

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, June 8, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Tariffs on hold after US, Mexico deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has put on hold his plan to begin imposing tariffs on Mexico on Monday, saying the U.S. ally will take “strong measures” to reduce the flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

But the deal he announced Friday night, after returning from a trip to Europe, falls short of some of the dramatic overhauls pushed for by his administration.

A joint declaration released by the State Department said the U.S. “will immediately expand” a program that returns asylum-seekers, while their claims are under review, to Mexico after they have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border. Mexico

will “offer jobs, healthcare and education” to those people, according to the agreement.

Mexico has agreed, it said, to “unprecedented steps to increase enforcement to curb irregular migration,” including the deployment of the Mexican National Guard throughout the country, especially on its southern border with Guatemala.

Trump put the number of troops at 6,000, and said in a tweet Saturday, “Mexico will try very hard, and if they do that, this will be a very successful agreement for both the United States and Mexico!”

Mexico’s president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, said on Twitter that “Thanks to the support of all Mexicans, the imposition of tariffs on Mexican products exported to the USA has been avoided.” He

called for a gathering Saturday to celebrate.

The State Department also said Mexico is taking “decisive action to dismantle human smuggling and trafficking organizations as well as their illicit financial and transportation networks.”

The agreement removes, for now, the threat of trade penalties that had elicited dire warnings from members of Trump’s own party about the potential economic damage, higher consumer prices and an imperiled update to a North American trade deal.

Mexico’s foreign secretary, Marcelo Ebrard, said he thought the deal struck “a fair balance” because the U.S. “had more drastic proposals and measures at the start.”

But Leticia Calderon Cheluis,

a migration expert at the Mora Institute in Mexico City, said the agreement is essentially a series of compromises solely by Mexico, which she said committed to “a double clamp at both borders.”

Trump used social media to say he was “pleased to inform you” about the deal with Mexico and said the threatened tariffs “are hereby indefinitely suspended.” He cited Mexico’s commitment to “strong measures” intended “to greatly reduce, or eliminate” illegal immigration from Mexico.

It was a sharp reversal, given that earlier Friday, spokeswoman Sarah Sanders had told reporters: “Our position has not changed. The tariffs are going forward as of Monday.”

## US to stop training Turkish F-35 pilots over arms dispute

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Friday that it would stop training Turkish pilots to fly F-35 aircraft because Turkey has persisted in its plans to acquire a sophisticated air defense system from Russia.

The 42 Turkish pilots have been training in Arizona and Florida since last year, in anticipation of shipment of the first of 100 F-35s Ankara has contracted to buy. The pilots are now required to leave the United States by July 31.

In a letter Thursday to his Turkish counterpart, acting defense secretary Patrick Shanahan said that Turkish personnel also cannot participate in management activities related to the F-35 program, a consortium of a number of al-

lied countries, each of which is responsible for building parts of the aircraft.

Turkish companies currently produce almost 1,000 parts for the F-35, including landing gear and fuselage components. The Pentagon is working with Lockheed Martin, the plane’s manufacturer, to find new manufacturers for parts that have been made in Turkey.

The announcement was the latest salvo in disputes between the two NATO allies over a range of issues, including U.S. support for Syrian Kurdish fighters who have been the main ground force in the campaign against the Islamic State in Syria. Negotiations over a withdrawal of the Kurdish fighting group, which Turkey considers a terrorist organiza-

tion, are ongoing.

U.S. officials have said they remain hopeful the Kurdish situation can be resolved. But optimism over the defense purchases is fading fast.

In his letter to Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar, Shanahan said there was still time for Turkey “to change course on the S-400.”

But “while we seek to maintain our valued relationship,” he wrote, “Turkey will not receive the F-35 if Turkey takes delivery” of the \$2.5 billion Russian system.

The Trump administration and NATO have said that having the S-400 system in proximity to the F-35, America’s most advanced fighter, would allow Moscow to learn too much about the aircraft’s radar profile and

potential vulnerabilities.

