

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, June 7, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## CENTCOM leader: Iranian threat 'very real'

*Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — Iran has chosen to “step back and recalculate” after making preparations for an apparent attack against U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region, but it is too early to conclude the threat is gone, the top commander of American forces in the Mideast said.

In an interview with reporters accompanying him to the Gulf, Gen. Frank McKenzie said he remains concerned by Iran’s potential for aggression and he would not rule out requesting additional U.S. forces to bolster defenses against Iranian missiles or other weapons.

“I don’t actually believe the threat has diminished,” McKenzie said Thursday. “I believe the threat is very real.”

McKenzie, the head of U.S. Central Command, and other military officials are trying to strike a balance between convincing Iran that the U.S. is prepared to retaliate for an Iranian attack on Americans, thus deterring conflict, and pushing so much military muscle into

the Gulf that Iran thinks the U.S. plans an attack, in which case it might feel compelled to strike preemptively and thus spark war.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran have worsened since President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and several world powers and reinstated sanctions on Tehran. Last month, in response to what American officials characterized as an imminent threat, the U.S. announced it would rush an aircraft carrier and other assets to the region.

The U.S. also blamed Iran for last month’s attacks on oil tankers in a United Arab Emirates port.

On Thursday, United Nations ambassadors from the Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Norway told U.N. Security Council members that investigators believe those attacks were led by a foreign state using divers on speed boats who planted mines on the vessels. They did not name Iran.

Earlier, the Saudi ambassador to the U.N., Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, said Saudi Arabia also blames Iran for the sabotage.

Iran has consistently dismissed allegations that it was involved in the recent attacks on the oil tankers or was preparing to attack American troops in the region.

In Baghdad, McKenzie told reporters from The Associated Press and two other media organizations that U.S. redeployments to the Gulf have “caused the Iranians to back up a little bit, but I’m not sure they are strategically backing down.”

The general said the U.S. is showing enough force to “establish deterrence” without “needlessly” provoking its longtime adversary. He said he is confident in the moves he has made.

“We’ve taken steps to show the Iranians that we mean business in our ability to defend ourselves,” he said, referring to the accelerated deployment to the Gulf area of the USS Abra-

ham Lincoln carrier strike group, four Air Force B-52 bombers and additional batteries of Army Patriot air-defense systems.

Speaking at the Baghdad headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, McKenzie said he also has repositioned surveillance aircraft to more closely monitor the situation in the Gulf and in Iraq, where the U.S. has 5,200 troops on the ground, and has given Iran a “new look” by introducing more aerial patrols by land- and carrier-based fighters.

“Cumulatively, all of these have caused them to sort of step back and recalculate the course that they apparently were on,” he said.

McKenzie stressed that the danger of conflict with a decades-old American adversary has not passed.

“I hesitate to say that deterrence has been established,” he said. “We continue to see possible imminent threats” of a potential Iranian attack.

## Navy: Russian ship maneuver ‘unsafe and unprofessional’

*The Washington Post*

The U.S. Navy accused a Russian ship of “unsafe and unprofessional” conduct after an incident Friday in the Philippine Sea caused a near-collision between a Russian destroyer and the American guided missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville.

The Russian Pacific Fleet countered that it was the U.S. vessel that had engaged in dangerous maneuvering, forcing the Russian destroyer Admiral Vinogradov to take emergency action, Russia’s Interfax news agency reported.

A statement from Cmdr. Clay Doss of the U.S. 7th Fleet said that the Chancellorsville was recovering its helicopter while maintaining a steady course when the Russian

ship came from behind and “accelerated and closed to an unsafe distance of 50-100 feet.”

“This unsafe action forced Chancellorsville to execute all engines back full and to maneuver to avoid collision,” the statement said. “Russia’s actions during this interaction was unsafe and unprofessional.”

The Russian statement, however, said the U.S. cruiser “suddenly changed directions and came within 50 meters [about 164 feet] of the Russian destroyer.”

Navy released an image showing the ships at about the same distance from each other as the width of the Chancellorsville. The U.S. cruiser’s beam is 55 feet at the waterline, according to the Naval Vessel Register website.

Since January 2018, the Pentagon has been unfolding a strategy that refocuses the U.S. military on competition with Russia and China, which both have been building up and modernizing their militaries and challenging the United States’ once-unquestioned naval supremacy.

Over the years there have been a number of close encounters between U.S. and Russian forces, often in the form of Russian aircraft buzzing U.S. Navy ships.

Fleets belonging to Russia and NATO regularly trade barbs over what each side says is an infringement on their course in international waters — though this usually takes place on the other side of the globe from the Pacific.

# Navy probes claims against war college leader

Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — The military is investigating the president of the U.S. Naval War College amid allegations that he spent excessively, abused his hiring authority and otherwise behaved inappropriately, including keeping a margarita machine in his office.

Multiple current and former college employees told The Associated Press they have raised serious concerns for over a year about Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley's conduct at the helm of the elite school that grooms future admirals and generals.

Dozens of emails and other documents obtained by the AP show the college has struggled to make payroll under Harley's leadership and spent about \$725,000 annually on raises while facing an annual shortfall of \$5 million or more.

Harley has also sent a series of emails to hundreds of students, faculty and staff that raised eyebrows, including offers of "free hugs" and games of Twister in his office.

In an interview with the AP last month, Harley blamed the fiscal strain on the Navy not fully funding new missions the college has taken on. And he said the emails merely reflected his lighthearted leadership style.

