Tuesday, June 4, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

New incentive for Navy recruiting jobs

By Joshua Karsten Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Sailors could qualify for alternative petty officer first class promotions if they fill recruiting and recruit training billets under a new Navy incentive program likely to expand to other jobs.

The new "advancement-toposition" opportunity for qualified petty officers second class was announced in a message signed Monday by the Navy's incoming personnel chief, Vice Adm. John B. Nowell Jr.

It allows sailors in their normal window for shore duty to apply to 20 recruiting and 10 boot camp billets for the June/July 2019 application cycle.

The program is open to all active-duty sailors — except those in nuclear and submarine ratings — with at least six years of service and a score of 50 or higher on the March exam for

petty officer first class.

To be selected, sailors must pass the normal screenings for the boot camp or recruiting jobs. Applicants will incur an additional 36-month commitment if chosen for one of the billets.

Before selection, a sailor's final multiple score, or FMS, will be compared with those of all other applicants.

The score includes performance evaluations, awards, pass-but-not-advance points from previous tests, education and time-in-rank points but will not include exam scores.

"The applicant for each billet who has the highest FMS from the March 2019 advancement cycle will be selected for the program as long as they pass all special programs screening requirements," the message said.

The incentive differs from the traditional advancement requirement that couples a sailor's rating-dependent exam score with his or her final multiple score and then sifts the highest combined scores through job quotas to produce an advancement list twice a year. Sailors who fall short must repeat the process until they're selected for promotion.

Under the advancement-toposition program, selected sailors will be advanced to petty officer first class upon completion of required schools. They will also receive permanent change of station orders.

An announcement of the incentive on some of the Navy's Facebook pages drew hundreds of comments, including some criticism from those who saw it as advancing unprepared or underperforming sailors.

Still, some argued that it was a way to reward those who likely deserved more rank.

"If you're good enough to be picked up for this program you are probably ready to advance,"

a commenter said.

All of the basic training billets are located at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill., and any application for one of the billets will be considered an application for all of them, said the Navy's message.

The recruiting billets will be advertised for specific priority Navy recruiting district or Navy talent acquisition group locations and applicants will only be considered for billets at the district or group to which they have applied, it said.

Applicants were encouraged to begin the screening process as soon as possible after applying for the program so they can be eligible for other opportunities in case they fail the vetting.

The incentives will also be expanded in the coming months, the message said, "both in terms of jobs and number of billets."

Prosecutor in SEAL murder case removed

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A military judge took the rare step Monday to remove a prosecutor accused of misconduct from the war crimes case of a decorated Navy SEAL.

Capt. Aaron Rugh ordered the lead prosecutor removed from the case of Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher after defense lawyers accused the prosecution of spying on their emails, according to the ruling.

The defense asked Rugh to dismiss the case or remove prosecutors because of the surreptitious effort to track defense emails without court approval in an effort to find the source of news leaks.

Rugh said it was not in his power to determine if Cmdr. Christopher Czaplak violated ethical or professional rules, but the potential for a probe into those actions required that he be removed from the prosecution.

Czaplak received word of the ruling during a deposition while questioning an Iraqi general, who is a witness in the case, defense lawyer Tim Parlatore said.

Czaplak left in the middle of the testimony being recorded on video in San Diego for use at the trial. He did not return to the courtroom.

Parlatore said it was a step in the right direction.

"There's no way he should be allowed to continue on this case," Parlatore said.

"We're still hopeful the entire case will be dismissed," Parlatore said.

Rugh said he would rule on whether to dismiss murder and attempted murder counts against Gallagher by the end of Wednesday.

Gary Solis, a former Marine Corps prosecutor and military judge who teaches law at Georgetown, said he's never heard of anything like this, saying Czaplak's decision to track defense attorneys' emails was "contrary to legal ethics and common sense."

"Unprecedented is too tame a description for what he did,"

said Solis, who applauded the ruling. "Unwise is overly optimistic. ... His conduct has been entirely inappropriate."

A Marine Corps lawyer, Capt. Conor McMahon, assigned to the case will not be removed, Rugh said.

But it's not clear if McMahon will stay on the prosecution team. McMahon's commanders ordered him to stop participating in the case last week, and he didn't appear at hearings on Thursday and Friday.

The Navy would not say if he would remain on the team.

Czaplak will be replaced with another attorney from the Navy, spokesman Brian O'Rourke said.



Space Command nominee speaks to Senate panel

By Corey Dickstein

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force general nominated to lead the Pentagon's newest combatant command that would direct the U.S. military's space operations told law-makers on Tuesday that any future conflicts with major powers such as Russia or China would be partially fought in space.

"We no longer have the luxury of operating in a peaceful, benign domain. And we no longer have the luxury of treating space superiority as a given," Gen. Jay Raymond told the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing to consider his nomination to lead U.S. Space Command.

