

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump: 'Our debt to you is everlasting'

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — President Donald Trump honored the American and Allied troops who stormed the beaches on D-Day 75 years ago to free Europe from Nazi domination, telling the veterans at Normandy American Cemetery on Thursday that “our debt to you is everlasting.”

Standing before a contingent of D-Day veterans, Trump recounted the heroics of the survivors and the thousands of Americans buried beneath the white crosses and Stars of David that stretch for acres on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach.

“For the men who sit behind me, and for the boys who rest in the field before me, your example will never ever grow old,” Trump said. “The blood that they spilled, the tears that they shed, the lives that they made, the sacrifices that they made will not just roll on. Those who fought here won the future for our nation.”

Trump described the many thousands of servicemembers who participated in the invasion as “the pride of our nation ... the glory of our republic.”

Trump joined other world leaders and surviving veterans to remember those who died in the greatest amphibious invasion in history, which led to the liberation of Western Europe after four years of Nazi occupation.

“On 6 June 1944, they joined a liberation force of awesome power and breathtaking scale,” Trump told the gathering at the military cemetery. “After months of planning, the Allies had chosen this ancient coastline to mount their campaign to vanquish the wicked tyranny of the Nazi empire from the face

## Statue dedicated to frogmen who prepared beaches for invasion

By SCOTT WYLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. frogmen slogged through choppy waves to the Normandy beaches on D-Day, demolishing mines and removing other obstacles as German soldiers fired at them from hilltop perches.

Those underwater demolition teams cleared the way for the largest amphibious assault in history on June 6, 1944, which led to the liberation of Western Europe and contributed to the defeat of Nazi Germany a year later.

The frogmen were among the first to step ashore and die. They carried out their mission despite having little defense against relentless machine gun and artillery fire.

They were among the Normandy war dead honored Thursday during a dedication of a Lone Sailor statue on a plaza overlooking Utah Beach. It was one of several ceremonies in the region commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

“The Lone Sailor monument represents all these sailors and Marines that lost their lives at sea — and what they have given to us,”

said Adm. James Foggo, head of the Navy’s Europe and Africa command, according to a statement. “Victory in Europe would not have been possible without the determination and sacrifice of those sailors, soldiers and Marines here on Utah Beach, 75 years ago today.”

The statue is one of 17 Lone Sailor monuments and is the first to be placed outside the United States.

Foggo noted that the frogmen were the forerunners of the Navy SEALs and a crucial part of the invasion force.

The frogmen swam and waded through waters in a combat zone with no wetsuits or diving gear, submerging only as long as they could hold their breaths. The Navy adopted scuba gear in 1948 and started the SEALs in 1962.

An explosive technician named Dennis Shyroock described how the Germans cut down many who were landing, Foggo said, according to the statement.

“The ocean water around him ‘looked like pure blood. That was sickening.’ But he added, ‘We couldn’t stop doing our job.’”

of the earth.

“We thank you from the bottom of our hearts,” he said.

Trump also praised all of the Allies who took part in the landings, including the British, Canadians, Poles and French.

French President Emmanuel Macron arrived by helicopter at the cemetery, where he and his wife greeted the president and first lady Melania Trump. France has not forgotten “what we owe to the United States of America,” Macron said.

“We know what we owe to you veterans — our freedom,” Macron told the veterans lining the stage. “On behalf of my nation, I want to say thank you.

“The lessons of Colleville-sur-Mer are that liberty and democracy are inseparable.”

The French president also spoke of the value of alliances that grew out of World War II, such as NATO, and the need for continued American leadership today.

“The U.S. is never greater than when it is fighting for the freedom of others,” Macron said.

The D-Day battle came at a terrible cost, especially for the first wave of American troops landing at Omaha Beach. In all, more than 4,400 troops died during D-Day and some 10,000 were injured. The casualties

increased in the days after the beach landing as the Allies fought their way inland.

About 50 D-Day veterans gathered in Normandy to mark the anniversary of the allied invasion of France, which helped turn the tide of the war.

Thousands of U.S. troops also were on hand for the ceremony, which was punctuated by volleys of ceremonial cannon fire and flyovers by allied fighter planes.

“This is our history, especially for us in U.S. Army Europe,” said USAREUR chief Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, whose command wears the patch of Eisenhower’s Army.

# Court affirms verdict in attempted abuse case

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Navy captain who brought wine, a piggy bank and condoms to a purported sleepover with an adolescent he met at a Naples base library was properly found guilty of attempting to sexually abuse and assault a child, the Navy's appellate court ruled.

The court affirmed May 29 the verdict and eight-year prison sentence handed to Capt. Alan Dorrbecker at a court-martial in Norfolk, Va., two years ago.

Dorrbecker, a married submarine commander in his 40s, had argued in his appeal that his actions could have constituted only the lesser crime of attempted enticement of a minor to engage in sexual activity.

The court ruled that Dorrbecker's journal and emails to Navy investigators posing as the girl — who happened to be the daughter of Naval Criminal Investigative Service employees — demonstrated his intent to commit the crimes.