A small group of longtime college employees filed an anonymous complaint in April 2018 with the Navy's office of the inspector general.

The group members said they "hold no ill-will" toward Harley but that "his destructive and ethically challenged leadership style is destroying the college," according to a copy shared with the AP by two of the workers.

They, along with two other current employees and one former worker, spoke about their concerns with Harley on condition of anonymity because they feared professional retaliation.

Two of them said that they and others were interviewed by investigators in September, but

## Allegations include excessive spending, abuse of hiring authority and drinking

nothing happened.

The group contacted the inspector general again in January with additional allegations of Harley flouting Navy rules and norms.

"The drinking continues. Morale is at an all-time low," the employees wrote in a January email. "Your biggest concern should be, however, the financial situation at the college."

They said they heard nothing again from investigators until last month, after the AP asked the Navy about Harley's conduct.

The Navy confirmed this week that it has received multiple complaints about Harley's behavior. It has not taken action against him so far.

"We do not comment on ongoing investigations," Navy spokeswoman Lt. Christina Sears said.

Harley said he could not discuss any investigation: "That's Navy business. But I think you'd be surprised to know that on any given day about 85 officers are under investigation," he said.

He declined Wednesday to answer a series of questions about additional allegations — including his use of a margarita machine — and sent a campus-wide email downplaying the complaints, saying they were from "a few individuals."

"All the decisions questioned in the allegations were subject to legal review either before or after the fact, and I believe that all of my decisions are within my authorities," Harley wrote.

Founded in 1884 when the Navy was still transitioning from wooden ships to steel, the waterfront college in the well-heeled sailing community of Newport has served as a pre-retirement post for distinguished wartime commanders, including Vice Adm. James Stockdale, the Vietnam prison-

er of war and Medal of Honor recipient.

Previously an assistant deputy chief of naval operations in Washington, Harley assumed command in July 2016 at the post-graduate institution, which graduates about 1,600 students each year and employs around 700 faculty and staff.

Harley himself acknowledged in a campus email in February that the school had to make across-the-board cuts to ensure it met payroll. Just last week, he asked for more cutbacks in travel budgets.

All five current and former employees blamed that in part on substantial raises — as much as \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year — that Harley appeared to grant to some faculty, rather than consulting the college's other senior leaders, as is customary.

Harley has told staff and faculty in emails this spring that the college was remedying pay gaps between men and women, balancing pay between departments and creating a system to avoid future disparities.

The employees also complained that Harley had hired unqualified people to high-paying jobs, sometimes exploiting a federal rule meant to allow colleges to quickly hire qualified professors. They questioned Harley's spending of tens of thousands of dollars on certain contractors and others, who they said brought little benefit to the college.

Among the other allegations made with the inspector general's office is that Harley drinks on duty.

The employees alleged that Harley has a margarita machine in his office, and that "he moves the machine to suit his mood," sometimes to a dining area for school leaders.

"He has invited members of the staff to his office for after-

noon drinks, setting his employees up to either comply because he's the boss or uncomfortably decline his offer because they do not want to drink during the workday," the staffers said in their complaint.

Harley has also sent campus-wide emails inviting people to his office for a game of Twister, in which players contort around one another on a mat, or for "free hugs (if desired)."

Workers called his often-rambling emails unbecoming of an admiral and said they left people wondering how Harley was spending his time and school resources.

In an email sent May 12, Harley boasted about a new portrait of himself, painted on velvet. He attached photos showing the picture hanging in a campus building among those of other college presidents.

"He preferred cats, Star Trek, red wine, baseball and was positively obsessed with achieving the perfect hair day," according to a label he said he mounted with the picture.

Harley, who is bald, said the portrait was made by a professor who paid for it himself and gave it to Harley as a joke. He called it a way to poke fun of himself.

In last month's interview, Harley called himself quirky and said he tries to use humor to break the tension in what can be a high-pressure environment. As a leader, he said, he will hug back appropriately. He said he does not actually own Twister.

"I do not believe there's anything in those emails that are derogatory, unethical, immoral or illegal," he said.

Harley said he's making decisions in the best interest of the Navy and the college, and he believes his tenure has been extended for a fourth year at the war college, though the Navy is considering hiring a new president who would be a civilian. That would be a first for the college, and it could shorten Harley's time in Newport.

# Marine sentenced to 4 years in hazing death

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, Va. — An elite Marine Raider was sentenced Friday to spend four years in a military prison after admitting his role in the strangulation death of a Green Beret, a fellow special operator he described as a friend.

One day earlier, Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr. pleaded guilty to negligent homicide, burglary, obstruction and other charges as part of a plea deal with prosecutors to avoid more serious charges, including murder, in the June 4, 2017, death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar in the Malian capital city of Bamako, where they were deployed.

Maxwell on Thursday took the witness stand, delivering about two hours of testimony that at times was emotional. He described Melgar's killing as the accidental result of a devious hazing plan that he initially thought was merely a joke launched over late night drinks at local bars.

Maxwell told the judge overseeing his case, Marine Col. Glen Hines, he would never forgive himself for participating in the "ridiculous and harmful, abusive trick" against a buddy he had spent the prior

day with enjoying an extracurricular boat trip on the nearby Niger River. From the witness stand, Maxwell turned to Melgar's widow, Michelle Melgar, in the first row of the courtroom gallery, telling her that her husband was a better man than him and he would never have participated in the kind of act that led to his death.