Raymond has spent the vast majority of

his 35 years in the Air Force working in space operations. He now leads the organization responsible for training and equipping the Air Force's roughly 15,000 space operators while also leading space forces assigned to U.S. Strategic Command.

Pentagon officials have said that once Raymond is confirmed, the Defense Department will begin establishing U.S. Space Command as its 11th unified combatant command, which are joint forces that command and control operations within a certain geographic region or functional area such as cyberoperations or special operations. Space operations have been commanded by STRATCOM, which is primarily responsible for America's nuclear capabilities, since 2002 when the former

U.S. Space Command was scuttled during a post-9/11 reorganization.

In recent years, the Pentagon has pushed for Space Command to return as a full combatant command because of elevated tensions within the space domain, especially with the increase in recent years of Chinese capabilities, which include the demonstration of China's ability to target and destroy orbiting satellites with ground-launched missiles.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has backed the Pentagon proposal. Separately, it appears poised to approve the Defense Department's request to build a new uniformed service focused on the space domain, which would be known as the U.S. Space Force.

Base suspends PT tests after 2nd airman dies

By Corey Dickstein

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Officials at Shaw Air Force Base have suspended physical fitness testing after a second airman at the South Carolina installation died in less than one week of health problems after completing a physical training assessment.

Col. Derek O'Malley, the commander of Shaw's 20th Fighter Wing, ordered the PT test stand-down and an investigation into any potential connections between the May 26 death of Senior Airman Amalia Joseph and the June 1 death of Senior Airman Aaron Hall, Shaw officials said in

a statement.

Joseph, 32, and Hall, 30, both worked as electronic warfare systems journeymen and were assigned to the 20th Component Maintenance Squadron, according to the Air Force.

"We don't know what caused these deaths, but we are exploring every possibility to get the answers we need to prevent this from happening again," O'Malley said in a statement Monday.

"We're looking closely at our processes and investigating their work environment for anything that may have contributed to these tragedies.

"As you can imagine, we are struggling

as a team after a very difficult last few weeks, but we will be as transparent as we possibly can as we work through this."

The airmen died at local hospitals where they were taken after they completed their fitness tests on separate days, according to an Air Force spokeswoman who declined to provide additional information, citing the ongoing investigations and privacy concerns.

Hall enlisted in the Air Force in July 2015 and had been assigned to Shaw since March 2018.

Joseph enlisted in the Air Force in September 2015 and had been assigned to Shaw since April 2016.

Body of soldier who drowned Friday in Hawaii found

By Wyatt Olson

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The body of a soldier stationed at Schofield Barracks who went missing while swimming Friday was discovered by a beachgoer early Sunday morning on Oahu's windward side.

The male soldier, who has not been identified pending notification of next of kin, went missing in Kailua Bay, near Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Some media accounts had reported the drowning victim was a Marine.

"Schofield Barracks authorities have confirmed the body found at Kailua Bay this morning is that of a 25th Infantry Division soldier who went missing on Friday afternoon," the Army said in a statement.

First responders were called to the scene about 5:30 p.m. Friday after three people swimming about 40 yards off the shore of Kalama Beach were in distress, said Capt. Scot Seguirant, a spokesman for the Honolulu Fire Department.

Someone on the beach heard calls for help and swam or paddled out, rescuing two women and bringing them to shore, he said.

"One of them was in pretty bad shape, as far as swallowing a lot of water — a near-drowning kind of thing," Seguirant said.

Strong trade winds in recent days have created strong surf conditions, though it

remains unclear why the trio of swimmers fell into distress, he said.

Searchers with HFD and the Coast Guard searched the waters for the missing man during the next 24 hours using divers, a helicopter and surface vessels.

The Coast Guard searched 64 square nautical miles but found no trace of him, said Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew West, a spokesman for the Coast Guard.

The soldier's body washed up on the beach farther north than where he went missing, Seguirant said. Someone walking on the beach who was not involved in the search discovered the body about 5:30 a.m. Sunday and called officials, he said.

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In London, Trump sees possible trade deal

The Washington Post

LONDON — With the showy, royal puffery of the queen's banquet at Buckingham Palace and tea with Prince Charles over, President Donald Trump turned to business Tuesday and the possibility of a trade deal once Britain finally leaves the European Union.

In a joint news conference with outgoing British Prime Minister Theresa May, Trump expressed confidence that Brexit would eventually happen.

"I think it will happen," he said, adding: "This is a great, great country, and it wants to have its own identity. ... I think it deserves a special place."

May opened the news conference with thanks to "Donald" for cooperation with Britain — for expelling 60 Russian intelligence officers in solidarity after a nerve agent attack on British soil; for carrying out airstrikes in Syria following the use of chemical weapons; and for promoting the idea that NATO members should be sharing the security burden.

