international community has entered a new era of crisis,” wrote Japan’s Defense Minister Minoru Kihara in the paper’s introduction. “It is now facing its greatest trial since the end of World War II. The existing order is being seriously challenged.”

Japanese Prime Minister Fu-

mio Kishida in 2022 pledged to meet the 2% GDP goal by fiscal year 2027, but since then the yen has plummeted in value from about 140 yen per \$1 in November 2022 to about 161 per \$1 on July 11, its lowest value in nearly four decades. Japan’s total defense budget for 2024 was approximately \$56 billion, about 1.6% of its 2022 GDP. That budget was a 64% increase from its \$34 billion defense budget in fiscal year 2022.

Much of Japan’s defense budget is used to procure weapons and aircraft, such as Tomahawk cruise missiles or F-35 Lightning II fighter jets, and other military assets through the U.S. in deals that are typically conducted in the stronger American dollar.

This year’s white paper reiterated many of the same sentiments expressed in the 2023 edition, including concerns over North Korean missile launches and possible nuclear tests, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and an increase in Chinese activity in the skies and waters around Japan.

## Israeli strike kills at least 90 in southern Gaza Strip

Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israel said it targeted Hamas’ shadowy military commander in a massive strike Saturday in the crowded southern Gaza Strip that killed at least 90 people including children, according to local health officials. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said “there still isn’t absolute certainty” that Mohammed Deif and a second Hamas commander, Rifa Salama, were killed.

Hamas rejected the claim that Deif was in the area, saying “these false claims are merely a cover-up for the scale of the horrific massacre.” The strike took place in an area Israel’s military had designated as safe for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Deif and Hamas’ top official in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, are believed by Israel to be the chief architects of the Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and triggered the Israel-Hamas war. Not seen in public for years, Deif has long topped Is-

rael’s most-wanted list and is believed to have escaped multiple Israeli assassination attempts. On Oct. 7, Hamas issued a rare voice recording of Deif announcing the “Al Aqsa Flood” operation.

The strike came at a delicate time in cease-fire efforts. Deif’s death would hand Israel a major victory and Hamas a painful psychological blow. It also could give Netanyahu a possible opening. Again on Saturday, the prime minister said Israel will not end the war until Hamas’ military capabilities are destroyed. Deif’s death would be a significant step in that direction.

Deif’s killing could also encourage Hamas to harden its positions in talks.

Saturday’s attack was one of the war’s deadliest. The Gaza Health Ministry reported 90 dead and at least 300 others injured. Associated Press journalists counted over 40 bodies at overwhelmed Nasser Hospital nearby. Witnesses described an attack that included several strikes.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Lawsuit says teen died after eating spicy chip

**MA** BOSTON — A lawsuit was filed Thursday in the case of a Massachusetts teen who died after he participated in a spicy tortilla chip challenge on social media.

Harris Wolobah, a 10th grader from Worcester, died Sept. 1, 2023, after eating the Paqui chip as part of the manufacturer's "One Chip Challenge." An autopsy found Wolobah died after eating a large quantity of chile pepper extract and also had a congenital heart defect.

Paqui, a Texas-based subsidiary of the Hershey Co., expressed its sadness about Wolobah's death but also cited the chip's "clear and prominent labeling highlighting that the product was not for children or anyone sensitive to spicy foods or with underlying health conditions."

### Officer: Law couldn't be used to disarm reservist

**ME** AUGUSTA — The Army couldn't use New York's red flag law to disarm a reservist experiencing a mental health crisis before a mass shooting in Maine because he was not a New York resident, a nurse practitioner told an independent commission.

Maj. Matthew Dickison testified that Robert Card was displaying psychosis and paranoia in July 2023 in an exam at an Army hospital, where Card was taken for evaluation.

Dickison concluded Card was unfit for duty and shouldn't have access to guns, and said he was surprised when Card was

released two weeks later from a private psychiatric hospital.

Months later in Maine, 18 people were killed when Card opened fire at two locations in October in the deadliest mass shooting in Maine history. Card died by suicide, and his body was found two days later.