Maxwell, 29, is one of four American special operations personnel charged in Melgar's death and the second to plead guilty to reduced charges in the attack. Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews, 33, a former member of the elite SEAL Team 6, was sentenced to one year in prison last month for his role in the killing. Two others — Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolph and Marine Raider Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez — face a slew of charges, including murder, for their roles in the Green Beret's killing. Navy officials said, as of Friday, hearings or trial dates had yet to be scheduled in their cases and they had not been offered plea deals.

As part of their arrangements with prosecutors, Matthews and Maxwell agreed to testify against DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez.

In addition to the prison time, Hines sentenced Maxwell to a

reduction in rank to E-1 private and a bad conduct discharge for his admitted crimes — negligent homicide, conspiracy, hazing, burglary, obstruction of justice and making false official statements.

From the witness stand, Maxwell identified DeDolph as the primary instigator of the hazing plan, testifying the SEAL had often displayed a sense of "dark humor." Through most of that night, Maxwell said he believed plans to "remediate" Melgar for perceived slights raised by another Marine — who had been "drinking heavily" and was visibly angry — and DeDolph were simply a drunken, running farce.

Maxwell described a brewing tense — if not toxic — climate among the small community of military special operators serving in Mali, especially between the SEAL Team 6 members and soldiers from the Army's 3rd Special Forces group, Melgar's unit, who shared a house in Bamako and whose missions were separate but sometimes overlapped.

The Marine said DeDolph, a member of SEAL Team 6, and another SEAL at times bullied Melgar and often did not get along with Melgar's supervisor, who were the only soldiers living in the quarters.

Nonetheless, he testified,

none of the four charged in the soldier's death intended to kill him that night.

The special operators said the plan was to bust through Melgar's bedroom door with a sledgehammer, secure his arms and legs with duct-tape while DeDolph, a former professional mixed martial arts fighter, placed him in temporary unconsciousness via a chokehold. A British expatriate who tagged along with the Americans — along with two Malian security guards — was to film the incident with his phone, they said.

Maxwell told Hines in court that as DeDolph placed Melgar in a second chokehold — his first attempt did not render Melgar unconscious long enough to carry out the plan — he saw Melgar was becoming unresponsive. Melgar then went into shock.

"That's when we all started performing resuscitation procedures," he said, including CPR and eventually a field expedient tracheotomy before rushing him to a health clinic where he was pronounced dead.

Maxwell admitted the group formed a pact to attempt to cover up the nature of Melgar's death even as they attempted to revive him.

## Navy SEAL trial delayed amid prosecution shake-up

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SAN DIEGO — The trial of a San Diego-based Navy SEAL charged with committing multiple war crimes during a 2017 deployment to Iraq has been delayed until June 17, Navy spokesman Brian O'Rourke said Thursday.

The trial was scheduled to begin Monday. O'Rourke did not offer a reason for the delay.

Chief Special Warfare Operator Edward R. Gallagher, 40, was indicted in January on charges that he killed a wounded teenage Islamic State fighter brought to the SEAL's Mosul,

Iraq, compound for medical treatment in 2017. A number of Gallagher's fellow SEALs told the Naval Criminal Investigative Service after the platoon returned from Iraq, according to NCIS testimony.

Gallagher denies all charges and pleaded not guilty.

His trial already has been delayed twice: once in February and again last month, when defense attorneys discovered that emails sent to them by the prosecution had embedded links designed to track where and when they were opened and forwarded. Defense attor-

neys said the prosecution was spying on them and a Navy Times reporter via email.

On Monday, Cmdr. Chris Czaplak, the lead prosecutor in the case, was disqualified and removed from the case due to his role in the email tracking. The judge, Navy Capt. Aaron Rugh, said he removed Czaplak because his actions left him susceptible to an investigation and represented a conflict of interest in prosecuting Gallagher. The Navy has not commented on whether Czaplak is under investigation.

Another Navy prosecutor,

Cmdr. Jeffrey Pietrzyk, joined the prosecution team Thursday, O'Rourke said.

Rugh freed Gallagher from pretrial restriction last week because, he said, the delay caused by Czaplak's actions had violated Gallagher's Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial.

The defense made other motions, including a request that Rugh throw out the charges. Rugh has yet to announce a decision on those motions.

Defense attorney Timothy Parlatore said Thursday he anticipated a ruling on the remaining motions on Friday.

# Troops are eyes, ears of border patrol

By ROSE L. THAYER

*Stars and Stripes*

EL PASO, Texas — Army Staff Sgt. Dale Galloway discussed his day-to-day work at the U.S.-Mexico border by showing off a truck outfitted with camera equipment that allows him to detect people — and animals — 18 to 25 miles away. Whatever suspicious activity Galloway observes, he reports it to Border Patrol agents who are always just minutes away.

The biggest difference between this mission and his time in Afghanistan — this isn't combat, he said.

"The threats downrange are a lot different than the threats down here," Galloway said Thursday.

However, as Galloway described the mission in Texas, he is keenly aware that his deployment to the southern border is controversial and a constant subject of discussion among politicians and pundits of both political parties. He left Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington in Febru-

ary, and he said he chose not to tell anyone aside from his wife that he was deploying on the southern border simply to avoid the sensitive subject.

