

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## ISIS recruiting in Somalia despite US strikes

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTT GART, Germany — Islamic State militants holed up in northern Somalia are recruiting fighters fast enough to offset battlefield losses despite an uptick in U.S. airstrikes in the country, U.S. Africa Command said in a new analysis of the group's force strength.

Since April, AFRICOM has launched about eight airstrikes against ISIS-Somalia, killing roughly 20 militants, including the group's second-in-command. But while some past estimates by security analysts have put the size of the militant group at between 100 and 200 fighters, military officials now say the group could be larger.

"ISIS-Somalia probably has up to 300 adherents, with the

majority of fighters operating across northern Puntland," said AFRICOM spokeswoman Samantha Reho, referring to the country's northeastern region. "Although airstrikes have removed ISIS-Somalia terrorists from the battlefield, recruitment efforts in the region may offset some of the terrorist group's losses."

ISIS-aligned militants have been a small but persistent presence in Somalia for several years. The group is concentrated in the Bari Region of Puntland, a semi-autonomous region on the tip of the Horn of Africa.

The group is far smaller than the al-Qaida-aligned al-Shabab, which has an estimated 5,000 fighters and has waged a long struggle to overthrow Somalia's weak central government.

Until the past month, nearly all of AFRICOM's airstrikes in Somalia have focused on al-Shabab rather than ISIS elements.

Still, the emergence of an ISIS affiliate complicates security operations in the country and has prompted the U.S.-backed Somali military to take concerted action against the group. Somalia's military, with the help of "partner forces," has made a push into territory where ISIS operates, according to AFRICOM.

AFRICOM says ISIS-Somalia is able to take advantage of the clan ties of its key leaders to gain influence and recruit members.

"In addition to clan loyalty, segments of the local population likely support ISIS-Somalia — and in some cases join the

group — for a range of other reasons, including monetary, and a belief in ISIS's ideology," Reho said. "These factors provide ISIS-Somalia a potential pool of recruits."

While ISIS-Somalia remains a small force, its successes in recruitment resemble that of the larger Islamic State affiliate, ISIS-West Africa, which operates in Nigeria and the broader Lake Chad region.

That group has made battlefield gains in northeast Nigeria, launched cross-border attacks in places like Niger and begun laying the groundwork for a proto-state. AFRICOM has said the group is attempting to replace the role of the Nigerian state in places where the population is under its control.

## USS Abraham Lincoln remains outside Persian Gulf

*Associated Press*

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN — A U.S. aircraft carrier the White House ordered to the Mideast over a perceived threat from Iran remains outside of the Persian Gulf amid efforts to deescalate tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The USS Abraham Lincoln on Monday was in the Arabian Sea some 200 miles off the coast of Oman.

While U.S. Navy officials repeatedly declined to discuss why they hadn't gone through the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf, they insisted they remain ready to launch any mission in the region.

However, Capt. Putnam Browne, the commanding officer of the Lincoln, also told The Associated Press, "You don't

want to inadvertently escalate something."

The White House in May ordered the Lincoln and its strike group to speed to the Mideast. It's also sent B-52 bombers and ordered hundreds of troops to the area.

Tensions with Iran have worsened since President Donald Trump pulled America out of Iran's nuclear deal last year and imposed sanctions on Tehran.

On the 30th anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of Iran's Islamic Republic, the USS Abraham Lincoln hosted journalists from the AP and other media outlets.

They spent four hours aboard the vessel after a two-hour flight from the United Arab Emirates.

Thousands in Iran mark Khomeini's death by visiting his golden shrine south of Tehran. This year, Iranian military officials reportedly plan to guard it with Hawk surface-to-air missiles, the same kind the U.S. delivered to the Islamic Republic in the Iran-Contra scandal.

However, in recent days, the Trump administration has stressed it is ready to speak to the Iranians without preconditions.

Asked about why the Lincoln hadn't gone into the Persian Gulf, Rear Adm. John F.G. Wade, the commander of the carrier's strike group, said that his forces could "conduct my mission wherever and whenever needed."

He declined to discuss any specifics about that mission, though he said Iran had pre-

sented "credible threats" to the region.

"They do impose a threat to our operations, but also to the safety and security of commerce and trade going through the Strait of Hormuz and that's why we are here," Wade said.

On Monday, F/A-18s flew maneuvers over the carrier. Accompanying the Lincoln to the Mideast are three destroyers — the USS Bainbridge, the USS Mason and the USS Nitze — as well as the guided-missile cruiser the USS Leyte Gulf.

Capt. William Reed, the commander of the carrier's air wing, laughed off any notion the situation was stressful.

"It's just another day at the office," he said from the carrier's hanger as airmen worked on the ship's F/A-18 fighter jets.

# As Marine leader exits post, he warns potential US adversaries

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Before he headed to Washington for a new assignment, the outgoing III Marine Expeditionary Force commander left a stern warning for America's potential adversaries in the Indo-Pacific region: Do not test the U.S.-Japan alliance.