Dickison told commissioners on Thursday that he attempted to use New York's SAFE Act to temporarily seize Card's weapons but gave up when it appeared the law could only be used on New York residents. Card, from Bowdoin, Maine, was in New York to train West Point cadets when fellow reservists became alarmed by his behavior.

### Patients may have been exposed to diseases

**OR** PORTLAND — More than 2,400 patients at hospitals around Portland may have been exposed to infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and C, as well as HIV, because of an anesthesiologist who may not have followed infection control practices, officials said.

Providence said in a statement Thursday that it is notifying about 2,200 people seen at Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center in Oregon City and two patients seen at Providence Portland Medical Center that the physician's actions might have put them at low risk of exposure to possible infections.

### Court urged to reverse youth climate ruling

**MT** HELENA — Attorneys for Republican officials pressed Montana's Supreme Court last week to

overturn a landmark climate ruling that said the state was violating residents' constitutional right to a clean environment by allowing oil, gas and coal projects without regard for global warming.

Last year's ruling by a state district judge was considered a breakthrough in attempts by young environmentalists and their attorneys to use courts to leverage action on climate change. It must be upheld by the state's high court to set lasting legal precedent.

Attorneys for officials including Gov. Greg Gianforte told justices Wednesday that climate change is too broad for the courts to fix. They said greenhouse gases from Montana are miniscule on a global scale, and they noted that state law prohibits the denial of fossil-fuel projects based on carbon dioxide emissions.

"Global climate change is a complex issue that can't be solved by a judicial decision," state attorney Dale Schowengerdt said.

Instead, the state argued, the plaintiffs — who range in age from 6 to 23 — should be challenging individual permits as they're issued.

### Suspect charged in shooting death of deputy

**TX** HOUSTON — A suspect was arrested and charged with the fatal shooting of a Houston-area sheriff's deputy who had joined a search for a man who pistol-whipped a Little Caesars Pizza worker over a mistaken order, authorities said.

Deputy Fernando Esqueda, 28, was killed early Thursday

morning after reporting that he had located the assault suspect's vehicle, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said. Ronald Palmer Jr. was arrested around 7 p.m. Thursday, Gonzalez said.

Court records show Palmer is jailed on charges of capital murder of a police officer and two counts of aggravated assault. Prosecutors have asked that he be held without bond.

Harris County Sheriff's deputies responded to the reported assault at a Little Caesars Pizza in the Houston area just after 10 p.m. Wednesday. A customer who came in to pick up a pizza got upset because the order was incorrect and pistol-whipped the clerk and fled, Harris County Chief Deputy Mike Lee said.

### Unpaid bills lead to some water service cutoffs

**MS** JACKSON — Water service is being shut off at some apartment complexes in Mississippi's capital city because of long-unpaid bills, the company that runs the Jackson water system said Wednesday.

JXN Water said in a statement that it has made "major strides in improving the consistency and reliability" of water flowing to customers in the city of about 144,000 residents.

About 25% of Jackson residents live in poverty, and the city struggled for years with water quality problems and understaffing at its water treatment plants. The water system nearly collapsed in August and September 2022, leaving tens of thousands of people without water for drinking, bathing, cooking or flushing.

— From wire reports

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# Alcaraz tops Djokovic for Wimbledon title again

Associated Press

LONDON — For Carlos Alcaraz, there was one brief blip in the Wimbledon men's final against Novak Djokovic on Sunday, one five-point stretch that took him from the verge of victory to close to a collapse.

After dominating for the initial two sets, then seemingly withstanding a surge from Djokovic in the third, Alcaraz was a point from the championship while serving at 5-4, 40-love. But he double-faulted. Then missed a backhand. Then a volley. Then a forehand. And another forehand. Suddenly, it was 5-all. Suddenly, Alcaraz appeared rattled. Suddenly, Djokovic could hope. Suddenly, there was intrigue.

It would require an additional 20 minutes to close things out, and while Alcaraz is certainly a kid in a hurry, he steadied himself and never wavered again, defeating Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) to collect a fourth Grand Slam title at age 21.