"With Border Patrol, we have the same common goal," Galloway said about whether the mission is worth him being away from his wife and three children. "Border security is national security."

That phrase was heard often during a two-hour media event Thursday at the El Paso sector of the border that is designed to showcase the work of the soldiers and Marines who are part of the mobile surveillance camera mission. About 1,200 troops are assigned to the mission, which utilizes Border Patrol vehicles decked out with cameras and infrared technology at 150 sites in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, said Brig. Gen. Walter Duzzny, deputy commander of U.S. Army North, the headquarters overseeing the border deployment for U.S. Northern Command.

"With the [surveillance mission] we are their eyes and ears from those [vehicle] positions along the southwest border and allowing them to conduct their mission," Duzzny said.

This mission began in February, though active-duty troops first arrived at the border in October.

The southern border has continued to see record numbers of migrants and families seeking asylum. Enforcement actions are up 99 percent from last year, according to Customs and Border Protection data released Wednesday. In this fiscal year, agents have apprehended 593,507 people. Of those interactions, 132,887 took place in May.

Servicemembers don't interact with people at the border or detain migrants crossing illegally. However, their assistance with the surveillance cameras has helped Border Patrol apprehend 13,000 people and seize 3,000 pounds of marijuana, Duzzny said.

## Trump team considers a red, white and blue Air Force One

*Bloomberg*

The White House is pressing ahead with President Donald Trump's demand that Boeing paint new Air Force One jets red, white and blue, replacing the blue-and-white pattern used since the early 1960s.

The Air Force, which manages the \$5.3 billion program to build two new presidential planes, hasn't been given a formal request by the White House Military Office to abandon the color pattern originated under President John F. Kennedy. But the White House is "evaluating specific red, white, and blue livery (paint scheme) options," the Air Force said in a statement.

Trump's seemingly offhand proposal a year ago on how to paint the new planes was among the quirkier examples of the president's willingness to intervene in Defense Department projects — from pushing personally for reductions in the cost of the Air Force One replacements and the F-35 fighter jet to demanding that the Navy

use old-fashioned steam-based catapults on its new aircraft carriers instead of a more advanced but occasionally unreliable electromagnetic system.

The planes are also used by the vice president and are designated Air Force One only when the president is on board. They will replace the aging sky blue-and-white Boeing aircraft that have become internationally recognized symbols when a president arrives in a U.S. city or a foreign destination, as with the president's European travels this week.

A final decision on the paint scheme for planes isn't due until 2021 so it's possible the color switch might be abandoned if Trump loses his reelection bid next year. If Trump wins, it's a close call on whether he'll get to fly on one of the new planes: The Air Force estimates the first jet will be ready by September 2024, four months before Trump would leave office, but such projects rarely remain on schedule.

## US-Mexico talks continue as 5% tariff looms Monday

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The White House says President Donald Trump's threatened tariffs on Mexico are set to take effect Monday as planned even as negotiators try to stave off his latest push aimed at forcing the U.S. ally to stem the flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

"Our position has not changed," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told reporters Friday in Ireland before Trump headed back to Washington. "The tariffs are going forward as of Monday."

Talks resumed at the State Department, and Trump has received regular updates from Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his trip to Europe. Sanders said officials had "made a lot of progress," but not enough.

The initial 5% tax on all Mexican goods, which would increase every month up to 25%, would have enormous economic

implications for both countries. Americans bought \$378 billion worth of Mexican imports last year, led by cars and auto parts. Many members of Trump's Republican Party and business allies have urged him to reconsider, citing the potential harm to American consumers and manufactures.

Trump has nonetheless embraced tariffs as a political tool he can use to force countries to comply with his demands — in this case on his signature issue of immigration.

White House officials appeared to deliver mixed messages as they awaited Trump's return to the White House. Economic adviser Kevin Hassett said Trump could delay the tariffs, while Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, stressed that "there's still a long way to go."

Either way, Trump is poised to invoke an emergency declaration that would allow him to put the tariffs into effect, say some monitoring the talks.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Boat captain threatens to shoot passengers

**FL** SARASOTA — A Florida charter captain has been arrested after authorities said he got drunk and high and threatened to shoot passengers.

Sarasota police said boat captain Mark Bailey, 36, got into a fight with the teenage son of one of the five passengers over the weekend. Several other passengers became involved and authorities said the argument escalated.

According to a police report, passengers said they heard Bailey fire several shots from the upper deck into the water and saw him drinking and doing drugs.

For hours, passengers said the captain refused to dock even after they paid him. They eventually called the Coast Guard.

### Man shoots himself in leg on bus accidentally

**WA** SEATTLE — Authorities said a man accidentally shot himself in the leg while on a King County Metro bus in Seattle.

The King County Sheriff's Office said on Twitter that the shooting happened at about 2 p.m. Tuesday south of downtown.

The sheriff's office said the man in his 50s accidentally shot himself with his gun while he was sitting on the bus. He was taken to Harborview Medical Center in stable condition.

### House-sized boulder remains along highway

**CO** DENVER — A boulder the size of a house that tumbled across and gouged a southwestern Colorado state

highway last month will stay put. State officials plan to rebuild the highway next to it, saving taxpayers money and possibly creating a tourist attraction.

Democratic Gov. Jared Polis said Tuesday that Colorado will save about \$200,000 by not blasting the 8.5 million-pound boulder. He said people will also have the opportunity to see the boulder dubbed "Memorial Rock," which fell on Memorial Day weekend.