Lt. Gen. Eric Smith made the comments after handing the III MEF colors to Lt. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III during a change of command ceremony Friday evening at Camp Courtney.

Smith departed Sunday to serve as deputy commandant for combat development and integration, as well as command general for Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington.

"And briefly, I would simply say, because this is always covered by the media and everyone throughout the region will see this; if you test the alliance

this is what you face," Smith said, referring to the III MEF company grade and junior staff noncommissioned officers in attendance.

"You don't want to fight the force that stands behind me because they don't stop; they won't stop," he said.

"Neither will any of our partners, so that should be probably noted by anyone who's maybe watching this later on a YouTube video."

Smith's tenure as III MEF commander was short. He took over from Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson on Aug. 2. Terms of service in the post have generally been two to three years. In the 10 months he held the position, Smith made changes to improve the lives of young Marines on Okinawa. In November, he loosened liberty restrictions for sergeants and below by providing an extra hour of liberty time from midnight to 1 a.m. He also relaxed liberty buddy requirements and made it easier for younger Marines to drive on the island.

Smith was chosen for the post at Marine Corps headquarters due to a profound institutional knowledge of the subject matter, Marine officials said.

Clardy comes to III MEF after serving as military deputy to the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Now on his fourth tour on the Japanese island prefecture, he previously commanded the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa from July 2013 to June 2015.

Clardy said he would continue the initiatives started by Smith.

"We will respect the Okinawan spirit, their love of peace" and will continue to treat Okinawans with dignity and respect into the future, Clardy said.

"I also pledge our commitment to our alliance and treaties throughout the region and particularly, our close, strong alliance with the Japanese government."

# Afghan bus blast kills at least 5

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomb attached to a bus carrying Afghan government workers killed at least five people and wounded 10 others in the capital, Kabul, Afghan officials said Monday.

Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the Public Health Ministry, said the numbers could still rise. Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the employees belong to the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both Taliban and Islamic State militants are active in Kabul and have staged attacks there.

A wave of attacks has rocked the Afghan capital over the last week. Four bombings on Sunday killed at least two people and wounded 27, and were preceded by deadly suicide bombings on Thursday and Friday.

Monday's attack took place as the Afghan Interior Ministry has announced that Kabul is under tight security ahead of this week's Eid-al-Fitr holiday, which marks the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

In another development, the Taliban abducted four members of the Helmand Peace Convoy, a group of dozens of Afghans trekking across the country on foot calling for an end to the war.

Members of the convoy said Taliban militants came to speak with them on Sunday night. The convoy members said the Taliban took four of them as representatives for further discussions and they have not been heard from since.

# Yongsan community and alumni bid farewell to Seoul American schools

BY DAVE ORNAUER  
*Stars and Stripes*

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Students, teachers, administrators, community and alumni from as far back as the 1970s gathered Monday to bid farewell to Seoul American elementary, middle and high schools.

Some 1,200 people, including more than 50 alumni, filled the Falcon Gym to capacity with standing room in the back. Spillover spectators viewed the school complex's closing ceremony via live stream in the auditorium a couple of hundred feet away from the site.

"It's bittersweet," elementary school principal Tiffany Weddle said at a reception at the Dragon Hill Lodge mezzanine following the 1½-hour

ceremony.

It was a day of celebration of the history of the schools, which opened in 1959 for the children of U.S. servicemembers in Korea and operated on Yongsan Garrison South Post for 60 years, Weddle said.

Seoul American's schools will close their doors for good later this month as part of the relocation of U.S. Forces Korea from Yongsan to Camp Humphreys, a process that began earlier this decade.

Monday's closing ceremony preceded by five days the last graduation in Seoul American High School history. The last day of classes is scheduled for June 14 and administration and faculty are to remain until June 28.

# Mass shootings created network of survivors

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Pardeep Singh Kaleka has surveyed the landscape of an America scarred by mass shootings.

Seven years ago, a white supremacist invaded a Sikh temple in Wisconsin and killed six worshippers — among them, Kaleka's father. Now, whenever another gunman bloodies another town, Kaleka posts a supportive message on social media. Then, later, he might journey to the community to shore up others who share his pain.

He's been to Newtown, Conn., Charleston, S.C., Pittsburgh. "We've become kind of a family," Kaleka said.

It's true. The unending litany of mass shootings in recent years — the latest, on Friday, leaving 12 dead in Virginia Beach, Va. — has built an unacknowledged community of heartbreak, touching and warping the lives of untold thousands.

All the survivors, none of them unscathed. Loved ones of the living and dead. Their neighbors, relatives and colleagues. The first responders,

the health care workers, the elected officials.

The attacks have changed how America talks, prays and prepares for trouble. Today, the phrase "active shooter" needs no explanation. Schools hold "lockdown drills" to prepare students for the possibility of a shooter. Police and firefighters, tormented by memories of carnage they've witnessed, are treated for post-traumatic stress disorder. Healing centers have opened. Support groups of survivors have formed.

Mayors, doctors, police and other leaders who've endured these crises are paying it forward — offering mentoring and guidance to the next town that has to wrestle with the nightmare.