She mentioned Iran and the Paris Climate Agreement as notes of difference. In a line that might refer to Brexit as much as transatlantic relations, she said, "I've always believed that cooperation and compromise are the basis" of relationships.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump co-

Trump: 'Carnival of Resistance' protests in streets 'fake news'

The Washington Post

LONDON — A giant blimp of a diaper-clad "baby Trump" and a talking "Trump robot" sitting on a toilet were among the most vivid props on Tuesday as protesters descended on central London to register their disapproval of President Donald Trump, who was in London for a three-day state visit.

After a day of pomp and pageantry with the British royals, on Monday, Tuesday was shaping up to be a day of politics and protests. Trump had meetings at Downing Street, and protesters were hoping that they were close enough — and loud enough — to be heard.

The road outside 10 Downing Street was sealed off with steel barricades, and there was a heavy police

hosted a morning roundtable

presence.

Nearby, the so-called "Carnival of Resistance" was in full swing.

Speaking in Parliament Square, Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, addressed a few thousand demonstrators.

He condemned Trump over his tweets calling London Mayor Sadiq Khan, a long-time Trump foe on Twitter, a "stone cold loser." Corbyn said he was "proud that our city has a Muslim mayor."

In a news conference Tuesday with outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May, Trump dismissed the protests. "Even coming over today, there were thousands of people cheering," he asserted. "A lot of it is fake news, I have to say."

ain from the start of his presidency, often putting May in a tricky spot since Britain cannot fully negotiate a deal while still a part of omnibus European Union trade arrangements.

"Great love all around. Also, big Trade Deal is possible once

U.K. gets rid of the shackles. Already starting to talk!" Trump tweeted Monday in the midst of a day of royal treatment that included a lavish state banquet at Buckingham Palace.

In brief remarks at the beginning of the business meeting on Tuesday, Trump said, "I think we will have a very, very substantial trade deal."

Leaning toward May, Trump said, "I don't exactly know what your timing is but stick around, let's do this deal."

The Trump-May meetings come at an awkward moment. May has been ousted from her post — not by the voters or by the opposition, but by her own Conservative Party, for her failure to deliver Brexit.

May announced her resignation last month. She officially resigns on Friday and will be replaced as party leader and prime minister by the end of July.

One of Trump's allies, the former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, is a top contender. Another Trump friend, Nigel Farage, just won big in the European Parliament election, trouncing May's Tory party.

While policy is mostly taking a back seat to pomp on this trip, the trade deal is Trump's top priority. His delegation, heavy on family members and staff hangers-on, also includes Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other officials focused on a trade package.

of American and British corporate executives, alongside May, we always meant to kick-start discussions for a deal the president is eager to cut.

Trump has talked up a trade

Trump has talked up a trade pact with a post-Brexit Brit-

Judge denies challenge to using DOD funds for wall

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Monday denied a House request to prevent President Donald Trump from tapping Defense Department money for his proposed border wall with Mexico, saying Congress lacked authority to sue.

Trump's victory is muted by a federal ruling in California last month that blocked construction of key sections of the wall. The California case was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Sierra Club and Southern Border Communities Coalition.

U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden, a

Trump appointee, wrote that the House's lawsuit was "about whether one chamber of Congress has the 'constitutional means' to conscript the Judiciary in a political turf war with the President over the implementation of legislation."

McFadden said Congress didn't have authority in this case but that he didn't mean to imply the legislative body could never challenge the president in court over separation of powers.

"An old maxim in politics holds that, 'Where you stand depends on where you sit,'" he wrote. "At law too, whether a plaintiff has standing often depends on where he sits. A seat in Congress comes with many prerogatives, but legal standing to superintend the execution of laws is not among them."

The Justice Department welcomed the decision, saying the judge "rightly ruled that the House of Representatives cannot ask the judiciary to take its side in political disputes and cannot use federal courts to accomplish through litigation what it cannot achieve using the tools the Constitution gives to Congress."

A spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Democrats were reviewing the ruling and evaluating whether to appeal.



Long-delayed disaster aid bill sent to Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A long-delayed \$19.1 billion disaster aid bill has sailed through the House and headed to President Donald Trump for his expected signature, overcoming months of infighting, misjudgment and a feud between Trump and congressional Democrats.

Lawmakers gave the measure final congressional approval on Monday by 354-58 in the House's first significant action after returning from a 10-day recess. It was backed by all 222 voting Democrats and 132 Republicans, including the GOP's top leaders and many of its legislators from areas hit by hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and fires. Fifty-eight Republicans voted "no," including many of the party's most

conservative members.

Trump hailed passage of the bill, tweeting, "Farmers, Puerto Rico and all will be very happy." The Republican president also suggested, incorrectly, that the bill would now see action in the Senate. That chamber had already passed the bill by a sweeping 85-8 vote on its way out of Washington May 23, a margin that reflected a consensus that the bill is long overdue.

Conservative Republicans in the House held up the bill last week, objecting on three occasions to efforts by Democratic leaders to pass the bill by a voice vote requiring unanimity. They said the legislation — which reflects an increasingly permissive attitude in Washington on spending to address disasters that sooner or later hit

every region of the country — shouldn't be rushed through without a recorded vote.