His arrival at the house for the fake sleepover carrying condoms and lubricant was the "substantial step" toward completion the law requires for attempted offenses, the court said.

Two of three judges on a Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals panel decided that although emails between Dorrbecker and a Navy investigator posing as the girl showed Dorrbecker would not have kissed, caressed or had intercourse with the girl unless she agreed to it, that didn't matter. The girl was 14 or 15, according to court documents.

"If an accused decided to rob a bank and drove up to the bank with a gun in furtherance of his plan, but then abandoned his plan when he saw an armed guard inside the bank, he would still be guilty of attempted bank robbery," the decision said.

A third judge disagreed with that analysis. Dorrbecker's desire to have sex with the girl "did not constitute the required criminal specific intent to commit sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor" because the evidence showed that Dorrbecker and the investigator posing as the girl had not agreed to "proceed or not with sex." They had agreed only to discuss it, court documents stated.

Dorrbecker met the girl in 2015 at the library at Naval Support Activity, Capodichino, in Naples, Italy, where she was a part-time summer hire.

Dorrbecker gave her his email so he could send her information on a website offering free books, and for the next week the two emailed each other about books, music, school and family life, according to court documents.

The girl's parents found out about the emails and agreed that Dorrbecker might be "grooming" the girl for sex. NCIS opened an investigation and a special agent assumed the girl's identity with a new email address, saying her "parents" were monitoring her old address.

Soon, Dorrbecker started emailing sexually explicit stories he called "tales of the bizarre." He did not solicit sex or ask for photos of the girl, according to court documents.

Meanwhile, the special agent, acting as the girl, told Dorrbecker that she thought about kissing him and asked if he wanted to kiss her. He said he did.

"As the NCIS operation progressed, the agent initiated sex-related discussions at an increasing rate," according to court documents.

Dorrbecker's journal writings and emails, all admitted as evidence, showed him wrestling with, then justifying his lust for the adolescent girl he inexplicably called "Drops."

# Sailor pleads guilty in laundromat sword attack

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A petty officer from the USS McCampbell pleaded guilty to assaulting a man with a sword on base early this year and was sentenced to 10 months in the brig.

According to a plea agreement, Petty Officer 3rd Class Lucas D. Day, a damage controlman, admitted to drunk and disorderly conduct and assaulting a man with a sword Feb. 12. Day entered his plea and was convicted by a military judge May 13, according to court records.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors reduced the assault charge from assault with a dangerous weapon to assault consummated by a battery. They also dropped charges of damaging military property, damaging nonmilitary property, burglary, unlawful entry into the Navy Exchange and wrongful appropriation of three swords that did not belong to him.

Day, who has been in the Navy since August 2016, was sentenced to 10 months in con-

finement, reduction in rank to E-1 and forfeiture of \$1,120 in pay per month for 12 months, according to court documents.

While prosecutors declined to give further details about the case, a man claiming to be the victim of a sword attack at a base laundromat the same day posted his story in a Yokosuka Facebook group after the attack.

The victim, who was not identified in court records provided to Stars and Stripes, declined further comment when contacted this week.

In the Facebook post, he wrote that he was folding clothes at the laundromat connected to the Navy Exchange when a man "swung a mini samurai (sword) aimed at my head."

The victim added that he received a four-inch injury on his arm as he blocked the attack, according to his Facebook post. The victim did not know the man.

He said he was able to get away after striking the attacker with a wheeled shopping cart and the cover of a laundry cart, according to the Facebook post.

# Navy recovers wreckage of C-2A from 2017 crash

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has recovered the C-2A Greyhound that crashed in 2017 in the Philippine Sea while en route to the USS Ronald Reagan, killing three sailors, according to the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

A Navy salvage team on May 21 used a contracted vessel to recover the aircraft, Pacific Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Nate Christensen said in an email to Stars and Stripes Thursday.

The aircraft had been submerged since the Nov. 22, 2017,

crash that killed its pilot, Lt. Steven Combs; Seaman Matthew Chialastri, an aviation boatswain's mate; and Seaman Apprentice Bryan Grosso, an aviation ordnanceman. Eight passengers and crew survived the crash and were rescued by helicopter.

The story was first reported by U.S. Naval Institute News.

A Navy official said the service is "not publicly discussing disposition of remains out of consideration for the families," adding that the sailors' families were notified of the findings.

# Guilty plea in Green Beret's Africa death

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, Va. — Marine Raider Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr., one of four special operators charged in the 2017 strangling death of a Green Beret in Africa, pleaded guilty Thursday to negligent homicide, admitting his role in a plot to embarrass the soldier.

Maxwell accepted a plea deal from prosecutors to avoid more serious charges, including murder, in the June 4, 2017, death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar. Maxwell, an Afghanistan War veteran who has served more than a decade in uniform, is the second servicemember to plead guilty to charges in Melgar's death, which they described as the result of a juvenile hazing attempt gone bad.

"We created a plan and acted out that plan — a ridiculous and harmful, abusive trick ... [designed] to humiliate Melgar," Maxwell told the military judge, Marine Col. Glen Hines.