Former Oak Creek Mayor Stephen Scaffidi remembers the night of the 2012 Sikh temple shooting, when he got a call from the mayor of Aurora, Colo., where 12 people had recently been killed at a movie theater. "He gave me the best advice ... 'Be calm. Reassure your community. And only speak to what you know,'" Scaffidi recalls.

Last year, two days after the fatal shooting of 17 students

and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Christine Hunschofsky, mayor of Parkland, Fla., met the mother of a 6-year-old killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. "She said at first it will seem like everyone comes together," the mayor recalls. "Then it seems like a tsunami that hits the community. People become very divided. This is all normal after a mass trauma."

Mass shootings account for a tiny percentage of homicides, but their scale sets them apart. In 1999, the Columbine shooting shocked the nation with its unforgettable images of teens running from the school with their hands up. Today, the public follows these unfolding events through live-streamed video or tweets.

The National Center for PTSD estimates 28% of people who have witnessed a mass shooting develop PTSD and about a third develop acute stress disorder.

April Foreman, a psychologist and board member of the American Association of Suicidology, likens exposure to mass shootings to a flu epidemic.

"Some people might be im-

mune or not susceptible to that strain," she said. "Some people are going to get a little sick, some people are going to be very sick. ... Suicide is like the extreme outcome."

Some first responders diagnosed with PTSD have turned to UCF RESTORES, a clinic at the University of Central Florida that helps military and civilian trauma victims. Deborah Beidel, the clinic's director, said first responders from Parkland and the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Fla., in 2016 face trauma similar to those in combat. About 50 of these workers have been treated, most in a three-week outpatient program that exposes them to sounds, smells and sights they encountered during the event.

Brian Murphy, a former Oak Creek police officer, said he didn't have any psychological trauma after the Sikh temple shooting. He was shot 15 times throughout his body. One bullet remains lodged in his skull, another in his throat, giving him a permanent rasp.

Medically retired, Murphy refuses to dwell on the past.

## Somber return to work amid grief in Virginia Beach

The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Early Monday, Amber Hester walked near a memorial for the 12 shooting victims killed by a gunman on Friday, wondering how many of those people she might have encountered around the Municipal Center.

Hester works in the school administration building a few hundred yards from Building 2, where the tragedy took place.

School employees walk around the block at lunch to exercise, and Hester wondered how many people from that building she has seen.

"It's just somber. It's surreal," she said. "This is where we come to work every day. It's just sad."

Hillary Hedrick, a deputy

clerk at the courthouse, echoed those thoughts, saying it was "surreal."

"It's just sad knowing that some of our fellow Virginia Beach workers are not coming back today," Hedrick said.

Hester, Hedrick and some other city employees began returning to work on Monday — though most offices at the complex are closed except for the school administration building and the courthouse.

Some essential personnel will still have to report to work to complete relocation plans, City Manager Dave Hansen said. The rest of the complex will reopen Tuesday — but not Building 2.

The city also corrected past information about DeWayne Craddock's employment with

Virginia Beach. His start date was Feb. 1, 2010, and he had roughly nine years of service instead of the 15 that officials previously reported, Hill said.

John Sutton, the school system's coordinator of policy and constituent services, said his building was quiet on Monday morning. He was one of hundreds of division employees at a 9 a.m. vigil outside their building.

Yellow tape around Building 2 was visible, as was the memorial for the victims.

"You feel bad for those people who were truly affected," Sutton said before the vigil. "You have to help where you can."

As people walked to the gathering they passed Nala, a 3-year-old SPCA rescue dog brought by Nancy Liette, a pro-

curement assistant.

"She's just here to spread some love today," Liette said.

Thousands of city workers also gathered across town at the Convention Center on Monday. The city manager was expected to talk to the crowd, and it'll give city employees the chance to grieve together.

"This is simply step one to wrap our minds and hearts around this senseless tragedy," a city spokeswoman said in an email. "A time to give one another a 'group hug.'"

Wesley Brown, 26, said counselors inside the Convention Center are discussing ways to cope with the tragedy.

"They told us to try to get back to our normal activity," said Brown, a public works employee.

# Trump, first lady meet with the queen

Associated Press

LONDON — President Donald Trump met with Queen Elizabeth II on Monday during a three-day visit to Britain meant to strengthen ties between the two nations, although the trip was immediately at risk of being overshadowed by Brexit turmoil and Trump's feud with London's mayor.

Trump and first lady Melania Trump flew to Buckingham Palace in Marine One, landing on a lawn where they were greeted by Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla. They received a royal gun salute as they walked to the palace where the queen greeted the president

with a smile.

Even before Air Force One touched down north of London, Trump unleashed a Twitter tirade against London Mayor Sadiq Khan, leader of the world city where Trump will stay for two nights while partaking in a state visit full of pomp and circumstance.

The move came after a newspaper column in which Khan said Trump did not deserve red carpet treatment in Britain and was "one of the most egregious examples of a growing global threat" from the far-right to liberal democracy.