Along the way, House and Senate oldtimers seemed to outmaneuver the White House, though Trump personally prevailed upon Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., to drop a bid to free up billions of dollars for dredging and other harbor projects.

The measure was initially held up over a fight between Trump and Democrats over aid to Puerto Rico that seems long settled.

"Some in our government refused to assist our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico who are still recovering from a 2017 hurricane. I'm pleased we've moved past that," said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y.

Contempt vote nears over census documents

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats are moving to hold Trump administration officials in contempt of Congress for failing to comply with subpoenas for documents related to the Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said the panel will vote soon on contempt measures for Attorney General William Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross unless specific documents are received by Thursday.

A contempt vote by the committee would

be an escalation of Democratic efforts to use their majority to aggressively investigate the inner workings of President Donald Trump's administration.

The House Judiciary Committee voted last month to hold Barr in contempt of Congress as part of a separate legal battle with the Trump administration over access to special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

A vote by the full House would be required to hold Barr and Ross in contempt on the census issue. Such a finding would be a political blow but would not result in real punishment since the men are unlikely to go to jail or be arrested.

Cummings said in a statement that the failure of Barr and Ross to respond to the Oversight subpoenas was "part of a pattern" by the administration to engage in a "cover-up" and challenge the authority of Congress to conduct constitutionally required oversight.

A spokesman for Ross said the Commerce Department has worked in good faith with the committee and delivered nearly 14,000 pages of documents. Ross testified for nearly seven hours earlier this year.

Democrats say they want specific documents to determine why Ross added the citizenship question to the 2020 census.

Va. governor calls for special session on gun legislation

Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam is summoning lawmakers back to the state Capitol to consider a package of gun control legislation, saying Friday's mass shooting in Virginia Beach calls for "votes and laws, not thoughts and prayers."

Northam also said Tuesday that he wants every state lawmaker to go on record for or against his proposals during the special session this summer rather than let leaders shield them from tough votes by killing them in subcommittees.

"I ask that the members of the General Assembly engage in an open and transparent debate and that the bills brought before the legislature are put to a vote by the entire General Assembly," Northam said. "The nation will be watching."

The Democrat said in an Associated Press interview ahead of his announcement that he wants the Republican-controlled legislature to hear from the public about the need for "common-sense" laws. A top GOP lawmaker signaled Monday that he's open to a legislative debate but doesn't expect Northam's bills to pass.

Speaking to a standing ovation from gun control advocates, state workers and elected officials, Northam said the massacre in Virginia Beach demands that lawmakers put saving lives before party doctrine.

"Our first responders knew what to do," he said. "They rushed to the sound of the gunfire. They responded in less than two

minutes to the shooting. Our first responders acted to save lives, and indeed, they did save lives.

"Now, I'm calling on the elected officials of this commonwealth to become second responders. Your duty is clear: Rush to the scene and put a stop to this violence."

Virginia Beach city employee DeWayne Craddock used two semi-automatic handguns, a silencer and extended ammunition magazines Friday to kill 12 people, all but one of them colleagues he had worked with for years. Craddock was mortally wounded in an intense gunbattle with police.

Northam's bills include legislation that directly relates to Friday's shooting, such as a ban on silencers and high capacity ammunition magazines.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Water slide destroyed by vandals now closed

OR PORTLAND — A will be absent this summer at the Wilson Pool in southwest Portland after the attraction was set on fire by vandals.

KOIN-TV reported the slide was destroyed in late April.

The model of the 22-yearold slide is no longer made, so replacement parts are not available. The slide will be replaced.

Portland Parks and Recreation spokesman Mark Ross said it will take at least six months to get a replacement slide.

Intruder arrested at woman's home

CA CUKUNA ... ern California woman CORONA — A Southsaid she and her twin daughters were terrorized by a man who stripped out of his clothes and grabbed a hammer after breaking into their home.

Rachel Bollin told KABC-TV that she grabbed her cellphone and ran into her 7-year-old daughters' bedroom after she heard the man shatter the sliding glass door of her Corona home early Saturday. Bollin said she locked the door and called 911 as the intruder started walking upstairs.

Police arrived and arrested the 43-year-old man on burglary charges. Police say the man was under the influence of drugs when he broke into the home.

Man accused of driving BMW 129 mph

CANTERBURY — New Hampshire state police accused a driver of a participant in Sunday's race traveling 129 mph in a 70 mph became in need of medical at-

zone on Interstate 93.

Police said they received complaints from other drivers about a small group of BMWs traveling erratically and at high rates of speed Sunday afternoon, starting in Plymouth and heading south to Northfield.

Troopers caught up with one BMW driver, Joseph Roman, 31, of Upton, Mass., in Canterbury. He was arrested on a charge of reckless operation and released on personal recognizance bail.

City may lose trees. shrubs due to weather

FALLS GREAT — Hundreds of trees and flowering shrubs in a Montana city may die due to the past year's weather conditions.