"For me, this is the most beautiful tournament, the most beautiful court and, obviously, the most beautiful trophy," Alcaraz said after receiving the gold champion's hardware

from Kate, the Princess of Wales

It was a rematch of last year's championship match on the grass of the All England Club, which Alcaraz won in five sets. This one was much easier for Alcaraz, at least until he stumbled while holding those three match points at 5-4.

"It was difficult for me," said Alcaraz, who is 4-0 in major finals, including at the 2022 U.S. Open as a teenager. "I tried to stay calm. I tried to stay positive."

He did, indeed, regroup and picked up a second major title in a row after last month's triumph on the clay at the French Open.

The 37-year-old Djokovic, wearing a gray sleeve on his surgically repaired right knee, was denied in his bid for an eighth Wimbledon title and record 25th major overall. He tore his meniscus at Roland Garros on June 3 and had an operation in Paris two days later.

"When I reflect ... on what I've been through," Djokovic said, "I have to say that I'm very satisfied."

Less than six weeks after surgery, Djokovic was hardly at his best Sunday on a cloudy after-

noon at Centre Court — and Alcaraz certainly had something to do with that.

"Especially in the first couple of sets, the level of tennis wasn't really up to par on my side," said Djokovic, whose two children were in his guest box. "He had it all today. I tried to push him. ... But it wasn't meant to be."

In the third set, Djokovic got his only break of serve all day to make it 5-5, as spectators chanted his two-syllable nickname — "No-le! No-le!" — while others replied with choruses of "Let's go, Carlos! Let's go!"

But in the ensuing tiebreaker, Alcaraz earned his fourth match point and stayed cool as can be. Soon he was climbing through the stands to hug his coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero, and others.

Just under 2½ hours earlier, at the outset, the opening game appeared to portend an engrossing, back-and-forth contest — and a long one, perhaps worrying some folks about getting to a pub or couch in time to see England face Spain in the men's soccer European Championship final in Germany on Sunday night. Alcaraz, of

course, had a rooting interest.

All told, that game consisted of seven deuces and 20 points across a hair shy of 14 minutes, containing brilliant moments by both. Sprinting, sliding, stretching defense by Djokovic. Return winners by Alcaraz. When he slapped a strong reply to a 125 mph serve and drew a wide forehand from Djokovic, Alcaraz cashed in his fifth break chance.

That, it turned out, was the most competitive portion of the proceedings until the third set.

Not to say there weren't hints of brilliance the rest of the way, but the outcome never really seemed in dispute.

Alcaraz was outstanding in pretty much every way, from the basic to the sorts of shots no one else would even try. Once, he leaped and wrapped his racket all the way around his back to get the ball over the net, although Djokovic did put an overhead away to get that point. Alcaraz ran wide of the doubles alley for forehand winners. Claimed points via drop shots. Smacked serves at up to 136 mph. Accumulated 14 break points, converting five, and faced just three.

## Krejciikova outlasts Paolini for second Slam trophy

Associated Press

LONDON — At age 18, a decade before Barbora Krejciikova won Wimbledon on Saturday, she was done with junior tennis and couldn't decide whether to pursue a professional tennis career or move on, go to school and find a different path.

So Krejciikova wrote a letter to one of her idols, 1998 Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna, and dropped it off at her home in their native Czech Republic. Not only did Novotna tell Krejciikova she had talent and should stick with the sport, but she also became a mentor until dying of cancer in 2017.

"Before she passed away," Krejciikova said, "she told me to go and win a Slam."

How about two? Krejciikova was an unseeded, surprising winner at the French Open three years ago and added to her tro-

phy case with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini in the final at the All England Club. Shortly after Saturday's match ended, Krejciikova went and looked at her just-printed name on the list of Wimbledon champions posted in a Centre Court hallway — and saw Novotna's there, too.

"The only thing that was going through my head was that I miss Jana a lot" Krejciikova said of that moment. "It was just very, very emotional. ... I think she would be proud."

Even after holding on to win on her third match point, Krejciikova insisted that nobody — not her friends, not her family, not even herself — would believe what she's accomplished. It was relatively unlikely, after all, given that she dealt with a back injury and illness this season and her record in

2024 was just 7-9 when she arrived at the grass-court major.