### Old fishing gear to be removed from waters

**ME** PORTLAND — A pair of groups said it expects to remove about 5,000 pounds of lost and abandoned fishing gear from New England waters during an effort to clean up the debris.

The Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation was working with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative on the project Friday. They're removing the gear from the Gulf of Maine. The groups said they're cracking down on "ghost gear," which is a threat to marine life and ecosystems.

The work was intended to take place Thursday but was pushed back by bad weather.

### Girl finds handgun in her backpack

**MN** ST. PAUL — Police in St. Paul are investigating how a loaded handgun ended up in the backpack of an elementary school student.

Sgt. Mike Ernster said the girl, 8, put her backpack on the floor at John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School on Monday and heard a thud. Ernster said she opened the backpack and found the gun, then told her teacher about it. The girl wasn't sure how the

gun ended up in her bag.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press said police secured the gun, which belonged to the girl's mother.

### Authorities break up cockfighting ring

**VA** STUART — An 18-month investigation into a cockfighting ring in southwestern Virginia has led to the arrest of 80 people, many of them from North Carolina.

Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith tells media outlets that more than 50 officers from various law enforcement agencies made the arrests Saturday at a property in Claudville, just north of Surry County in North Carolina.

Smith said the property has been used previously for cockfighting, which is a felony under Virginia law. He said the evidence showed the ring is based in Mexico, with people from states such as Georgia and Texas participating.

### Alligator caught after breaking into home

**FL** CLEARWATER — A large alligator terrified a resident when it broke into a home and wandered around the kitchen, knocking over several wine bottles in its path.

Clearwater Police said the frightened homeowner hid in the bedroom last week, telling a 911 operator the homeowner wasn't leaving until police arrived. A newspaper delivery person also called police around 3:30 a.m. to report the intruder. Officials said the gator was 10 or 11-feet long.

Police spokeswoman Joelle Castelli said the male gator entered the home through low windows and knocked over several wine bottles and suffered a few small cuts during

its capture.

She told Florida Today the gator could be taken to a private farm in Fort Meade if it's a candidate for relocation.

### Kid on unicorn-shaped float rescued at sea

**NC** OAK ISLAND — A volunteer water rescue team saved an 8-year-old boy who floated away from the North Carolina coast on a raft shaped like a unicorn.

News outlets report that the Ohio boy was at the beach on Oak Island on Monday when a gust of wind blew the raft nearly half a mile out to sea. Volunteers with Oak Island Water Rescue said the unicorn float acted as a sail, which caused it to move too fast for the boy to stop.

Rescue crews said family members called 911 and the team used a raft to reach the boy and bring him back to shore.

### Gang member ordered to pay moving fees

**MD** CANNON — A Maryland appeals court said a known Baltimore gang member must reimburse a family he scared away when he threatened to blow their house up.

The Daily Record reported that the appealed order for Teddy Shannon to reimburse the family \$2,400 for their lost security deposit and first month's rent was upheld on Tuesday. Shannon previously was convicted of threatening arson and illegally possessing a gun.

The Court of Special Appeals said the family had to flee their home for their safety because of the Black Guerrilla Family gang member's threat.

From wire reports

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# Blues win Game 5, takes 3-2 series lead

Associated Press

BOSTON — From last place in the league to the brink of their first Stanley Cup championship, the St. Louis Blues need one more win to complete their improbable journey.

They have a young goaltender leading the way.

Jordan Binnington stopped 38 shots, and the Blues withstood the emotional rush of Zdeno Chara's return to beat the Bruins 2-1 on Thursday night and take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven final. They can win the championship at home in Game 6 on Sunday night.

"We've had quite the season so far. We've been through quite a lot," defenseman Colton Parayko said. "But we continued to battle. We never gave up on each other. It put us closer together, especially now."

One game after chopping down the Bruins' giant captain with a deflected puck off his jaw, the Blues quieted the

rest of a city still celebrating its last championship: The New England Patriots were receiving their Super Bowl rings a few miles away, the second in what Bostonians hoped would be a third title in the last 12 months.

But it's St. Louis — whose Rams lost to the Patriots in the 2002 Super Bowl, and whose Cardinals fell to the Red Sox in the 2004 and 2013 World Series — that is one win from skating off with the Stanley Cup.

"We've got a big job ahead of us, that's the way I look at it," said coach Craig Berube, who took over when Mike Yeo was fired in November with the team mired in last place in the Central Division. "I hope our team looks at it that way."

Ryan O'Reilly and David Peron scored for St. Louis, which has won two straight since a 7-2 loss at home in Game 3. It was the first time in the series a team has won two in a row.

Tuukka Rask stopped 19

shots and Jake DeBrusk scored for Boston.

"It's behind us now, but it's tough," said Bruins forward Noel Acciari, who was flattened on what the Bruins thought was an illegal hit right before Peron's goal. "Tough pill to swallow. It's a must-win from here on out."

Chara left Game 4 dripping blood after taking that puck off his face, but he gave the building a lift when he followed Rask onto the ice for the pregame skate wearing a full-face shield. He got a lengthy cheer for his introduction, and he went out of the way to deliver the game's first hit, just 15 seconds in, on Brayden Schenn. When things went bad later, the crowd tried to spur the team on with chants of "Chara!"

But the 42-year-old defenseman's toughness could only carry so far.