The Great Falls Tribune reported Thursday that a dry fall followed by a long stretch of subzero weather in February may have had devastating effects on plant life in Great Falls.

Great Falls forester Todd Seymanski said central Montana's warm, dry winds that blow down from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains — known as Chinooks — contributed the first part of what became a drastic weather change. He said the full extent of the damage likely won't be known until next spring.

Firefighter dies after rescue at triathlon

CAPE MAY — An offduty Philadelphia firefighter died after participating in the Escape The Cape Triathlon in Cape May.

Jim Salmon, public information officer with the Delaware River & Bay Authority, told the Press of Atlantic City that

tention during the Olympic swim portion.

The man was unresponsive in the water. Salmon said the man was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead about 10:20 a.m.

It's unclear how he died.

Man charged with killing his cousin

ST. CHARLES — A Missouri man has been charged with fatally shooting his cousin after arguing over a \$45 debt.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Lamont Lacombe, 27, was charged Sunday with second-degree murder in the death of Joseph Lacombe, 26. St. Charles police said Lamont Lacombe confessed to shooting his cousin around 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Police said the argument was over money owed to Joseph Lacombe and personal items.

Church to screen shunned 'Arthur' show

BIRMINGHAM — A Methodist church is screening an episode of the PBS children's show "Arthur" that was shunned by Alabama Public Television for featuring a same-sex wedding.

AL.com reported that Birmingham First United Methodist Church will serve wedding cake and sparkling apple juice at its free screening of "Mr. Ratburn and the Special Someone" on June 15. APT showed a rerun when the episode aired nationally May 13.

Programming director Mike Mckenzie said parents trust that their children can watch the station without supervision.

First United's senior pastor, the Rev. Stephanie Arnold, has urged Methodists to keep struggling for "full inclusion," saying

"we want to extend God's love and grace for all people," despite a recent vote by leaders of the nation's largest protestant denomination to strengthen its ban on gay and lesbian clergy and same-sex marriages.

Program would name peak 'Gorgon Spire'

AK JUNEAU — An Alaska outdoor education program is trying to officially name a mountain peak.

The Juneau Empire reported Friday that the Juneau Icefield Research Program is seeking recognition of the name "Gorgon Spire" for one challenging peak.

Program faculty member Scott McGee submitted a geographic name proposal to the Alaska Historical Commission in February for the peak 35 miles north of Juneau.

McGee said he was prepared to submit a different name before finding the peak referred to as Gorgon Spire — after the Greek word "gorgos" meaning grim or dreadful — in old climbing periodicals.

Cougar killed after trying to attack child

SEATTLE — wasnington State Patrol SEATTLE — Washofficials said responders killed a cougar that tried to attack a child in Leavenworth.

KING-TV reported the child escaped serious injury.

Officials said in a tweet that the attempted attack occurred in the Enchantment Park area around dusk Saturday.

The cougar was euthanized after it was found by Washington Department of Fish and



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O'Reilly, Blues even Stanley Cup Final

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Just when the St. Louis Blues had the Boston Bruins on their heels and chasing the game, they gave up a goal and the roar went right out of the building.

The Blues could have let the talented Bruins seize the moment, let things get away from them on home ice. Again.

They didn't. The team that was mired in last place in the NHL in January, that suffered from missed calls in the playoffs and slogged through some tough losses instead showed the resolve of a championship contender and is now two victories away from lifting the Stanley Cup.

Ryan O'Reilly scored the opening goal 43 seconds in and the winner with 9:22 left, and he and the Blues thrived in a chaotic Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final on Monday night to beat the Bruins 4-2 and tie this bruising series at two games

apiece.

"We knew what we had to do tonight to be a better team," coach Craig Berube said. "We were relentless tonight. We didn't stop for 60 minutes."

This one was a back-andforth thriller, with Boston's Tuukka Rask and St. Louis' Jordan Binnington each giving up tons of rebounds for frantic scoring chances and scrums.

Vladimir Tarasenko scored his 11th goal of the playoffs, and Binnington made 21 saves to improve to 7-2 in the postseason after a loss. Even more impressive was the rookie's bounce-back from being pulled in Game 3 for the first time in his NHL career. Rask allowed three goals on 37 shots and was on the receiving end of several Blues onslaughts.

"He spit some rebounds out," Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy said of Rask. "But I don't have an issue with his rebound control."

Charlie Coyle scored for the

third consecutive game, and Brandon Carlo had a shorthanded goal for Boston, but their stars were quiet again and a big problem may be brewing: Boston captain Zdeno Chara was knocked out of the game by a puck to the mouth. Chara was allowed to sit on the bench, but it's uncertain if he'll be able to play in Game 5 when the Bruins could be without two of their top six defensemen.

O'Reilly ended an eightgame goal drought by cashing in two rebounds off Rask for his first multi-goal game since November. After losing 15 of his 23 faceoffs in a tough Game 3, O'Reilly was dominant all over the ice.