"@SadiqKhan, who by all accounts has done a terrible job

as Mayor of London, has been foolishly "nasty" to the visiting President of the United States, by far the most important ally of the United Kingdom," Trump wrote just before landing. "He is a stone cold loser who should focus on crime in London, not me."

The president then added a few warm words for his hosts, tweeting that he was looking forward "to being a great friend to the United Kingdom, and am looking very much forward to my visit."

The agenda for Trump's weeklong journey is mostly ceremonial: a state visit and the audience with the queen,

D-Day commemoration ceremonies on both sides of the English Channel and his first presidential visit to Ireland, which will include a stay at his coastal golf club.

During the Buckingham Palace welcome ceremony, Trump and Prince Charles inspected the Guard of Honor formed by the Grenadier Guards wearing the traditional bearskin hats. Royal gun salutes were fired Monday from nearby Green Park and from the Tower of London as part of the pageantry accompanying an official state visit, one of the highest honors Britain can bestow on a foreign leader.

## North Korean official reappears after report of purge

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A senior North Korean official who had been reported as being purged over the failed nuclear summit with Washington was shown in state media on Monday enjoying a concert near leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korean publications Monday showed Kim Yong Chol sitting five seats away from a clapping Kim Jong Un in the same row along with other top officials during a musical performance by the wives of Korean People's Army officers.

A report by Pyongyang's official Korean

Central News Agency named Kim Yong Chol among the attendees of the event, which it said "impressively represented the ideological and mental features of KPA officers' wives, who make every moment of their life honorable with ardent yearning for the leader."

Kim Yong Chol has been North Korea's top nuclear negotiator and the counterpart of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo since Kim Jong Un entered nuclear talks with the U.S. early last year. He traveled to Washington and met President Donald Trump twice before Kim's two summits

with Trump.

Last week, South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo cited an unidentified source in reporting that Kim Yong Chol had been sentenced to hard labor and ideological re-education over the failed summit in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital. The newspaper also reported that senior envoy Kim Hyok Chol, who was involved in pre-summit working-level talks with American officials, was executed with four other officials from the North's Foreign Ministry for allegedly betraying Kim Jong Un after being won over by the United States.

## US, Mexico officials to begin talks over tariffs, border

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mexico launched a counteroffensive Monday against the threat of U.S. tariffs, warning not only that it would hurt the economies of both countries but also could cause a quarter-million more Central Americans to migrate North.

A high-level delegation from the Mexican government held a press conference at the embassy in Washington, making the case against the threat by President Donald Trump to impose a 5% tariff on Mexican imports by June 10.

Trump is in London for a long-planned overseas trip, leaving others to stem a potential trade crisis. It is unclear what more Mexico can do — and what will be enough — to satisfy the president.

The president all but taunted negotiators for a quick resolution.

"Mexico is sending a big delegation to talk about the Border," the president tweeted Sunday. "Problem is, they've been 'talking' for 25 years. We want action, not talk."

But Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard replied

Monday that both countries working together is "the best way to do it."

Mexico said it will only go so far to avert the duties, and absolutely ruled out a "third safe country" agreement that would require asylum-seekers to apply for refuge in Mexico first.

"There is a clear limit to what we can negotiate, and the limit is Mexican dignity," said Mexico's ambassador to the United States, Martha Barcena Coqui.

Barcena said Mexico has taken steps to offer migrants visas in Mexico, and "without

Mexico's efforts an additional quarter-million migrants could arrive at the U.S. border in 2019."

Barcena said Mexico has accepted 8,835 returned migrants as of May 29, and they are now waiting in the country for an asylum hearing in the U.S. courts.

Mexican Economy Minister Graciela Marquez plans talks with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. Delegations led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard will also meet in Washington.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Bill rewards firms that don't alter images

**MA** BOSTON — Companies that refuse to digitally alter the skin tone and body size of advertising models would get a financial boost under a bill filed by Massachusetts lawmakers.

Backers say the bill is meant to encourage the promotion of mental health through realistic advertising images.

It would create a tax credit of up to \$10,000 for cosmetic, personal care and apparel companies that do not digitally alter models' skin tone, skin texture including wrinkles, body size or body shape in ads.

## City resumes strict curfew for juveniles

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — In an effort to curb a rise in juvenile crime, New Orleans will resume enforcing a juvenile curfew.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Police Superintendent Shaun Ferguson said enforcement began Monday.

The city's curfew ordinance prohibits minors 16 and younger from being in a public place after 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday between June 1 and Aug. 31 and after 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The curfew is lifted at 6 a.m. daily.

There are exceptions if the minor is out for employment purposes or being supervised at a school or recreational activity or with a parent or guardian.

## Tiger muskies released into lake

**AZ** PHOENIX — About 450 sardine-sized fish with a mouthful of sharp teeth were released in a remote lake in north-central Arizona on

purpose.

If they can survive predators, the meat-eating tiger muskies can grow to 3 feet long or more and can eat small bass — allowing anglers to have larger bass to catch in upcoming years.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Services donated the tiger muskies to Arizona.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department introduced the tiny but feisty fish on May 16 into Horsethief Basin Lake.