Maxwell agreed to plead guilty to charges of negligent homicide, conspiracy, hazing, burglary, obstruction of justice and making false official statements. Negligent homicide is the lowest charge of criminal homicide within military law, but it carries a maximum penalty that includes three years in prison and a dishonorable discharge.

Hines will sentence Maxwell

## Troops charged in Green Beret's death planned to record assault

*The Washington Post*

Four elite U.S. Special Operations troops charged in the death of a Green Beret in Mali plotted to record him being sexually assaulted as part of a plan to embarrass him through hazing, according to one of the accused servicemembers.

Marine Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell said in a written stipulation of facts submitted for the case that the plan included bursting into Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar's bedroom before dawn in the capital city of Bamako with a sledgehammer, choking him until he fell unconscious, tying him up and recording the assault on video.

Maxwell's statements roughly match the testimony of Chief Special Warfare Operator Adam Matthews, a former member of Navy

SEAL Team 6, who pleaded guilty in the case last month.

Maxwell, a Marine Raider who was in Bamako to assist the SEALs, also told authorities about the sexual assault plan, according to the stipulation. A copy of it was obtained by The Washington Post and verified with two sources who are familiar with the investigation. They did so on the condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of the matter.

The four servicemembers charged in the case were joined in the room by a Malian security guard and a British man who had befriended the Americans, Maxwell told authorities. The security guard was to carry out the sexual assault, while the British national planned to record it on a cellphone, Maxwell wrote. Those accusations have not previously been disclosed.

after hearing testimony during a sentencing trial expected to begin Thursday afternoon.

The first servicemember to plead guilty in Melgar's death, Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews received one year in prison, a two-grade reduction in rank and a bad conduct discharge on May 16 after striking a deal with prosecutors to avoid more serious punishment. He pleaded guilty to charges that he conspired to commit an assault and battery, unlawful entry and obstructed

justice by lying to investigators about who was involved in Melgar's death.

As part of his plea deal, Matthews agreed to testify in courts-martial against the other special operators charged in Melgar's death. It was not immediately clear what stipulations Maxwell agreed to in his deal. Those details can only be revealed publicly after the judge determines his sentence.

The one-year sentence in Matthews' case was the maximum time the judge could

impose because his case was conducted in a lower-level special court-martial. Maxwell faces a felony-level general court-martial.

In addition to Maxwell and Matthews, Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolph and Marine Raider Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez face charges in Melgar's death. DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez face murder charges and have yet to make court appearances in the case, according to the Navy.

# West Point cadet killed, 22 others hurt in accident

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A West Point cadet died in a military vehicle accident in New York and 22 other cadets and soldiers were injured, the U.S. Military Academy announced Thursday.

About 6:45 a.m., a truck known as a light medium tactical vehicle was involved in an accident off Route 293, according to a statement from West

Point.

The vehicle overturned on a dirt road, according to The Associated Press.

The school's Twitter feed reported the incident occurred near the Camp Natural Bridge training site, which is about 8 miles from the campus.

Twenty cadets and two soldiers who were injured in the accident were taken to local hospitals.

Soldiers from Task Force 1-

28, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga., were involved in the incident, confirmed Kevin Larson, a spokesman at Fort Stewart, Ga., where the division's headquarters is based. The soldiers are at West Point to support cadet summer leadership training.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those affected by this incident," he said in an email statement.

The incident happened dur-

ing annual summer training, according to an ABC News report.

The accident is under investigation, the academy said.

President Donald Trump tweeted about the accident during his trip to Europe, writing "So sorry to hear about the terrible accident involving our GREAT West Point Cadets. We mourn the loss of life and pray for the injured. God Bless them ALL!"

# No more penalties as Niger review ends

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan will not pursue additional punishments for military personnel involved in the 2017 ambush in Niger that led to the deaths of four American soldiers following a review of the initial probes into the attack, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

Pentagon officials also announced they would award nine valor medals for heroic actions undertaken during the six-hour firefight following the Oct. 4 ambush in a remote area of southwest Niger. The families of each of the four soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C.'s 3rd Special Forces Group killed in the attack will receive valor awards for their soldiers' ac-

tions that day.

Shanahan requested a new review earlier this year of the investigations into the ambush "to ensure every aspect of this investigation had been fully considered, including individual accountability," Owen West, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low intensity conflict, told reporters at the Pentagon on Wednesday. "After this review of the investigation by (Army) Gen. Robert Brown, the acting secretary of defense was satisfied that appropriate individual accountability measures and organizational improvements were in place."

News of the ambush raised questions about the U.S. special operations missions in Africa. The mission faced further scrutiny after a monthslong probe into the deadly ambush

resulted in reprimands doled out mostly to junior and mid-grade officers and enlisted personnel, while only one general officer was punished.

After the new review by Brown, the commander of U.S. Army Pacific, Shanahan accepted its findings on May 29, according to West.

"The department is absolutely confident after two investigations and three reviews that accountability has been rendered in this case," he said.