"He's been our best player all year and he got rewarded," winger Patrick Maroon said of O'Reilly.

Hockey Hall of Famer and Blues alum Brett Hull screamed at the top of his lungs into the microphone to pump up the crowd seconds before puck

drop, "Are you ready? Let's Go Blues!"

They were ready, all right, and it started with O'Reilly's goal that was the Blues' sixth in the opening two minutes. They have done that now in all four rounds and are 6-0 when jumping out to a 1-0 lead in a game's first 20 minutes.

But this victory was all about responding well to yet another momentum swing that came on special teams: The Blues killed off a Bruins power play and then hemmed Boston in its own end for more than three minutes. While St. Louis cycled the puck in the offensive zone and changed several forward lines and defensive pairings, Boston defenders were gassed and Connor Clifton took a penalty for an illegal check to the head of Tarasenko.

Twenty-six seconds into the Blues power play, however, the Bruins inexplicably got numbers on a rush and Carlo scored shorthanded to tie it again.

Bouncing pucks causing goalies to give up fat rebounds

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — It usually takes a lucky bounce here and there to win the Stanley Cup.

Game 4 of the final between the Bruins and the Blues had a whole lot of bounces — and not a lot of luck for goaltenders Tuukka Rask and Jordan Binnington.

Whether it was nerves, fatigue or simply traffic in front, Rask and Binnington each gave up rebounds aplenty and both teams cashed in on the prime scoring chances Monday night. The Blues' Alex Pietrangelo pounded a slap shot that seemed to handcuff Rask and the juicy rebound left the puck in midair where Ryan O'Reilly swatted it into the net.

The goal put the Blues up 3-2 and turned out to be the gamewinner in the 4-2 victory that knotted the final at 2-2.

Binnington chalked up the second-chance goals to smart shooting.

"Players were doing a good job and shooting the puck, but you know, yeah, there were some rebounds tonight but nothing out of the ordinary, I'd say," Binnington said.

Both of O'Reilly's goals came off rebounds. He took a rebound off of a Zach Sanford shot behind the net and beat Rask on a wrap-around to the right side just 43 seconds into the game.

Charlie Coyle evened things up with 6:46 left in the first after he found himself alone in front of the Blues net to bang home the rebound from a Zdeno Chara shot.

The Blues took advantage of another second-chance opportunity at 15:30 in the first. This time it was Vladimir Tarasenko pouncing on a big rebound in the slot off a Pietrangelo shot to make it 2-1.

"To find your chances, you need to go in the red zones and score some greasy goals

maybe," Tarasenko said. "If you look on our goals, it pays off for us. It kind of was the game plan, so we try to keep it same way and create traffic for Rask and try to get rebounds."

Rask struggled again during a Boston power play in the second period as O'Reilly almost poked in his own rebound on a short-handed rush.

"You try to control them all, but sometimes you do, sometimes you don't," Rask said.

The Bruins capitalized shorthanded at 14:19 of the second as Brandon Carlo found the back of the net for the first time this postseason after Binnington couldn't handle a Patrice Bergeron shot with the puck caroming off of his pad.

"First shot he might get stuck a little bit," Carlo said. "From there, you can try to get him moving side to side and ultimately put the pucks past him and it's great that we can crash the net. Hopefully we can learn from that and utilize it in the next couple of games."

The goal quieted the Enterprise Center and took away the momentum St. Louis generated during a prolonged shift in the Boston zone, which featured several line changes and dangerous scoring chances as well as creating the power play that led to the short-handed goal.

Then came O'Reilly's heroics and the first Stanley Cup Final victory at home in St. Louis franchise history. Game 5 in the best-of-seven series is Thursday night in Boston.

"I felt like it was going to be tough to go to Boston down 3-1 and have a chance to win so we had to make sure we came out with our best game," Blues defenseman Colton Parayko said. "We've been a good rebound team all year long and all playoffs long. That was the biggest thing. We were a confident group coming into tonight and I think we showed it."









Raptors resilient as Warriors limp home

Associated Press

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors feel good mentally, and they are certainly in better shape physically than the Golden State Warriors.

The Raptors know they have outplayed Golden State for perhaps 90 of the 96 minutes of the NBA Finals, and they almost overcame the one brutal stretch where they didn't. Despite being blanked for nearly half the third quarter of Game 2, the Raptors were within two points in the final seconds.

Golden State held on to win 109-104, tying the series that moves to Oracle Arena for Games 3 and 4. The Raptors lost the game and home-court advantage, but not any of their belief that they can win the series.

"We fought back and we know that going towards Game 3 we've got to play a lot better, and it's going to be even harder on the road," Raptors guard Fred VanVleet said, "but we're capable and we know what we bring to the table."

The Warriors aren't quite sure, at least as it relates to

their health.