Krejciikova was the 31st of 32 seeded women. Then came a three-setter in the first round last week, adding to the doubts.

But by the end of the fortnight, there stood the seventh-seeded Paolini, telling Krejciikova: "You play such beautiful tennis."

Krejciikova is the eighth different winner in the past eight years. Last year's champion is also from the Czech Republic: unseeded Marketa Vondrousova, who lost in the first round last week.

Paolini, the runner-up to Iga Swiatek at the French Open last month, is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2016 to get to the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in the same season — and the first since Venus Williams in 2002 to lose both.

# Tigers score 5 in 9th, beat Dodgers in extras

Associated Press

DETROIT — Gio Urshela hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning after the Detroit Tigers overcame a 9-4 deficit in the ninth to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 11-9 on Saturday.

“I don’t know how to appropriately comment on that game,” Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. “It’s an amazing feeling to see the guys happy — what a comeback on both sides of the ball.”

Wenceel Perez bunted Ryan Vilade to third to start the 10th. The Dodgers played a five-man infield, but Urshela ruined the strategy by homering to left off Yohan Ramirez (0-4).

“What a game by the whole team,” said Urshela, who didn’t enter the game until extra innings. “They fought so hard and I just wanted to get the runner to home plate.”

Shohei Ohtani hit his 200th homer and tripled, giving him 233 total bases — the eighth-highest total before the All-Star break since the game was first played in 1933.

Ricky Vanasco started the ninth for the Dodgers, but didn’t retire any of the three batters he faced. It was 9-6 when Dodgers manager Dave Roberts brought in closer Evan Phillips.

Phillips retired the first two batters, but Carson Kelly hit an RBI single to make it 9-7 and Colt Keith tied the game with a homer to left.

“With a five-run lead, especially the way we’ve been rolling, we have to win that game,” Dodgers catcher Austin Barnes said. “We went cutter up and in and (Keith) just got to it. We needed to close out that game sooner.”

**Cardinals 11-5, Cubs 3-4:** Alec Burleson hit a three-run homer to cap a nine-run first inning, Lance Lynn pitched six solid innings and host St. Louis routed Chicago in the opener of a doubleheader it would go on to sweep.

In the second game, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run single in the eighth inning, Masyn Winn and Willson Contreras homered for the Cardinals.

Lance Lynn (5-4) pitched six solid innings in the opener, and John King, Andrew Kittredge and JoJo Romero (4-1) combined to pitch four scoreless innings of relief in the second game before Ryan Helsley pitched a scoreless ninth for his major league-leading 32nd save in 34 chances.

**Red Sox 5, Royals 0:** Kutter Crawford (6-7) took a one-hitter into the eighth inning, Rafael Devers hit a solo homer and host Boston beat potential AL All-Star starter Seth Lugo (11-4) in a victory over Kansas City.

Crawford (6-7) struck out four and walked one, throwing 76 of his 96 pitches for strikes. He gave up Maikel Garcia’s leadoff single in the eighth before manager Alex Cora lifted him. The righty walked off to a standing ovation.

**Yankees 6, Orioles 1:** Juan Soto and Aaron Judge hit back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning — both over 425 feet — and visiting New York routed Baltimore to become the first AL East team since April 2023 to win a series against the Orioles.

Baltimore had been 16-0-6 in its last 22 series within the division, but the Yankees (58-39) have taken the first two games of this one at Camden Yards. The Orioles (57-38) still hold the division lead by percentage points, but the winner of Sunday’s series finale had first place heading into the All-Star break.

**Guardians 4, Rays 2:** Jhonkensy Noel hit a two-run pinch-hit homer in the eighth inning, and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat host Tampa Bay to stop a three-game skid.

Noel connected on his fourth homer in 35 at-bats since being called up from Triple-A Co-

lumbus last month off Garrett Cleavinger (5-2) to put the Guardians ahead 4-2.

**Rangers 2, Astros 1 (10):** Marcus Semien hit a leadoff homer and Nathaniel Lowe’s RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted visiting Texas to a victory over Houston.