During the investigation, "our primary concern has been the families of the fallen," Shanahan said in a prepared statement Wednesday. "We knew we had to be thorough to ensure the right decisions were made for our servicemembers and provide the opportunity for closure to the families."

The team of some 40 Ameri-

can Green Berets and support soldiers and Nigerien forces was attacked by more than 100 "well-trained and well-equipped fighters" in Tongo Tongo, according to the report. Two U.S. soldiers were wounded and four were killed during the attack. Staff Sgts. Bryan Black and Dustin Wright, both Green Berets, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Johnson and Sgt. La David Johnson were killed in the ambush. Jeremiah Johnson was posthumously promoted to sergeant first class.

Four Nigerien soldiers also died in the attack.

Nine valor awards were approved for actions during the ambush, and the investigation found the Special Forces team "served gallantly under fire," West said.

## Trump ready to launch 5% tariffs for Mexico

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Straining to stave off threatened U.S. tariffs, Mexican and American officials claimed progress in White House talks, but President Donald Trump said Thursday that a "lot of progress" must be made to halt the import taxes he is holding out as a way to force Mexico to stanch the flow of Central American migrants flooding America's southern border.

Talks were to resume later Thursday.

Underscoring the scope of the border problem, the Department of Homeland Security announced separately that U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of migrants illegally crossing the border hit the highest level in more than a decade in May: 132,887 apprehensions, including a record 84,542 adults and children together, 36,838 single adults and 11,507 children traveling alone.

Trump, renewing his threat of import taxes on all Mexican goods, tweeted from Ireland that the Washington talks would continue "with the understanding that, if no agreement is reached, Tariffs at the 5% level will begin on Monday, with monthly increases as per schedule."

"We're having a great talk with Mexico," Trump told reporters in Ireland before leaving for France to attend a D-Day ceremony. "We'll see what happens. But something pretty dramatic could happen. We've told Mexico the tariffs go on. And I mean it too. And I'm very happy with it."

Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said immigration, not tariffs, was the main focus at the White House meeting, which included Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Vice President Mike Pence and other U.S. officials.

## DOD eyes updates to discharge form

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON— The Pentagon is working to make the standard military service discharge form — the DD-214 — fully electronic and looking to implement recommendations from a recent report that would include improving the accuracy and privacy of servicemembers' records.

The Pentagon's Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness asked the Rand Corp. to conduct a review of the DD-214 because the department intends to modernize the form by making it fully electronic, so it wanted to understand which data from the form is used by different organizations and the ways to get it to them more effectively.

"There are lots of stakeholders and lots of folks who over time use the form," Patricia

Mulcahy, director of officer and enlisted personnel management, said of the Rand review. "So, anything we do, we have to be very deliberate and conscientious of all those stakeholders because we want to make sure first and foremost that whatever we do is better for the member while we continue to protect their privacy."

Originally created in the 1950s, the DD-214 is a document that servicemembers receive at the end of their service, detailing everything from their military education to the medals that they have earned and the type of discharge they received from their branch of service. The document is crucial for veterans to verify their service and to receive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs or their local state government.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Kids' 'Laugh Trackers' help in choosing trips

**TN** NASHVILLE — Tennessee tourism officials said they've counted kids' laughs to help parents weigh their trip options.

The Department of Tourist Development said it equipped more than 200 kids with wearable "Laugh Trackers" last month for more than 450 hours.

The attractions they tried out included the Children's Museum of Memphis, Discovery Park of America in Union City, Nashville Zoo, Fall Creek Falls in Spencer, Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, Hands On! Discovery Center in Gray and Dollywood in Pigeon Forge.

### Old shell from beach ID'd as ancient oyster

**SC** FOLLY BEACH — An old shell found on a South Carolina beach four years ago was identified as that of an ancient oyster never before found in the area.

The Post and Courier reported that College of Charleston paleontologist Robert Boessenecker deemed the shell found by Ashby Gale to belong to an ancient *Ostrea coxi* oyster. The newspaper said the ancient shellfish lived 3 million to 5 million years ago and findings of their remnants have been confirmed only in Florida until now.

### Injured hiker rescued from mountain by helo

**AZ** PHOENIX — Authorities said a 74-year-old hiker whose head and face were injured in a fall on a Phoenix mountain was rescued by helicopter, with video showing her in a stretcher that spun as it was lifted toward the aircraft.

A Phoenix Fire Department

crew responded to reports of an injured hiker on Piestewa Peak on Tuesday morning.

Fire officials said the woman was put in a stretcherlike device that was lifted up from the ground to the helicopter.

She was transported to a trauma center and was listed in stable condition.

### Fortune cookie brings luck to lottery winner

**NC** RALEIGH — A North Carolina man who said he based his Powerball entry on a fortune cookie he got from his granddaughter now has a fortune to celebrate.

WRAL in Raleigh reported retired retailer Charles W. Jackson Jr. stepped forward at North Carolina Education Lottery headquarters Tuesday to claim last weekend's \$344.6 million jackpot.

Jackson chose the \$223 million lump sum payment and said he would donate some of it to several charities and give \$1 million to his brother to make good on a deal they made.