Turkey has rejected that argument and said it could keep the two safely separate. It maintains that a \$3.5 billion U.S. counteroffer to sell it a Patriot missile defense system has come too late, is too expensive and lacks required co-production stipulations.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly called the 2017 S-400 purchase a sovereign decision and a “done deal.” Sergey Chemezov, the head of Russia’s state-owned defense development conglomerate, Rostec, said in a Moscow television interview Friday that Turkish personnel had already completed training in Russia on the S-400 and that “I hope we will begin deliveries ... in two months.”

# Judge cuts penalty facing SEAL, cites email intrusions

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A military judge on Friday refused to dismiss the murder case of a decorated Navy SEAL, but found the prosecution's meddling in defense lawyer emails troubling enough to reduce the maximum penalty he faces.

Capt. Aaron Rugh said an effort to track emails sent to lawyers for Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher violated constitutional rights against illegal searches and the right to counsel by interfering with attorney-client privilege.

"It hampered the defense's opportunity to prepare for trial as they became necessarily enmeshed in discovery and litigation related to the operation, thereby harming the accused's right to competent counsel," Rugh said.

The action also harmed the public's view of the military

justice system and cast doubt on Gallagher's ability to get a fair trial, Rugh said.

The ruling was the latest rebuke in one of the Navy's most prominent war crimes cases and came just days after the judge removed the lead prosecutor as the defense sought dismissal of the case for alleged misconduct in what they characterized as "spying."

Rugh found the intrusion "placed an intolerable strain on the public's perception of the military justice system."

"Applying its broad discretion in crafting a remedy to remove the taint of unlawful command influence," Rugh said he would remove the maximum penalty of life imprisonment without parole if Gallagher is convicted of premeditated murder. Gallagher could now face life in prison with a chance of parole.

To relieve the "strain of pre-

trial publicity," Rugh also said he would allow the defense to reject two more potential jurors without cause during jury selection.

Gallagher is scheduled to go to trial June 17 on murder and attempted murder charges.

Navy spokesman Brian O'Rourke said the Navy vows to give Gallagher a fair trial.

On Monday, Rugh removed the lead prosecutor, Cmdr. Christopher Czaplak. He said it was not within his power to determine whether Czaplak engaged in misconduct, but the potential for a probe into his actions could present a conflict and required his removal.

It is extremely unusual for a military judge to remove a prosecutor only days before the start of a trial. Gallagher had been facing trial on Monday until Rugh delayed it for another week.

# Court seeks to restart Afghanistan investigation

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The International Criminal Court's prosecutor on Friday sought to appeal the court's rejection of an investigation into crimes linked to the conflict in Afghanistan by rebels, government security services and American forces.

In a 17-page document seeking clearance to file an appeal, Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said an appeal could clarify crucial issues raised by judges who rejected her request to open an investigation, and would "benefit the court in its work as a whole."

A panel of pre-trial judges in April rejected the proposed investigation, saying it would not be in the interests of justice because an investigation and prosecution were unlikely to be successful as those targeted — including the United States, Afghan authorities and the Taliban — are not expected to cooperate.

Bensouda said that such an argument is contrary to the reason the court was established — to prosecute grave crimes when national authorities are unwilling or unable to do so.

"While the Prosecution is very mindful of the challenges in pursuing investigations or prosecutions in circumstances when cooperation is limited ... it remains the case that these challenges are part of its statutory responsibility," the prosecutor wrote. Rights groups in April slammed the decision to reject an investigation as a blow to Afghan victims seeking justice.

Patrick Baudouin, president of the International Federation for Human Rights, called the rejection a "dark day for justice" and a "shocking decision, which is based on a deeply flawed reasoning."

# USAF allows Sikh religious accommodations

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force has granted a religious accommodation to an active-duty Sikh airman that will allow him to wear a turban, beard and unshorn hair in accordance with his faith.