They are hoping Kevin Durant is close to returning from a seven-game absence with a strained right calf, and that Klay Thompson can play after he limped off the court early in the fourth quarter Sunday. The Warriors said Thompson had an MRI exam Monday that indicated a mild left hamstring strain and that he would be listed as questionable for Game 3.

They will be without Kevon Looney, who has been their best center in the postseason. He will be out indefinitely because of a non-displaced cartilage fracture on the right side of his ribcage that he sustained in Game 2.

So the Warriors were in no condition to dance their way back across the border in this first NBA Finals to be played outside the U.S. — in fact, DeMarcus Cousins posted an Instagram picture of him and Andre Iguodala being moved through the airport in wheelchairs.

But they wouldn't have been too excited even in peak condition. They've played in so many series during their run to five straight finals that they understand better than anyone how momentum works.

"It swings so much. They've gone through it, too, when they were down 0-2 last series and won four straight games," Iguodala said. "We won two games at home and went to Houston and lost two and everyone thought the world was ending, especially with our team. Certain things that we pick up along the way, that experience will help us with emotional swings from game to game in this series."

Iguodala hit the clinching three-pointer after the Raptors had clawed their way within two points by scoring 10 straight in the final minutes. It certainly seemed it would be easier for the Warriors after their 18-0 run to start the third quarter, an NBA Finals record to begin a half, had put them in control.

Toronto stayed in it thanks to Kawhi Leonard, who finished with 34 points and 14 rebounds, and an assault on the backboards in which they outscored the Warriors 23-0 in second-chance points.

It might take even more than that to get a game at Oracle Arena, where the two-time defending champions will play Wednesday for the first time in nearly three weeks. Golden State hasn't played a home game since Game 2 of the Western Conference finals against Portland on May 16.

"The only thing that matters is the four. Four wins," Leonard said. "Once you get it, two wins, three wins, it does not matter. Just take one game at a time and just play through the adversity."

That's what the Warriors did in Game 2, when they turned to all the tricks they've learned and pulled a rabbit out of their hats.

Now they have to hope they won't run out of rabbits.

"Obviously, we have the star power, but when you bring guys off the bench, that goes a long way," backup guard Quinn Cook said. "I don't think they'll get tired for the finals. There are two days between games. They'll be back hungry on Wednesday, just like us. We just have to keep being better."

Federer, Nadal make it to semifinals of French Open

 $Associated\ Press$

PARIS — Roger Federer kept accumulating break points and then frittering them away against Stan Wawrinka in the French Open quarterfinals, failing to convert 16 of his initial 17 chances.

Then, after a 75-minute rain delay Tuesday, Federer got his 18th opportunity to try to break — and he made it count. Soon enough, in his first trip to Roland Garros since 2015, Federer would be wrapping up a 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory over Wawrinka, his friend and Swiss Olympic and Davis Cup teammate, to make his way to the semifinals.

And what a semifinal it will be: On Friday, Federer will meet old rival Rafael Nadal, the 11time French Open champion. It will be their 39th career meeting and their sixth in Paris. Nadal is 5-0 against Federer at the Grand Slam tournament he has dominated and leads 23-15 head-to-head overall.

"My next opponent is not too bad. He can play on clay, unfortunately," a smiling Federer joked to the crowd at Court Suzanne Lenglen. "What a pleasure, actually. If I decided to come back to play on clay, it was maybe to play Rafa."

There was very little drama in Nadal's quarterfinal, a 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 stroll against No. 7 Kei Nishikori.

Federer vs. Wawrinka, meanwhile, lived up to the billing, a 3½-hour tussle between a couple of guys who go way back. Coming in, Federer held a 22-3 edge in their career meetings, but Wawrinka knew this: All

three of his victories had come on red clay, including four years ago in the same round and on this same court at Roland Garros. That was the last time Federer entered the French Open; he missed it with a bad back in 2016, then sat out the full clay portion of the schedule the next two years to prepare for grass and hard courts.

Federer and Wawrinka were locked in a taut fourth set when the clouds overhead grew thick and charcoal-colored. Shortly after play was suspended, a real storm arrived. But it didn't last long.

When action resumed, Federer needed only 10 minutes to take control, getting his second break of the match by smacking a big cross-court forehand to a corner that Wawrinka couldn't handle. It was 5-4, and Federer

only needed to hold serve once to end it.

That turned out to be a tad complicated. He double-faulted for the only two times in the entire match, once on his second match point. He was forced to deflect a break point for Wawrinka, doing so with a serve-and-volley winner. And then, finally, on his third match point, Federer closed it out with a volley, then hugged Wawrinka at the net.

In the women's quarterfinals, 26th-seeded Johanna Konta eliminated 2018 runner-up Sloane Stephens 6-1, 6-4, grabbing 21 of the last 22 points she served.

Konta is the first British woman in the French Open's final four since Jo Durie in 1983.

MLB Draft

Orioles take Rutschman with top pick

Associated Press

SECAUCUS, N.J. — Pitchers took a backseat at the Major League Baseball Draft.