O'Reilly scored in the opening minute of the second period, backhanding in a rebound

for his third goal in his last five periods. It was still 1-0 midway through the third when the referees disregarded a leg sweep by Tyler Bozak that knocked Acciari out of the game. But he was still on the ice when Peron followed with a shot that banked off Rask's pad and into the net. The fans responded with a vulgar chant and a shower of rally towels; the public address announcer eventually asked them to stop.

Boston did seem inspired — or at least desperate — and cut the deficit to one goal on a delayed penalty with about 6½ minutes left. Torey Krug took a high stick to the face at the blue line but he played on, straightened his helmet and dished the puck to DeBrusk for a one-timer past Binnington.

Boston pulled Rask with a little more than a minute left and earned several chances, but couldn't get the puck past Binnington.

## Gaffalione's star rising after victory in Preakness

Associated Press

Tyler Gaffalione seems poised to add his name to the list of all-time great jockeys in horse racing that includes Ron Turcotte, Jerry Bailey, Gary Stevens, John Velazquez and Mike Smith.

While there may not be a specific moment when people in horse racing realized those jockeys would become all-time greats, Gaffalione has had two that stand out for Bailey: July 4, 2017 when the young rider tied the Hall of Famer's track record with seven victories in a day and May 18, 2019 when he won the Preakness aboard War of Will.

"I think the Preakness will probably be a defining mark in this young man's career," Bailey said.

It's early in a career that's reaching a crescendo for 24-year-old Gaffalione. The 2015 champion apprentice rider gets

another chance to add to his already impressive résumé when he rides War of Will in the Belmont on Saturday.

Gaffalione is third generation in the profession after grandfather Bobby rode more than 3,200 times and father Steve won over 800 races over 20 years. As a child, Tyler straddled the armchair of the couch to simulate riding a racehorse.

"I call Tyler the next Johnny Velazquez," trainer Mark Casse said. "He's an extremely good athlete. I think he can do a little bit of anything."

Gaffalione thinks about everything before and during a race, exhibiting the experience of a seasoned pro. During his masterful ride on Casse-trained and Gary Barber-owned War of Will in the Preakness, he kept the horse relaxed and made a perfect move when space opened up at the rail to glide through.

"Like a dream come true,"

Gaffalione said. "It's like everything that you could ever want to happen, happened."

Gaffalione's first race was Sept. 5, 2014 at Florida's Gulfstream Park.

He has had 6,448 mounts since with 1,094 victories and 23 graded stakes winners.

At 20, Gaffalione won what amounts to the Eclipse Award's rookie of the year honors when he won 217 races and more than \$5.8 million in earnings in 2015 facing tough competition at Gulfstream.

"Mentally I'm so much stronger than I used to be," Gaffalione said. "I used to let things get to me when I'd lose races. I would get a little bummed out. ... I just always expected so much more of myself and I wanted to be the best rider possible."

Gaffalione built up a thick skin and also earned a lot of professional respect from Bailey, who's now an analyst for NBC Sports. Bailey con-

gratulated Gaffalione on social media when he tied his wins record and shared some advice when they ran into each other at the track a few years back.

"I made a couple of suggestions to him just generally, not riding races per se, but just philosophically about the ascension and the timeline of his career and kind of where I thought his place was," Bailey said. "I told him I thought he belonged in New York. I believed that then. I believe it now."

Keeping his horse relaxed like in the Preakness is what Gaffalione considers the biggest key to the Belmont, which is the longest of the Triple Crown races at a mile and a half over the massive track known as "Big Sandy." Because he predominantly rides in Kentucky, Gaffalione hasn't been in a race at Belmont Park since Oct. 13.

# Nadal ousts rival Federer in 3 sets, moves into final

Associated Press

PARIS — It's rough enough for Roger Federer — well, let's be honest, anyone holding a tennis racket — to try to deal with Rafael Nadal's unflinching excellence on the French Open's red clay.

Mix in a wild wind, and Federer, so great for so long, against anyone else and anywhere else, morphed into merely good. And good, even Federer's brand of good, was not nearly enough Friday.

Nadal made quick work of Federer in their first meeting at Roland Garros since 2011, outperforming his rival 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in air whipping at more than 20 mph to reach his record 12th final in Paris as he pursues his record 12th championship.

This was Federer's most lopsided Grand Slam defeat since he gathered a measly four games in a loss to — guess who? — Nadal in the 2008 French Open title match.

"He makes you feel uncomfortable the way he defends the court and plays on clay. There is nobody who even plays remotely close to him," said Federer, who hadn't entered the tournament since 2015. "I don't even know who I need to go search for, to go practice with somebody who plays like him. I was thinking that during the match."

Nadal has never lost a semifinal at the clay-court major. Never lost a final, either. When told of those facts, Nadal replied, matter-of-factly: "It's incredible, being honest."

He's also never lost to Federer at Roland Garros, improving to 6-0. Overall, Nadal leads their series 24-15. Federer had won their past five meetings, but those were all on hard courts.

It's a whole different task to take on Nadal on clay, in general, and at the French Open, in particular, where he is 92-2 for his career.

In Sunday's final, the No. 2-seeded Nadal will play No. 1 Novak Djokovic or No. 4 Dominic Thiem. Their semifinal was suspended for the day because of rain in the third set.

The players split the first two sets — Thiem took the opener 6-2, then Djokovic grabbed the second 6-3 — and Thiem was up a break at 3-1 in the third when action was halted.