## Video shows stun gun being used on student

**NM** ESPANOLA — A northern New Mexico sheriff's deputy is facing criticism after a video showed him using a stun gun on a high school student with special needs.

The May 10 episode at Espanola Valley High School has attracted the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico and state Attorney General Hector Balderas.

According to a lapel video, Rio Arriba County sheriff's deputy Jeremy Barnes used a stun gun on a 15-year-old boy after he refused to follow orders and called the deputy a homophobic slur.

Officials say the boy had been detained on suspicion of taking part in a drug deal.

## Officials: Wandering bison found, put down

**MN** ROCHESTER — Officials in southeastern Minnesota said a wandering bison was found and put down.

The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook that a citizen spotted the bison in a wooded area of Rochester Township on Friday evening.

Deputies contacted the bison's owner, who decided to put

the animal down due to safety concerns.

The bison had been on the loose since the previous weekend.

## Man cited for walking on hot spring at park

**WY** YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Yellowstone National Park rangers cited a man for walking on a sensitive hot spring area.

National Park Service spokeswoman Linda Veress said the incident occurred last week at Grand Prismatic Spring.

Veress said another visitor saw the man leave the boardwalk, which visitors are required to stay on, and walk on the hot spring.

The visitor reported the incident to rangers and provided a video of the man walking off the boardwalk as well as a photo of the license plate on the man's vehicle.

## Driver charged after high-speed pursuit

**ME** FRYEBURG — Police said a New Hampshire driver faces numerous charges after leading police on a chase that neared speeds of 100 mph through Maine's Oxford County.

The Oxford County Sheriff's Department said deputies observed the car traveling at 30 mph over the speed limit in Lovell. They backed off when the car neared speeds of 100 mph.

Deputies said the car eventually spun out of control and crashed into a tree in Fryeburg.

They said the driver, Hunter Coburn, 20, of Chatham, N.H., was arrested on charges including driving to endanger, eluding a police officer, operating

after suspension and operating under the influence of alcohol.

## Police say man was beaten for being white

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Police said a man beat up and threw another man onto the subway tracks in Pittsburgh because he was white.

According to a criminal complaint, witnesses told police Willie Hayes, 46, who is black, told the victim he would kill him because he was white. Police said he then punched the victim and threw him onto the tracks. Witnesses told police the man then yelled "I told you I was going to kill you."

The victim was taken to a hospital with broken bones, bruises, cuts and facial injuries and internal bleeding.

Hayes was charged Wednesday with attempted homicide, aggravated assault and ethnic intimidation over the attack.

## Rare white fawn rescued in road

**CA** LOOMIS — A white fawn has been rescued in northern California by a truck driver who delivered the rare animal to a rescue center.

The Sacramento Bee reported that the white deer was discovered sitting in the middle of a road in Woodland.

Diane Nicholas at Kindred Spirits Fawn Rescue said the 3-week-old fawn's mother was not located and she is not sure how the deer came to be on the road. She said female deer often leave fawns while looking for food.

Nicholas said this is the first time she has treated an albino during 13 years operating the fawn rescue center in Loomis.

From wire reports

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# Warriors beat Raptors to even series

Associated Press

TORONTO — The Golden State Warriors relied on a champion's heart to overcome their weary bodies.

Klay Thompson scored 25 points before leaving with a hamstring injury, Stephen Curry had 23 and the Warriors ran off the first 18 points of the second half on the way to a 109-104 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday night that tied the NBA Finals at one game apiece.

With Kevin Durant already out and Thompson eventually joining him in the fourth quarter, the Warriors don't feel great — but they would've felt a whole lot worse flying home in a 2-0 hole.

"When you get to this stage, our DNA shows up," Curry said.

Andre Iguodala, himself slow to get up after a hard fall in the

first half, made the clinching three-pointer with 5.9 seconds left after the Raptors scored 10 straight points to cut it to 106-104.

Kawhi Leonard had 34 points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors. They had won five straight since falling behind 2-0 in the Eastern Conference finals.

Curry appeared to be laboring as well in the first half, returning to the locker room in the midst of six straight misses to start the game.

But the Warriors cobbled together a good enough finish to the second quarter to keep it close, then stormed out of the locker room with one of their vintage third-quarter charges that have been so frequent during their run to five straight NBA Finals.

"Third quarter we didn't play well enough. We missed too many shots," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "They got

out in transition and got a little confidence going. We lost the game there."

DeMarcus Cousins was inserted into the starting lineup and delivered 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, and Draymond Green had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists — just missing a fourth straight triple-double.

The series moves to their Oracle Arena for Games 3 and 4.

Fred VanVleet scored 17 points for the Raptors, who had red T-shirts with their slogan "We The North" hanging on seats around the arena.

The Warriors were certainly seeing red, especially Curry, during a mostly miserable first half when they missed 20 of their first 28 shots.