In a statement, Airman 1st Class Harpreetinder Singh Bajwa said he was "overjoyed that the Air Force has granted my religious accommodation. Today, I feel that my country has embraced my Sikh heritage, and I will be forever grateful for this opportunity."

Bajwa serves as a crew chief at the McChord Air Force base near Lakewood, Wash. The Air Force's decision to allow him to maintain traditional Sikh customs in regard to his appearance is a "historic" first, says

the American Civil Liberties Union.

Bajwa is a first-generation American who enlisted in the Air Force in 2017, hoping to serve his country. In accordance with Air Force rules, but in contrast to his religious practice, he was required to cut his hair and remain clean-shaven, said Kamal Kalsi, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and founder of the Sikh American Veterans Alliance, who helped Bajwa win his accommodation.

"The Air Force places a high value on the rights of its members to observe the tenets of their respective religions or to observe no religion at all," Air Force spokesman Nicholas J. Mercurio said in a statement confirming the decision.

When Bajwa learned of exemptions granted to Sikh members of the Army, and that in 2018, the Air Force had allowed a Muslim JAG Corps officer, Capt. Maysaa Ouza, to wear a hijab, he contacted Kalsi's organization for assistance. The ACLU later became involved in the effort.

"It was important for him to be able to maintain that Sikh identity as well as his identity as a soldier," Kalsi said.

"The turban and beard are an important part of a Sikh's identity," Kalsi explained. "The turban is a crown, it represents our connection to social justice, our connection to our faith. These articles of faith for us remind us to do good in the world and to be good citizens in the world."

# NASA to open space station to visitors

Associated Press

NEW YORK — You've heard about the International Space Station for years. Want to visit?

NASA announced Friday that the orbiting outpost is now open for business to private citizens, with the first visit expected to be as early as next year.

There is a catch, though: You'll need to raise your own cash, and it won't be cheap.

A round-trip ticket likely will cost an estimated \$58 million. And accommodations will run about \$35,000 per night, for trips of up to 30 days long, said NASA's chief financial officer Jeff DeWit.

"But it won't come with any Hilton or Marriott points," DeWit said during a news conference at Nasdaq in New York City.

Travelers don't have to be U.S. citizens. People from other countries will also be eligible, as long as they fly on a U.S.-operated rocket.

Private citizens would have to make travel arrangements with those private companies

to reach orbit.

"If a private astronaut is on station, they will have to pay us while they're there for the life support, the food, the water, things of that nature," DeWit added.

Depending on the market, the agency will allow up to two visitors per year, for now. And the private astronauts will have to meet the same medical standards, training and certification procedures as regular crew members.

The space station has welcomed tourists before by way of Russian rockets. In 2001, California businessman Dennis Tito became the first visitor by paying for a journey and several others have followed.

Friday's announcement marks the first time NASA is allowing private astronauts on board. The space agency will not be selling directly to customers. Instead, it will charge private companies that ferry passengers, which can pass on the costs to visitors, NASA spokeswoman Stephanie Schierholz said in an email.

# Trump criticizes NASA's plan to return to moon

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday criticized NASA for promoting its plan to return to the moon before human exploration of Mars, a strategy that Trump endorsed in a directive early in his tenure and championed as recently as last month.

"For all of the money we are spending, NASA should NOT be talking about going to the Moon — We did that 50 years ago," Trump said on Twitter. "They should be focused on the much bigger things we are doing, including Mars (of which the Moon is a part), Defense and Science!"

A White House official sought to downplay any difference between what Trump had tweeted and existing policy.

"Our Administration's goal has always been to get to Mars," said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity, in an email. "We have asked Congress for additional resources to get to the Moon by 2024, which will enable us to get to Mars roughly a decade after creating a sustainable presence on the lunar surface. Under POTUS,

America is leading again in space."