### Sheriff to auction abandoned '69 GTX

**MI** SUTTONS BAY — A sheriff's office in northern Michigan is auctioning some rare muscle: a 1969 Plymouth GTX convertible.

Leelanau County Under-sheriff Steve Morgan said the car probably was stored for decades. The odometer shows less than 21,000 miles. The two-door GTX is known as a muscle car for its powerful engine.

Morgan said investigators searched the vehicle's identification number but couldn't find an owner.

The car will be sold as-is to the highest bidder. The online auction at MITN Surplus Auction runs through June 18.

### Jail disputes claim over screening policy

**MO** KANSAS CITY — A Missouri county legislator said a screening policy at the local jail requiring women to remove their underwire bras before entering the facility is sexist and she is demanding that it be changed.

The Kansas City Star reported that the corrections department disputes Jackson County legislator Crystal Williams' claims. Corrections director Diana Turner said the rules implemented May 16 aim to prevent weapons and contraband from being smuggled into the Jackson County jail.

Jackson County Sheriff Darryl Forte said misinformation has been spread about the screening process and that no one has been asked to remove their underwire bras.

### Man, puppy trapped in garbage truck rescued

**UT** PROVO — A puppy and its owner are recovering after getting trapped in a garbage truck.

Provo Police Sgt. Nisha King said Tuesday officers rescued the puppy and her 43-year-old owner earlier that morning after they got caught by the truck's compactor mechanism.

The unidentified man and puppy were sleeping in a dumpster when the truck collected and compacted the bin's contents with them still inside.

### Thieve's blowtorch welds ATM shut

**FL** OKALOOSA ISLAND — Authorities said two Florida burglars thought they were clever when they used a blowtorch to break into an ATM machine, but they never

hit the jackpot.

Instead, the burning heat actually welded the ATM's hinges shut.

Okaloosa County Sheriff's officials said video surveillance shows two male suspects entering the Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island. Instead of cutting the ATM with the blowtorch, authorities said the would-be thief welded the metal parts shut.

### Actress to address graduating class of 1

**MA** CUTTYHUNK ISLAND — The single graduating student on a tiny Massachusetts island is receiving the star treatment.

Actress and comedian Jenny Slate will speak at this month's graduation ceremony for Cuttyhunk Elementary School, a one-room schoolhouse on the island that has a year-round population of around 12.

Slate's audience will be Gwen Lynch, this year's lone graduate of the school that goes up to eighth grade, her family and other Cuttyhunk residents.

Slate played Mona-Lisa Saperstein on "Parks and Recreation."

### Pilot, 91, claims age discrimination

**ND** FARGO — A long-time Fargo pilot and flight instructor said he's considering legal action to get his license back, claiming he's the victim of age discrimination.

Victor Gelking, 91, said federal regulators revoked his pilot and flight instructor licenses after he was involved in a moving violation at Hector International Airport.

Gelking said he passed his medical exams and said his age is not relevant to his license status.

From wire reports

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# Toronto's Nurse hitting the right notes

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Toronto coach Nick Nurse plays to the beat of his own drum.

And that's not even one of the instruments he's messing around with these days.

Nurse's office in Toronto has a guitar stand on one side of his desk and a piano on the other. He's trying to master both; the guitar travels with him on the road and he's been known to strum it while studying film. The piano doesn't exactly fit in the overhead storage bin of the plane, so it stays behind.

Nurse says he's not any good yet.

His team, however, is making plenty of beautiful music so far in these NBA Finals.

The moment has not been too big for Nurse or the Raptors.

Toronto leads the title series 2-1 after a 123-109 win over injury-depleted Golden State on Wednesday night, an outcome that puts the two-time defending NBA champions in trouble. The maestro of the best season in Toronto history is a 51-year-old NBA coaching rookie, one who's making plenty of right moves.

"He looks young," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "But he's pretty old."

Nurse might have been an unknown to casual NBA fans when he got the job a year ago following the firing of his former boss in Toronto, Dwane Casey. Nurse was an assistant on Casey's staff, largely credited with running things on the offensive side

of the ball. He had good relationships with players, but the task of replacing someone who was the NBA's coach of the year and got fired anyway was daunting nonetheless.

He has handled it with ease.

"Each game's critical, and the next one will be as critical as (Game 3) was," Nurse said. "So it's been like that all through the playoffs, and we just got to guard and play who is out there. That's all we can do."

The guy he's going against has eight rings already. Steve Kerr won five as a player, has three more from his first four seasons as coach of the Warriors and still very much has a chance at a fourth in five seasons.

But this is no coaching mismatch.

"I've watched Nick closely," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, the president of the National Basketball Coaches Association, said earlier in the series. "We played against him twice this year. He's terrific in making adjustments and I love the way he's approached the entire season."

For a first-timer, no, it wouldn't be easy.

Thing is, Nurse is no ordinary rookie.

He's won championships — four of them, two in the British league, two more in what's now called the G League. That's not the NBA, of course, but there's a progression that he's followed, a long slow path that saw him coaching teams most people have never heard of like the NAIA's Grand View University, Telindus Oostende in Belgium, the Oklahoma Storm of the USBL.