He hung his head and didn't attempt to run back when VanVleet stole the ball from him and made a layup to give Toronto an 11-point lead with a

little more than 2 minutes remaining in the half.

But Curry made two free throws for the final points of the half to cut it to 59-54, then the Warriors came back and pitched a shutout until nearly the midpoint of the third quarter during a series-changing — perhaps season-changing — swing.

Iguodala had five quick points including a three-pointer that moved Golden State into the lead at 61-59. The surge continued with three straight baskets from Thompson and three more from Green, whose last one capped it and made it 72-59 before Toronto finally got on the board with a three-pointer with VanVleet with 6:20 remaining in the period.

"They moved the ball really well and were running freely," Raptors center Marc Gasol said. "Once they run freely, everything opens up for them."

# Nishikori holds off Paire at French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — When it comes to the deciding set, count on Kei Nishikori.

The Japanese player won his eighth consecutive five-set match on Monday to defeat Benoit Paire 6-2, 6-7 (8), 6-2, 6-7 (8), 7-5 over two days and set up a quarterfinal against defending champion Rafael Nadal at the French Open.

In a match riddled with unforced errors, 15 breaks of serve, but also some beautiful shots, Nishikori prevailed after a nearly four-hour battle. Their fourth-round match had been suspended by darkness on Sunday, with Nishikori leading by two sets to one.

Nishikori extended his impressive record in five-set matches to 23-6, including a 6-1 mark at the clay-court Grand Slam. He also holds the best percentage of wins in deciding sets (132-45) — either in best-of-five or best-of-three matches — since the Open Era began in 1968.

In damp conditions, Paire's all-risk tennis was working when they came back on court. The Frenchman saved two match points in the fourth-set tiebreaker and served for the match at 5-3, but he was finally made to rue his awful mistakes.

"Never easy to finish a match," Paire said. "It was tough emotionally. I'm very sad to lose this match but glad for what I did this week."

Paire hit 15 double-faults and 79 unforced errors.

Nishikori will play in a third quarterfinal in Paris but faces a tall order in the next round. Nadal has won 10 of their 12 previous matches, including all three on clay.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic had an easier time against 45th-ranked Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany, becoming the first man to reach the French Open quarterfinals 10 years in a row with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory. His quarterfinal opponent will be No. 5 Alexander Zverev.

Zverev reached the quarterfinals for the second straight year, rallying past ninth-seeded Fabio Fognini 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (5).

It marked the third time in four matches that Zverev has dropped at least a set, having already survived two five-setters.

Playing the 16th Grand Slam tournament of his career, Zverev has never been past the quarterfinals.

Last year's runner-up, Dominic Thiem, ended French hopes of Roland Garros glory by ousting Gael Monfils, the last Frenchman remaining in the draw, 6-4, 6-

4, 6-2.

Monfils had not dropped a set in his three previous matches but could not find an answer to his opponent's consistency. Thiem produced a superb winner in the third set when, after being dragged to the net, he chased a backhand toward the baseline and fired a winner between his legs.

"He was just stronger, he impressed me a lot today," Monfils said.

In the women's draw, Sofia Kenin and Katerina Siniakova could not follow up their upsets of Serena Williams and Naomi Osaka.

Kenin lost to eighth-seeded Ash Barty 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, while 14th-seeded Madison Keys advanced to the last eight for the second straight year with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Siniakova.

Keys and Barty will face off in the quarterfinals.

"It's going to be a tough one," said Keys, a semifinalist in Paris last year. "I feel like clay actually suits her game really well with her kick serve and slice."

Defending champion Simona Halep routed 18-year-old Iga Swiatek 6-1, 6-0 in 45 minutes.

Halep's quarterfinal opponent will be Amanda Anisimova.

## Racing roundup

# Kyle Busch claims 55th Cup victory

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Kyle Busch tossed his young son in the air twice in Victory Lane and sprayed champagne toward anyone dry within reach. The good times and NASCAR milestones keep piling up for Busch and Joe Gibbs Racing.

Heck, Busch might even give his Pocono Raceway trophy to his wife for a birthday present.

Take Sunday: Busch matched Hall of Fame driver Rusty Wallace for ninth on the NASCAR Cup Series career victory list with 55. He won for the fourth time this season. And the season of JGR that already includes a Daytona 500 championship and a Hall of Fame nod for patriarch Joe Gibbs shows no sign of tapering off.

So, Kyle. Why so glum?

“Am I a positive person,” Busch asked. “It’s rare.”

Busch’s enthusiasm was tempered by another race where NASCAR’s rules package put passing at a minimum and made it laborious to watch 400 miles of racing. Never one to back down from his opinion, Busch has put the package on blast all season and dodged a fine from NASCAR earlier this month for an expletive-riddled rant about the new rules.

“Stop asking me package questions! I’m done answering them,” he snapped at Pocono. “Next.”

NASCAR’s current rules package was designed to increase side-by-side racing and manufacture competition. Busch made one competitive pass for the lead when he zipped past Clint Bowyer on lap 75 and never really looked back as he closed on his first win in nearly two months. Busch took

off on the final restart with nine laps left and cruised to the finish line for his 13th top-10 finish in 14 races this season.