A tweet later Friday by NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine did little to clarify the impact of Trump's tweet.

"As @POTUS said, @NASA is using the Moon to send humans to Mars!" the tweet said. "Right now, @MarsCuriosity and @NASAINsight are on Mars and will soon be joined by the Mars 2020 rover and the Mars helicopter."

The policy of first going back to the moon grew from a unanimous recommendation by the new National Space Council, chaired by Vice President Pence, after its first meeting in October 2017.

At a ceremony where Trump signed a directive regarding the policy two months later, he said first returning to the moon would "establish a foundation for an eventual mission to Mars, and perhaps someday, to many worlds beyond."

In a tweet three weeks ago, Trump touted his administration's commitment to space exploration, writing: "Under my Administration, we are restoring @NASA to greatness and we are going back to the Moon, then Mars."

# Watchdog: ICE agents fails to follow policy with vets

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement doesn't track how many veterans it deports or consider a person's military service before deporting them, a federal watchdog agency reported Thursday.

ICE policies require agents to consider a veterans' employment history, health, community service, deployments to war zones, military decorations and years in service, among other things, before deporting them.

During a study of deportations from 2013 through 2018, the Government Accountability Office found ICE didn't

follow those policies. Homeland Security agents told the GAO that they were unaware of the policies and don't distinguish between veterans and nonveterans.

"Through its policies, ICE has established that these non-citizen veterans warrant special consideration in the event that they become subject to immigration enforcement and removal from the United States," the GAO wrote. "However, because ICE did not consistently adhere to these policies, some veterans who were removed may not have received the level of review and approval that ICE has determined is appropriate for cases involving veterans."

Because ICE failed to iden-

tify veterans, the agency "does not know exactly how many veterans have been placed in removal proceedings or removed," the GAO report states.

The Immigration and Nationality Act allows immigrant servicemembers to acquire citizenship, but they must apply. The American Civil Liberties Union reported in 2016 that many servicemembers don't realize their naturalization is not automatic.

Under the law, honorably discharged veterans who are non-citizens can be deported if they are convicted of crimes.

Some Democrats, including Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif, the new chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Af-

fairs, have attempted to secure more protections for veterans facing deportation. When Democrats took control of the House, Takano listed stopping veteran deportation among his top priorities.

According to the limited data provided by ICE, approximately 250 veterans were placed in deportation proceedings from 2013 through 2018, and 92 had been removed from the country. The GAO wrote others might have gone unaccounted for because of ICE's failure to track them.

The agency said it would update its training and issue guidance for agents. The expected completion date to implement the changes is May 2020.

# Serial killer linked to more than 60 deaths

Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texas prosecutor said Friday that investigators have linked more than 60 killings in at least 14 states to a 79-year-old California inmate who may be the most prolific serial killer in U.S. history.

Ector County District Attorney Bobby Bland said Samuel Little continues to cooperate with investigators from around the country who interrogate him in prison about cold case killings dating back to the 1970s. Among those who spoke to him were investigators from Ohio, where Little grew up and where he's suspected of killing at least five women.

Little was convicted of killing three Los Angeles-area women and pleaded guilty to killing a Texas woman, and he's serving life sentences in California. Little, who lived a nomadic lifestyle, claims to have killed 93

women as he crisscrossed the country over the years.

Bland said Little is in failing health and has exhausted his appeals, leading him to be forthcoming with investigators.

"At this point in his life I think he's determined to make sure that his victims are found," he said.

During Little's 2014 trial in Los Angeles, prosecutors said he was likely responsible for at least 40 killings since 1980. Authorities at the time were looking for possible links to deaths in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and Texas.

But Little was not forthcoming with information at the time and Bland credits Texas Ranger James Holland with gaining Little's trust and eventually eliciting a series of confessions.

Holland traveled to California last year

to speak with Little about cold cases in Texas. That led Little to be extradited to Texas and his guilty plea in December in the 1994 strangulation death of Denise Christie Brothers in the West Texas city of Odessa.