"Some pretty remote places," Nurse said.

He got tons of attention for throwing a box-and-one on Warriors star Stephen Curry late in Game 2 of this series. Some would say that's an unconventional move. Not for Nurse. He spent one season basically full-court pressing the whole time so he could collect the data. He's been known to count certain shots in practice as four-pointers, to emphasize the need for proper spacing.

He's part coach, part chemist.

"Like a laboratory," Nurse said.

The lab on Wednesday night was Oracle Arena. The Raptors survived a 47-point night from Curry and prevailed over a Golden State team without Kevin Durant, Kevon Looney and Klay Thompson. Looney's season is over. Durant may be back for Game 4. Thompson figures to be back. The Warriors are almost certainly going to get boosts.

"Five guys are going to be out there," Nurse said. "You really can't worry about that."

It's still too early to tell whether Nurse and the Raptors can pull this off.

But Lowry knows his coach will be ready.

"His mind for the game has been special, and the growth throughout the year has been pretty good for him," Lowry said. "He's not a first-time head coach — he's a first-time NBA head coach."

## Raptors withstand Curry, Warriors in Game 3

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — For every amazing shot in a career night by Stephen Curry on his home court, Kawhi Leonard, Kyle Lowry and Danny Green kept finding dazzling answers of their own.

The Toronto Raptors decided to "let it rip," and now they have the momentum again in these back-and-forth NBA Finals.

Leonard scored 30 points on a night Curry went off for a play-off-best 47, and the Raptors beat the banged-up Golden State Warriors 123-109 on Wednesday for a 2-1 series lead.

Curry also had eight rebounds and seven assists but couldn't do it all for the two-time defending champions, down starters Kevin Durant

and Klay Thompson and key backup big man Kevon Looney because of injuries.

"They outplayed us. They deserved it," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I'm very proud of our effort, and now we've just got to bounce back and hopefully get back in here Friday night and hopefully get a little healthier and get some guys back."

Splash Brother Thompson missed his first career play-off game after straining his left hamstring late in Game 2, while Looney is out the rest of the series after a cartilage fracture on his right side near the collarbone that also happened Sunday. Durant, a two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP, has been sidelined nearly a month

because of a strained right calf.

Game 4 is Friday at Oracle Arena, where Warriors fans will be rooting for the returns of Durant and Thompson.

Before the game, one of the Raptors wrote "let it rip" on the locker room board.

Lowry contributed 23 with five three-pointers and Green had 18 points with six threes after Pascal Siakam got the Raptors rolling early. Toronto shot 52.4% from deep.

"I give our guys a lot of credit. I thought we answered a lot of runs," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "Each time they chipped, we kind of answered back. And that's kind of what you got to do if you're going to keep your lead."

The Warriors trailed 96-83

going into the final quarter. Curry's three free throws at 10:37 made it a seven-point game before back-to-back baskets by Serge Ibaka.

Siakam scored 18 points and established the momentum for Toronto from the tip, hitting his first three shots and setting a tone for a defensive effort that stayed solid without the foul problems that plagued the Raptors in Game 2.

"Every time we made a run or got the crowd into it they either made a tough three or there was a tough foul call and they slowed the tempo down or something went their way," Curry said. "You have to tip your cap to all the guys who made pivotal plays in the right times."

# US teen Anisimova shocks champ Halep

Associated Press

PARIS — Amanda Anisimova smacked one last backhand winner to complete her upset of defending champion Simona Halep in the French Open quarterfinals, flung her racket and covered her mouth with both hands.

Eyes wide, Anisimova then spread her arms with palms up and said, "What?!"

In a tournament filled with surprises, Anisimova provided the latest Thursday. Just 17 and ranked merely 51st, yet possessing the mindset and mien of someone much more experienced and accomplished, the American withstood a late charge by Halep and won 6-2, 6-4 to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

"I don't think it will sink in, at least not for today. Yeah, I mean, it's crazy," said Anisimova, who was born in New Jersey to Russian parents and moved to Florida when she was 3. "I really can't believe the

result today. And getting the opportunity to play against Simona, that's amazing. But how it ended is even crazier to me."

That's a fair assessment of the entire tournament. Serena Williams, No. 1 Naomi Osaka and No. 2 Karolina Pliskova lost in the third round; Angelique Kerber and Caroline Wozniacki were gone in the first.

The highest-seeded player in the semifinals is No. 8 Ash Barty, the Australian who will face Anisimova. Barty advanced by beating No. 14 Madison Keys of the United States 6-3, 7-5.

"I felt," Barty said, "like I was in control."

The other semifinal is No. 26 Johanna Konta of Britain against unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic.

Because rain washed out all play Wednesday, the women's semifinals — normally Thursday, one after another in the main stadium — will be played simultaneously on the second-

and third-largest courts Friday morning. The biggest arena will host the men's semifinals: Rafael Nadal vs. Roger Federer, and Novak Djokovic vs. Dominic Thiem. It's the first time the top four men's seeds are the last four standing at a major tournament since the 2013 Australian Open.