About 45 minutes later, tournament officials announced the match would resume Saturday.

This was the first time since 2011 the four top-seeded men were in the Roland Garros semifinals.

In the women's final Saturday, No. 8 Ash Barty will face unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic. It's the first time either has played for a major title.

The eighth-seeded Barty ended the run of 17-year-old American Amanda Anisimova 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3.

Nineteen-year-old Vondrousova is the first teenage finalist in more than a decade.

The 38th-ranked Czech player beat 26th-seeded Johanna Konta 7-5, 7-6 (2) to reach the final without dropping a set.

The last teenager to reach the final at Roland Garros was Ana Ivanovic, who was also 19 when she finished runner-up to Justine Henin in 2007.

Vondrousova saved three set points while trailing 3-5 in the opening set.

Nadal is bidding for his 18th major title. Among men, only Federer has more, with 20.

Like so many times before, it was Nadal's topspin-heavy lefty forehand, his relentless ball-chasing and his return game that gave Federer fits. Even frustrated the guy so much that the generally stoic Federer smacked a tennis ball toward the stands after getting broken to trail 2-1 in the third set.

"It's just amazing how he plays from deep and then is able to bounce back and forth from the baseline," Federer said. "I didn't play a poor two first sets, in my opinion. I thought Rafa really had to come up with the goods to make the difference, and the difference was a passing shot here, a pickup there."

Blithely put. The fact is, Nadal's passes and pickups — not to mention his reflexes — are not of this world.

More than once, he slid to his right, beyond the doubles alley, to extend a point by retrieving the seemingly irretrievable with a backhand, then followed it up by sprinting to his left for a jaw-droppingly precise forehand that flew out of Federer's reach and veered to land near a line.

And more than once, Nadal punctuated the point by pumping his fist and yelling, "Vamos!"

For Nadal, this was the latest impeccable performance in a recent resurgence. He entered May without a title in 2019, his worst start to a season in 15 years.

But the 33-year-old Spaniard began finding his form at last month's Italian Open, beating Djokovic in that final.

One more victory to go for a dozen.

## Briefly

### Source: Keuchel to join Braves

NEW YORK — Free agent pitcher Dallas Keuchel and the Atlanta Braves have agreed to a one-year contract that would pay the 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner about \$13 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday night because the agreement was subject to Keuchel passing a physical.

Keuchel's contract would include a salary of about \$21.21 million, and he would get a prorated share that amounts to approximately \$13 million because 114 days remain in the season.

A 31-year-old left-hander, Keuchel was 12-11 with a 3.74 ERA in 34 starts last season for Houston and turned down a \$17.9 million qualifying.

In other baseball news:

■ Free-agent closer Craig Kimbrel has agreed to a three-year contract with the Chicago Cubs.

The 31-year-old Kimbrel has 333 career saves and a 1.91 ERA over nine seasons with Atlanta, San Diego and Boston. The hard-throwing right-hander also is averaging an exceptional 14.7 strikeouts per nine innings.

### Warriors exec banned for year

OAKLAND, Calif. — Toronto guard Kyle Lowry wanted the Golden State Warriors' executive who shoved him during an NBA Finals game ousted from the league.

The NBA decided a one-year ban and \$500,000 fine is enough for now.

Mark Stevens, a Warriors' investor and a member of the team's executive board, was banned from the NBA for one year and fined Thursday — one day after he shoved Lowry during the fourth quarter of Game 3 of the Toronto-Golden State finals matchup. The NBA announced its decision not long after Lowry said Stevens "shouldn't be a part of our league."

### Eagles extend Wentz's deal

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz proved to the Philadelphia Eagles in three years he's worth a huge investment.

Wentz and the Eagles have agreed on a four-year contract extension through the 2024 season. The deal announced Thursday night adds four years to Wentz's rookie contract. It's worth \$128 million with more than \$107 million guaranteed, according to ESPN.

Wentz is 23-17 in three seasons as the starting quarterback but has missed 13 games, including five playoff contests over the past two years. He finished third in NFL MVP voting in 2017 when backup quarterback Nick Foles led the Eagles to a Super Bowl victory over the Patriots.

— Associated Press

# Astros top Mariners

Associated Press

SEATTLE — It took more than five hours, but the Houston Astros finally put away the pesky Seattle Mariners.

Rookie Myles Straw led off the 14th inning with a triple and scored on Yuli Gurriel's sacrifice fly, and the Astros outlasted the Mariners 8-7 Thursday night in the longest game of the season by innings for either team.

Seattle staged tying rallies in the ninth and 10th innings and loaded the bases in the bottom of the 14th thanks to three walks by Chris Devenski (1-0), but the right-hander got Shed Long to fly out to end it.

"All's well that ends well," Astros manager AJ Hinch said.

Houston led 5-1 after 6½ innings but Seattle chipped away, tying it at 6 in the ninth on Edwin Encarnacion's single against closer Roberto Osuna, his first blown save of the season. That prevented Justin Verlander from becoming the first 10-game winner in the AL.

"That was not a game that was expected, given how it started," Hinch said. "And even halfway through nine innings, it felt like we were completely in control of it. Then it was like a game that was never going to end. Quite a game."

Verlander was pulled with one out in the sixth after giving up three singles. He was charged with three runs on five hits.