The Rangers ended a two-game skid and snapped Houston’s 10-game home winning streak.

**Nationals 6, Brewers 5:** CJ Abrams hit a go-ahead, two run home run in the ninth inning for visiting Washington, which won consecutive games for the first time since July 4 with a victory over NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Left-hander Mitchell Parker couldn’t get out of the first inning, throwing 46 pitches and recording just two outs while putting the Nationals in a 5-0 hole. But Washington’s bullpen kept the Brewers’ offense at bay over the final eight innings, allowing only three hits while striking out 10 batters.

**Phillies 11, Athletics 5:** Tyler Phillips (1-0) pitched into the seventh inning in his first career start, Bryce Harper and Trea Turner hit two of host Philadelphia’s four home runs as they defeated Oakland.

Nick Castellanos had a home run and four RBIs and Johan Rojas also went deep for the NL East-leading Phillies, who have won four of five.

**Reds 10, Marlins 6:** Rookie Rece Hinds slugged two more long home runs, lifting host Cincinnati to a win over Miami.

The 23-year-old Hinds has five homers and nine extra-base hits since making his major league debut Monday. Only one of his home runs was short of 400 feet — a 397-foot grand slam Friday night.

**Padres 4, Braves 0:** Dylan Cease (8-8) allowed one hit and struck out 11 in six dominant innings to lead host San Diego to a victory over Atlanta.

David Peralta had three hits and two RBIs, All-Star Luis Arráez had three hits and drove in a run, and Manny Machado hit his 13th homer among his three hits for the Padres.

**Twins 4, Giants 2:** Carlos Santana homered to break a sixth-inning tie — a shot down the left-field line that survived a review to give him home runs in all 30 current major league ballparks — and visiting Minnesota beat San Francisco.

The 38-year-old Santana hit the solo shot off Taylor Rodgers (1-3) for his 13th of the season and 314th overall. He also singled and walked twice.

**Angels 2, Mariners 1:** Jo Adell drove in an early run and had two hits, and José Soriano (5-7) pitched six resourceful innings in host Los Angeles’ victory over Seattle.

Four Angels pitchers held the Mariners scoreless for the final eight innings, with Carlos Estévez pitching the ninth for his 17th save. Los Angeles has limited first-place Seattle to one earned run in the last 16 innings of this series, with the Angels winning both games.

**Diamondbacks 12, Blue Jays 1:** Corbin Carroll homered twice and had six RBIs, Yilber Diaz (1-0) pitched six strong innings for his first big-league win and host Arizona blasted Toronto.

The Diamondbacks roughed up José Berríos (8-7) to win or split their fifth straight series, scoring five runs on seven hits in four innings against the right-hander.

**Pirates 6, White Sox 2:** Bryan Reynolds drove in four runs, Luis Ortiz pitched neatly into the sixth inning and visiting Pittsburgh beat Chicago.

**Mets 7, Rockies 3:** Jose Buttó (4-3) continued to thrive out of the bullpen Saturday, throwing 2⅔ innings of solid relief and earning the win as host New York beat Colorado to tie a season-high by moving four games over .500.

# US women's soccer gets revenge on Mexico

Associated Press

HARRISON, N.J. — Sophia Smith scored in the 64th minute and the United States got revenge for a loss to Mexico earlier this year with a 1-0 victory in the rematch on Saturday.

The friendly match at Red Bull Arena was the first of two tune-up games for the U.S. ahead of the 2024 Olympics. The Americans will play Costa Rica on Tuesday at Audi Field in Washington before departing for France.

Mexico beat the U.S. for just the second time ever at the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup in late February. Lizbeth Ovalle and Mayra Pelayo scored in a 2-0 Mexico victory.

The U.S. had the best chances of the first half but was unable to break through. Smith, Lindsey Horan and Sam Coffey all had attempts in the scramble in front of Mexico's goal before the half ended, but couldn't score.

But in the second half, Trinity Rodman passed to Mallory Swanson, who appeared ready to shoot but instead dished the ball to Smith for her 20th career goal. Smith nearly got a second goal in the 73rd but her attempt hit the near post.