Djokovic stretched his Grand Slam winning streak to 26 matches as he pursues a fourth consecutive major trophy, beating Alexander Zverev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2. Thiem eliminated No. 10 seed Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

"Controlling the points was the key, I think," said 2018 French Open runner-up Thiem, who made only 12 unforced errors, 25 fewer than Khachanov. "I didn't miss a lot today."

Not only has none of the remaining women won a Grand Slam trophy, none has participated in a major final.

"Well," said Halep, who was seeded third, "nothing surprises me anymore in tennis."

Still, Anisimova's rapid rise is noteworthy.

Already the first tennis player born in the 2000s to get to a Slam quarterfinal, she's now the youngest U.S. woman into the semis at Roland Garros since Jennifer Capriati was 14 in 1990.

Anisimova or Vondrousova could each become the first teenager since Iva Majoli in 1997 to win the French Open, where the slow clay courts require patience from shot to shot, the movement and endurance to get to ball after ball, the smarts to construct points.

Anisimova certainly checked all those boxes Thursday. Facing a former No. 1 and major champ, in the tournament's largest arena, the teenager was poised as can be.

"She was pretty calm," said Halep, who acknowledged feeling the stress of trying to win a second consecutive title in Paris. "She showed that she's able to do good things and big things."

## Blues winning war of attrition in Stanley Cup Final

Associated Press

BOSTON — Twice the Boston Bruins have been forced to finish a Stanley Cup Final game down a defenseman. The St. Louis Blues won each time.

That's not a coincidence.

Wearing out opponents and winning the war of attrition has been an ingredient of the Blues' playoff success. They took advantage of injuries to San Jose's Erik Karlsson, Joe Pavelski and Tomas Hertl to move on to the final, and with Boston potentially without captain Zdeno Chara for Game 5 Thursday, St. Louis is two victories away from lifting the Stanley Cup as the healthier team.

"We can see it throughout games and throughout series," Blues captain Alex Pietrangolo said Wednesday. "It's tough minutes to play against our forward lines when they're playing the way they can. You can

see the momentum we create by our line changes in the offensive zone, we're just using all four lines. If I was a defenseman, that would be tough to defend against."

Chara did not go to the arena at all Wednesday, 36 hours after taking a puck to the jaw in Boston's Game 4 loss that tied the series at two games apiece. Coach Bruce Cassidy didn't talk to and only briefly texted with the 42-year-old defenseman, who has a facial injury that has been reported to be a broken jaw.

Just like the Sharks series in the Western Conference finals, the Blues insist their game plan doesn't change depending on who's in or out of the lineup on the other side. That includes Chara, even though missing him on the penalty kill and defensively could make a big difference.

The absence of Chara could

prove to be the tipping point in a bruising battle between the Bruins and Blues. Boston defenseman Matt Grzelcyk is out with a concussion and St. Louis forward Robert Thomas is out with a suspected hand or wrist injury. Cassidy said Grzelcyk, who practiced in a no-contact jersey Wednesday, is still in concussion protocol and would need to be medically cleared to play in Game 5.

If Boston is without two of its top five defensemen in Chara and Grzelcyk, it would mean bigger roles for John Moore and Connor Clifton and the possibility of Steven Kampfer seeing his first action since Game 1 of the East finals. And the Bruins' entire approach would change.

"You lose a little bit of your team defense, well, maybe you've got to create more offense to balance that out," Cassidy said. "You got a guy that kills penalties well, maybe stay

a little more disciplined. Down the line of how can you make up for what he brings without one guy going in there."

Meanwhile, St. Louis is relatively healthy except for Thomas. The Blues got defenseman Vince Dunn back for Game 4 after he missed almost three weeks after taking a puck to the face in the West finals, and he assisted on a goal and drastically improved their puck movement.

"He's a dynamic player," coach Craig Berube said. "He can make something out of nothing a lot of times. He's very good at that. He's elusive and even coming out of our own end, you feel like there are times when the puck is going to get stopped up and he'll do something and make a move and a quick play with the puck that breaks a guy out and it's a great play that we're going up the ice now."

# Rays' Morton runs unbeaten string to 20

Associated Press

DETROIT — Charlie Morton describes himself as a pessimist — even after 20 consecutive starts without a loss.

“It’s never hard for me to be pessimistic,” Morton said. “I just know how it can turn sour quick.”

At some point, another team will probably beat Morton, but not Wednesday night, when the Tampa Bay right-hander allowed five hits in seven innings to lead the Rays to a 4-0 win over the Detroit Tigers. Morton hasn’t lost since Aug. 11, and only Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers, at 21 starts, has a longer active unbeaten streak.

Morton (7-0) struck out eight with no walks and needed just

83 pitches to complete seven innings. He’s now 22-3 since the start of last season, and after his comments about pessimism, he did talk for a bit about a newfound appreciation for life in baseball.

“I think I’m at the point right now, I think I’m in a well-balanced place,” he said.