"From the get-go today it was a little bit touch and go for me," Verlander said. "I wasn't my best today and we made the pull. I wasn't surprised. In some of these games like this one, it comes down to pure will, who wants it most."

Seattle outfielder Mitch Haniger left in the seventh with what the team called a "mid-body" contusion.

The Astros took three of four in the series and are 9-0-1 in their last 10 series.

## Roundup

# Kepler, Twins get past Tribe

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Max Kepler homered three times and Jose Berrios (8-2) locked up Cleveland's lineup into the seventh inning as the Minnesota Twins avoided a sweep — and their first three-game losing streak — by beating the Indians 5-4 on Thursday night.

Kepler, who entered hitless in his previous 21 at-bats, connected in the first, third and seventh innings off Indians starter Trevor Bauer (4-6). Kepler also walked in the fifth.

The 26-year-old outfielder came up in the ninth with a chance to become the 19th player in history to hit four homers in one game — a feat rarer than a perfect game. But left-hander Josh Smith kept the left-handed swinging Kepler in the park, getting him to hit a hard grounder to the right side that he beat out for a single.

It was Kepler's second career three-homer game. The other one also came against the Indians on Aug. 1, 2016.

The AL-Central leading Twins took the series finale and again moved 10½ games ahead of Cleveland, whose run of three straight division titles could be in jeopardy.

Indians rookie Oscar Mercado's pinch-hit homer in the ninth pulled Cleveland to 5-4 before Taylor Rogers retired Roberto Perez on a groundout for his sixth save.

**Brewers 5, Marlins 1:** Christian Yelich hit his major league-leading 23rd home run and Mike Moustakas added two homers to lead host Milwaukee over Miami.

The Brewers won the series finale after getting outscored 24-3 in the first two games. Milwaukee is a percentage point behind the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs.

Freddy Peralta (3-2), struck out nine and gave up one run in six innings. Josh Hader struck out three in 1⅓ innings for his 14th save.

**Rockies 3, Cubs 1:** At Chicago, Peter Lambert (1-0) allowed

four hits over seven innings and struck out nine to win his major league debut. The 22-year-old right-hander was selected in the second round with the 44th overall pick of the 2015 amateur draft.

He also singled on his first pitch as a big league batter, using a two-tone bat to loop a fastball from Jose Quintana (4-5) to right-center field.

**Cardinals 3, Reds 1:** Paul DeJong hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Michael Lorenzen (0-1) in the seventh and host St. Louis tied its season high with four stolen bases, closing within 2½ games of the NL Central lead. DeJong had been in a 3-for-43 slide with no extra-base hits.

Matt Carpenter, Kolten Wong, Marcel Ozuna and Dexter Fowler swiped bases for the Cardinals, who are tied with Milwaukee for the NL lead with 37.

**Yankees 6, Blue Jays 2:** J.A. Happ (6-3) pitched seven strong innings to win his fifth straight decision, Aaron Hicks and Gio Urshela homered, and visiting New York beat Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep.

DJ LeMahieu had three hits and two RBIs, and the Yankees snapped a three-game losing streak, their first since early April. Aroldis Chapman got his 18th save in 19 opportunities.

**Red Sox 7, Royals 5:** Mookie Betts hit a two-run homer off Danny Duffy (3-3) in a four-run third inning, and visiting Boston completed its first series sweep since May 10-12 against the Chicago White Sox. Betts is 7-for-11 with five home runs against Duffy.

Kansas City has lost six straight and nine of 10, dropping to a big league-worst 19-43.

**Rangers 4, Orioles 3:** Delino DeShields' single led to a key error by Chris Davis during his first game in right field in almost three years, and host Texas beat banged-up Baltimore.

The Orioles lost left fielder

Dwight Smith Jr. when he crashed into the wall just as he caught a fly ball by Rougned Odor.

**Mets 7, Giants 3:** At New York, Amed Rosario and Dominic Smith hit back-to-back home runs to begin the first inning, then Todd Frazier hit a tiebreaking drive off Mark Melancon (2-1) in the eighth.

Seth Lugo (3-0) pitched one inning for the win. The Mets held the Giants to three hits.

**Pirates 6, Braves 1:** At Pittsburgh, Mike Foltynewicz (1-5) allowed consecutive home runs to Colin Moran and Gregory Polanco in the second inning, raising his season total to 15.

Josh Bell had three doubles, increasing his major league-leading total to 25, and had two RBIs to take sole possession of the big league lead with 58.

**Rays 6, Tigers 1:** At Detroit, Travis d'Arnaud homered for the first time since March 31 last year, going deep twice.

D'Arnaud missed all but four games in 2018 due to Tommy John surgery. Willy Adames also homered for Tampa Bay.

**Athletics 7, Angels 4:** Stephen Piscotty homered and drove in two runs, and Mike Fiers pitched six solid innings in visiting Oakland's victory over Los Angeles.

Ramon Laureano had two RBIs and Mark Canha reached base four times for the Athletics, who rebounded from a five-game skid by taking two of three in Anaheim.

**Padres 5, Nationals 4:** Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer and left-hander Joey Lucchesi settled down after falling behind 4-0 in the first inning to help host San Diego beat Washington.

The Padres snapped the Nationals' four-game winning streak and welcomed back prized rookie shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr., who missed 34 games with a strained left hamstring. The 20-year-old Tatis singled in the fifth and scored the second of three Padres runs that gave San Diego the lead.