On a night when a record 22 position players and nine shortstops were chosen in the first round, the rebuilding Baltimore Orioles went for a cornerstone at catcher, selecting Oregon State switch-hitter Adley Rutschman with the top pick Monday.

Rutschman became the first catcher to go No. 1 since Minnesota tabbed Joe Mauer in 2001

"He's everything you want and he plays a premium defensive position with athleticism that gives him versatility to play elsewhere, as needed," firstyear Baltimore general manager Mike Elias said in a video statement posted on the team's Twitter account. "A future fixture for this organization."

The only other time the Orioles led off the draft they took LSU pitcher Ben McDonald in 1989.

The 21-year-old Rutschman had been the favorite to go first overall since he led the Beavers to the College World Series championship last year and was selected the most outstanding player.

He followed that up with a monster junior season, batting .411 with 17 homers, 58 RBIs and a school-record 76 walks. On defense, he threw out 13 of 27 runners attempting to steal.

Here are some more numbers, too: After getting drafted in the 40th round by Seattle three years ago, Rutschman is in line for a potential \$8,415,300 signing bonus — the assigned slot value for this year's top pick.

"It's unbelievable," he said from Goss Stadium in Corvallis, Ore. "Just to look back on how I was as a kid and seeing what my expectations were, how far I've come from there, it's special."

The draft resumed Tuesday with rounds 3-10 held via conference calls with teams, and concludes Wednesday with rounds 11-40.

Other things to know about the first night, which featured 78 picks at MLB Network studios:

Family ties

After the Orioles, up next at No. 2 were the Kansas City

Royals and they grabbed Texas high school shortstop Bobby Witt Jr., son of the former big league pitcher. The younger Witt has draft-day bragging rights on his father, who won 142 games over 16 seasons after being selected No. 3 overall by the Texas Rangers in 1985.

"Now I've got him beat," Bobby Witt Jr. said on MLB Network.

The Witts became the highest-drafted father-son duo, topping Tom Grieve (No. 6, 1966) and Ben Grieve (No. 2, 1994). They are the seventh fatherson combination of first-rounders, and first since Delino DeShields (1987) and Delino DeShields Jr. (2010).

Arizona State power-hitting outfielder Hunter Bishop
— younger brother of Mariners outfielder Braden Bishop
— went to San Francisco with the 10th pick.

Short on arms

In a draft light on premier mound prospects, only 12 of the 34 first-round picks were pitchers.

The first off the board was TCU left-hander Nick Lodolo at No. 7 to the Cincinnati Reds.

Lodolo was the 41st overall pick by Pittsburgh in 2016 — the highest selection to go unsigned that year.

It was the first time since the draft began in 1965 that no pitchers were taken within the first six picks.

Worth the trip

All four prospects in attendance were selected within the first 33 picks. With excited family members alongside, the players donned caps and jerseys of their new teams:

- High school third baseman Brett Baty went No. 12 to the Mets.
- San Jacinto Junior College right-hander Jackson Rutledge went No. 17 to Washington.
- Georgia high school right-hander Daniel Espino, from Panama, went 24th to Cleveland.
- Florida high school righthander Brennan Malone went 33rd to the Arizona Diamondbacks, who had four first-round picks and seven of the first 75 selections, a couple of them compensation for losing free agents Patrick Corbin and A.J. Pollock.

MLB roundup

Buehler quiets D-backs as Dodgers win sixth straight

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Walker Buehler's second time on the mound against the Arizona Diamondbacks this season went far better than the first.

Buehler held the Diamondbacks to a run on two hits in eight innings, matching the longest start of his career, and Corey Seager hit a threerun homer as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Diamondbacks 3-1 Monday.

The NL West-leading Dodg-

ers won their sixth straight, improving to 42-19. The Diamondbacks saw their two-game winning streak halted.

Buehler (6-1) lasted just three innings at Dodger Stadium on March 31 against Arizona, but carried a no-hitter into the bottom of the fifth Monday and got the first two outs before Christian Walker homered. Buehler struck out a season-high 11 without a walk for his first career win over the Diamondbacks.

"The efficiency is the biggest

thing for me," the 24-year-old right-hander said. "I think I'm going to strike guys out in this league and I've kind of shown that. To get deeper into games is obviously my goal."

Cubs 8, Angels 1: Jon Lester allowed one run in seven innings, and host Chicago beat Los Angeles in the makeup of a contest scheduled for April 14 that was postponed because of inclement weather.

Padres 8, Phillies 2: Manny Machado hit a grand slam over Bryce Harper in the first show-

down this season between the superstars who changed teams during spring training and host San Diego beat NL East-leading Philadelphia.

It was Machado's 10th homer this season and first since May 14.

Astros 4, Mariners 2: Robinson Chirinos homered to cap a three-run first inning, his team added an insurance run on a baffling play by host Seattle's defense, and Houston won for the sixth time in seven games.