Austin Meadows tripled and scored on a throwing error in the third to open the scoring. Tampa Bay scored two more in the fifth and snapped its four-game skid.

Spencer Turnbull (3-5) allowed three runs in five innings.

The Rays have allowed the fewest runs in baseball, but they’d yielded nine in each of their previous two games. Mor-

ton put a stop to that, improving to 10-0 with a 2.86 ERA during his unbeaten run. The teams played through rain in the early innings, but the conditions didn’t seem to bother Morton.

The Rays scored first when Meadows, the American League’s leading hitter, tripled to the gap in right-center field, then came home on second baseman Harold Castro’s throwing error.

Castro’s bouncing throw got past third, and Turnbull wasn’t backing up the play. Meadows got up with ripped pants after that tour of the bases.

“We have to catch the ball and we have to throw the ball. Just make the simple plays and get the outs,” Detroit manager

Ron Gardenhire said. “There’s no such thing as a good error, and I know, because when I was playing at this level, my name might as well have been ‘E. Gardenhire’ — because you’d look at the box score in the paper and it always said ‘E: Gardenhire.’”

Tampa Bay added two runs with two outs in the fifth. Avisail Garcia hit an RBI double, and Ji-Man Choi followed with a run-scoring single. In the eighth, the Rays made it 4-0 on another throwing error by Castro. This time, he threw wildly to first while trying to complete a double play.

Detroit’s JaCoby Jones singled in the third to extend his hitting streak to 11 games.

## MLB roundup

# Haseley’s first big league hit lifts Phillies over Padres

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Adam Haseley drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning with his first big league hit, and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied from a three-run deficit for a 7-5 defeat of the San Diego Padres.

The 23-year-old Haseley made his major league debut Tuesday as the center fielder for the NL East-leading Phillies, who are scrambling to reconfigure their outfield.

Craig Stammen (4-2) walked Scott Kingery with two outs in the eighth, and Haseley sliced a sinker for an opposite-field double down the left-field line. Pinch-hitter Andrew Knapp followed with an RBI single for Philadelphia, which won its second straight after a season-high five-game losing streak.

Jay Bruce hit a solo homer in the fourth, his third with the Phillies and 17th this season.

**Nationals 6, White Sox 4:** Trea Turner homered off Alex Colome in the ninth inning, and host Washington won its season-high fourth straight, defeating Chicago.

The Nationals led 4-1 in the eighth before another meltdown by a bullpen that has a 6.68 ERA — no other team is above 6.00.

Leury Garcia singled with one out in the eighth off Kyle Barraclough, and Jose Abreu hit his 16th homer one out later. Wander Suero relieved and Wellington Castillo homered on his first pitch.

**Marlins 8, Brewers 3:** Brian Anderson hit his first career grand slam and Miami won at Milwaukee to spoil Jimmy Nelson’s return to the major leagues.

Starlin Castro and Bryan Holaday each drove in two runs as the surging Marlins earned their fourth straight victory. Sandy Alcantara (3-5) pitched seven crisp innings in his first win since he tossed a two-hitter in a 3-0 victory over the New York Mets on May 19.

**Mets 7, Giants 0:** Jason Vargas pitched his first shutout in two years, Amed Rosario hit a three-run homer and host New York won despite losing Robinson Cano hours after his return

from the injured list.

Michael Conforto and Adeiny Hechavarria each had a solo homer for the Mets, who ended a three-game skid with their second win in seven games.

**Diamondbacks 3, Dodgers 2 (11):** Jarrod Dyson hit a tying double in the eighth inning with the help of Chase Field’s new artificial turf, David Peralta had a winning single in the 11th, and host Arizona avoided a three-game sweep.

**Blue Jays 11, Yankees 7:** Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Zack Britton in a five-run eighth inning, Randal Grichuk had a pair of homers and host Toronto sent New York to its first three-game losing streak since early April.

**Red Sox 8, Royals 0:** Chris Sale tossed a three-hitter for his third career shutout, and Jackie Bradley Jr. and Rafael Devers drove in three runs apiece to lead Boston to a win at Kansas City.

**Cubs, 9, Rockies 8:** David Bote drove in a career-high seven runs to lead host Chicago

past Denver.

**Pirates 7, Braves 4:** Joe Musgrove gave his team’s beleaguered bullpen a welcome break, pitching into the ninth inning for the first time in his career as host Pittsburgh beat Atlanta in a game delayed more than two hours by rain.

**Rangers 2, Orioles 1 (12):** Delino DeShields’ single in the 12th inning, his fourth hit of the game, drove in pinch-runner Isiah Kiner-Falefa from second base to lift host Texas.

**Indians 9, Twins 7:** Roberto Perez hit a solo homer in the seventh inning to drive in the go-ahead run and host Cleveland used seven relief pitchers after announcing scheduled starter Carlos Carrasco will be sidelined indefinitely because of a recently diagnosed blood condition.

**Mariners 14, Astros 1:** Edwin Encarnacion capped his team’s seven-run sixth inning with a three-run homer, Mike Leake pitched his first complete game since 2015 and host Seattle stopped a four-game losing streak.