"We have such dynamic players up front, I think we can create in so many ways. I should have put away a few more to begin with, and I hold myself to a higher standard than that," Smith said. "I think

myself and us want more, we can definitely put more away, but it shows the different ways we are creating and working together."

The U.S. has not conceded a goal in three matches under new coach Emma Hayes.

The game celebrated the 25th anniversary of the "The 99ers," the team that won the 1999 Women's World Cup at the Rose Bowl. It was the first time all 20 players of the team were reunited.

Alyssa Naeher, the U.S. captain for the match, was also honored on the field before the game for her 100th appearance with the national team. She earned the cap back in March.

"It just means a lot to me,"

Naeher said. "I've been on this scene for a long time and I think even seeing this weekend with the 99ers here, and having played with some of those guys and now getting the opportunity to play with the next generation, is something really cool and special to me."

Lynn Williams came into the match in the 75th minute. Williams was originally one of four alternates to the 18-player U.S. Olympic roster, but forward Catarina Macario is unable to play in France because of knee irritation. Hayes announced the change on Friday.

Croix Bethune made her first appearance for the U.S. in the 81st minute.

# Furue wins first major title with eagle on No. 18

Associated Press

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France — Ayaka Furue of Japan made a late charge to win the Evian Championship with an eagle on the last hole to clinch her first major title on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Furue held her nerve with another clinical putt, having made three birdies in the previous four holes to finish on 19 under overall after posting a 6-under 65.

Furue placed one stroke ahead of Australian Stephanie Kyriacou (67), the overnight leader, and two ahead of Thailand's Patty Tavatanakit — who made a superb 63 to move into contention for her second major.

American Lauren Coughlin (69) finished four shots behind Furue in fourth place.

Heading to the 18th hole Furue and Kyriacou were level at 17 under with Tavatanakit, who was already in the clubhouse.

Furue teed off well and found the fairway, but Kyriacou's shot swerved left into the rough.

Furue found the green with her second shot, giving her a championship shot and, moments later, she was doused with Champagne. Her previous best performance at a major was fourth

at Evian in 2021.

"I am so honored to be the winner," Furue said. "I didn't believe that I could get a major win, so I am so happy right now."

It was only her second title on the LPGA Tour, the other coming at the Women's Scottish Open in 2022 when she rallied from a four-shot deficit.

The 23-year-old Kyriacou, who birdied the 18th, also secured her best result. Her previous best was a tie for seventh at the Women's British Open two years ago.

"It sucks not to hold the trophy, but if you'd told me I would come second at the start of the week, I would've been happy," Kyriacou said. "Obviously a lot of stuff worked well for me this week, so just trying to keep the same mindset going forward and hopefully I can win."

Tavatanakit won a major at the ANA Inspiration in 2021.

Overnight, Kyriacou was one stroke ahead of Furue and Coughlin, who tied for third at the Chevron Championship for her best major result.

Coughlin birdied the ninth hole to move to 17 under and take a one-stroke lead from Kyriacou, who missed a straightforward birdie chance after appearing to be bothered by an insect.

But Kyriacou birdied the 15th to move level with Coughlin. Furue was gaining momentum, sinking back-to-back birdies from the edge of the green on the 14th and 15th.

"I felt like I had to play aggressively today, but after I started playing, I was a little bit frustrated because I wasn't getting many birdies," Furue said. "After the 15th hole, I gained confidence and that was really good for me."

Her approach to the 16th hole gave her another birdie chance and she took it to stay one behind Kyriacou, who also birdied, and Tavatanakit, who eagled the 18th.

"I kept giving myself a lot of opportunities," Tavatanakit said. "I told myself to just trust myself and feel it."

Kyriacou and Coughlin struggled on the approach to the green on the 311-yard 17th hole and both bogeyed.

Furue almost made another brilliant long birdie, which would have given her the outright lead. Instead she went to the final hole level with Kyriacou and Tavatanakit.

Also, top-ranked American Nelly Korda tied for 26th in a group including 2018 champion Angela Stanford of the United States and 2022 winner Brooke Henderson of Canada.