When NASCAR haters point fingers and say racing is just cars going in circles, Sunday at Pocono can be Exhibit A.

Even Fox broadcaster Mike Joy threw up his hands as Busch took the checkered flag: “I don’t want to say they made it look easy, but they certainly didn’t give us a lot to talk about.”

Busch, who topped 200 career wins across all three national series earlier this season, is certainly the rare talent who can make most wins look easy in any season or under any package. But Busch has been especially prickly and stood out as the most vocal critical among many drivers who have grouched about the racing this season.

It was still another wildly successful day for Joe Gibbs Racing: Busch won, Erik Jones was third and Denny Hamlin was sixth. Martin Truex Jr. had a fast car and looked like a contender until engine woes knocked him out of the race. Hamlin opened the season with a win in the Daytona 500 in memory of J.D. Gibbs, Joe’s son who died earlier this year following a long battle with a degenerative neurological disease. JGR has been the class of NASCAR with a series-best nine wins and Gibbs was elected this month to the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

But a rules package that overshadowed the finish stained one more celebratory day at JGR.

“It’s not that it’s hard to pass, it’s impossible,” Hamlin said.

Brad Keselowski was second, Chase Elliott fourth and Bowyer fifth.

## Dixon royally thrilled with win

DETROIT — Scott Dixon has had a lot of memorable days as a five-time IndyCar season champion.

There’s a good chance, though, it will be easy for him to remember what happened Sunday.

Dixon won the Detroit Grand Prix, his first victory of the year and 45th of his career, just hours after being honored by Queen Elizabeth II.

The Chip Ganassi Racing driver from New Zealand finished nearly 2 seconds in front of rookie Marcus Ericsson, who had his best finish on the IndyCar series. Will Power was third followed by, Ryan Hunter-Reay and Alexander Rossi.

Power’s performance was impressive because his car stalled on lap four.

“Feels like a win,” he said.

Dixon bounced back after failing to finish a race for the first time in two years on Saturday, hitting a wall after just 23 laps.

Earlier in the day, Queen Elizabeth II announced Dixon will be honored with the Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of his services to motorsport. He will receive the award at Buckingham Palace.

Britain’s monarch honors national and commonwealth individuals for their contribution to society in June and on New Year’s Day.

“It’s definitely a huge honor and totally different to any kind of racing accolade I’ve had,” Dixon said. “I think of being very lucky and fortunate on the racing side of things. I’ve achieved a lot. But to get recognition like that, very few people do.”

# Lee6 clinches \$1M check with first major title

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Six is certainly a magic number for U.S. Women’s Open champion Jeongeun Lee6.

The 23-year-old South Korean won her first major title Sunday, the first \$1 million women’s winner’s check ever handed out by the USGA and her first victory as an LPGA Tour rookie. And she did by shooting 1-under 70 at Country Club of Charleston to finish at,

naturally, 6-under 278.

“This is kind of really interesting how I finished 6 under at an LPGA tournament,” Lee6 said through an interpreter. “So, this is really lucky number to me.”

Lee6 added the number in her name because she was the sixth player with the name on the Korean LPGA. She has embraced the number, answering to it and writing a large “6” on her balls. Her South Korean fan club is called “Lucky 6.”

Jeongeun Lee5 tied for 34th at 4 over, 10 shots behind Lee6.

Lee6 opened a three-shot lead with three holes to play before facing some nerves with bogeys on the 16th and 18th holes to tighten things up. But when third-round co-leader Celine Boutier’s blast from a greenside bunker on the 72nd hole rolled off the green, Lee6 had the biggest win of her life.

Lee6, playing two groups ahead of Boutier, was practicing putts when the French-

woman could not make the sand shot. Lee6 bent down in joy when her victory was secure, countrywoman and 2011 U.S. Women’s Open winner So Yeon Ryu coming over to embrace the new champion.

Boutier made a double bogey on the final hole to fall into a tie for fifth at 3 under. She shot 75. Lexi Thompson, Ryu and Angel Yin tied for second, two shots behind. Thompson shot 73, Ryu 70 and Yin 68.

# Straw helps Astros get past A's in 12th

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rookie Myles Straw has got off to a running start in his second stint in the big leagues.

Straw had three hits, three stolen bases and scored his third run of the game on Michael Brantley's go-ahead single in the 12th inning to help the Houston Astros complete their second three-game sweep of the season against the Oakland Athletics with a 6-4 victory on Sunday.

"He had a very impactful game obviously," manager A.J. Hinch said. "The pressure that he could put on an opponent, you could feel it every time he came up to bat or got on base. ... Exactly the reason why we like him and why we think he can help a winning team."

Straw, who was primarily a pinch-runner as a September call-up last season, has delivered in a big way since getting another chance earlier in the week when Carlos Correa went on the injured list with a cracked rib. He scored the tying run as a

pinch-runner on Friday and then did just about everything in his third career start to give the Astros their sixth sweep in their last nine series in Oakland. Houston also swept the A's at home in a three-game series in April.

He beat out an infield hit in the third inning; singled, stole a base and scored from second on an infield grounder in the fifth; walked, stole a base and scored in the seventh; and then started the winning rally in the 12th with a single and stolen base off Lou Trivino (2-3).

Alex Bregman walked with one out before Brantley and Yuli Gurriel followed with RBI singles that made it 6-4.

"I'm doing everything I can," Straw said. "Just let those guys behind me take care of the rest. Get on base is my job and create havoc on the bases."

The A's were held to seven runs in the series with all the scoring coming on six homers. They had four solo homers Sunday with Robbie Grossman, Jurickson Profar, Ramon Laureano and Matt Chapman all

connecting but couldn't generate any other offense.

"It's been a little bit of a roller-coaster for us," manager Bob Melvin said. "We have to find a way to be more consistent. Usually when we are good, we draw some walks making guys work and get some guys on base and use our power that way. There are certain times you have to figure out to get some key hits with two outs with guys on. We had some opportunities."

Josh James (3-0) pitched two perfect innings for the win.

Trivino took the loss for the third time in Oakland's past four games.

The Astros capitalized on their speed. Tony Kemp went from first to third on a single by Straw in the fifth. Straw then stole second and both runs scored on Bregman's infield grounder. Shortstop Marcus Semien fielded the ball in the hole but his long throw to first was in the dirt and Matt Olson couldn't scoop it. The ball rolled a few feet away, and Straw raced home.

## MLB roundup

# Scherzer waves off Martinez, holds off Reds

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Max Scherzer had given up a leadoff double to Tucker Barnhart leading off in the eighth, then retired Jose Peraza on a popup and fanned Nick Senzel. The nine-pitch at-bat pushed the three-time Cy Young Award winner's pitch count to a season-high 117.

With Joey Votto coming to the plate, Washington manager Dave Martinez walked to the mound. Scherzer shook his head and said he wanted to stay in.

"I've got to hear it from him," Martinez said. "He'd thrown a lot of pitches. We exchanged some non-professional words."

Scherzer struck out Votto on three straight called strikes, freezing him with a 97 mph fastball on the low, outside corner. Scherzer screamed and pumped a fist, spit flying out of his mouth after his 15th strikeout — his most since May 2018. The Nationals held on for a 4-1 win Sunday.

**Red Sox 8, Yankees 5:** David Price finally won at Yankee Stadium for the first time with the Red Sox, backed by early homers from J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts.

**Twins 9, Rays 7:** Jake Odorizzi (8-2) won his eighth straight decision, allowing three hits and striking out nine in six scoreless innings to lower his AL-best ERA to 1.96, and visiting Minnesota won three in a row after losing the series opener 14-3.

**White Sox 2, Indians 0:** At Chicago, Lucas Giolito (8-1) tossed five-hit ball for 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings to win his sixth straight start. He struck out nine and walked none while extending his scoreless streak to 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

**Cardinals 2, Cubs 1:** Adam Wainwright (5-5) overcame a career-high seven walks to pitch eight shutout innings and beat Cole Hamels (4-2) as host St. Louis completed a three-game sweep over Chicago.

**Rangers 5, Royals 1:** Adrian Sampson (4-3) struck out a career-high 11 in seven innings, allowing one run and eight hits as he earned his first major league win as a starter for host Texas.

**Giants 8, Orioles 1:** Brandon Crawford had his first multihomer game since August 2015, and Evan Longoria had a solo shot that stopped an 0-for-21 skid to lead visiting San Francisco over Baltimore.

**Braves 7, Tigers 4:** Dansby Swanson homered, drove in three runs and scored the tiebreaker on Freddie Freeman's double off Joe Jimenez (2-3) in the eighth for host Atlanta.

**Brewers 4, Pirates 2:** Zach Davies (6-0) allowed eight hits in eight-plus innings, struck out three and walked one for visiting Milwaukee.

**Dodgers 8, Phillies 0:** Rich Hill (2-1) struck out nine and scattered three hits over seven innings, and West-leading host Los Angeles completed a three-

game sweep of East-leading Philadelphia.

**Diamondbacks 7, Mets 1:** Merrill Kelly (5-6) struck out a career-high 10, and Ketel Marte hit a long homer and had three RBIs for host Arizona.

**Rockies 5, Blue Jays 1:** Antonio Senzatela (4-4) allowed one run and four hits in six innings, Chris Iannetta homered and host Colorado won its eighth straight game. The Rockies swept their weekend set against the struggling Blue Jays to close out a 9-1 homestand.

**Angels 13, Mariners 3:** Albert Pujols hit his 643rd homer, his 11th this year, and drove in five runs to lead visiting Los Angeles,

**Marlins 9, Padres 3:** Jorge Alfaro homered, doubled and drove in a career-high four runs for visiting Miami, which won a game delayed 28 minutes after a swarm of bees settled on a microphone on the netting near the home dugout.