But Holland's conversations with Little have continued, even after Little was returned to California to serve his sentences, and it was Holland who determined that he was responsible for 93 deaths, said Bland, who received an update from Holland this week.

Information provided to Holland was relayed to law enforcement agencies in several states, leading to a revolving door of investigators who traveled to California to corroborate decades-old deaths.

"There's still been no false information given," Bland said. "Nothing has been proven to be false."

# Tourism, recreation take hit from flooding

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — As the waters of the swollen Arkansas River rose in Little Rock and threatened to reach record heights, Samuel Ellis had to make the tough, but prudent, decision to indefinitely shutter kayak rentals from his tour company.

Weeks of flooding along the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers has hit tourism and recreation businesses in the central U.S., whether or not they're directly dependent on the river.

Three years ago, Ellis' new kayak and bike rental and tour company had three kayaks for rental; now he says he often has

25 people at a time paddling down the usually gentle river.

Ellis says waters tend to be higher in June anyway, but around Memorial Day this year, Ellis had to temporarily close down both his downtown riverfront boathouse and his typically more protected location slightly further upstream in anticipation of historic flooding. His company, Rock Town River Outfitters, also rents bikes, but the river has spilled over onto trails along its banks so tours have been restricted to dry areas downtown.

"It has hit me pretty hard this month. I'm hoping the water will go down fast so that we can at least have our bike trail back,"

Ellis said.

Record flooding has hit much of the south and central U.S. this spring, as higher than average rains have strained dams and aging levees.

About a quarter of the businesses surveyed by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism reported an impact by the flood, said deputy director Kristine Puckett.

The department has been working to combat fears that the entire state is underwater and is reminding tourists and residents alike that the Natural State has 50 state parks, as well as dozens of towns and cities, unaffected by flooding.

# Univ. of Alabama rejects \$26M gift after abortion flap

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The University of Alabama gave back a philanthropist's \$26.5 million donation and took his name off the law school Friday, a week after he called on students to boycott the institution over the state's new abortion ban.

Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr., a 70-year-old Florida real estate investor, said he has no doubt the board of trustees acted in response to his remarks, and he complained that the state of Alabama is only reinforcing its reputation as "the land of the backward," full of "hicks."

University officials emphatically de-

nied the decision had anything to do with Culverhouse's stand on the abortion law and said it was prompted instead by his attempts to dictate how the money should be spent. They did not elaborate.

Culverhouse's pledge, announced in September, was the biggest contribution ever made to the university. In return, the law school was renamed the Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. School of Law.

Within minutes of the trustees' vote, a maintenance crew had removed his name and the university had wired him a \$21.5 million refund of the money he had already given the university toward fulfilling his pledge.

Alabama's toughest-in-the-nation abortion ban, passed last month and set to take effect in November, would make terminating a pregnancy a crime punishable by 10 years to life in prison for the provider, with no exceptions for rape or incest.

Last week, Culverhouse urged students to boycott the university over the ban, saying: "I don't want anybody to go to that law school, especially women until the state gets its act together."

Hours later, Alabama announced it was considering giving back his money — a move it said was underway even before Culverhouse spoke out.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman records fight that ends in deadly fall

**MS** ST. LOUIS — A newlywed Illinois prison guard was charged after his wife recorded a fight that ended with her being found dead at the bottom of a parking garage near the St. Louis stadium where the Cardinals play.

Bradley Jenkins, 30, of Taylorville, Ill., was charged with third-degree domestic assault. After his wife, Allissa Martin, 27, was found dead last weekend, police found her cellphone on the seventh floor of the garage, its camera still recording.

Charging documents said Martin, also a prison guard, can be heard on the recording yelling at Jenkins to stop punching her face. She dropped the phone and could be heard screaming as she falls.

## Drunken man backed lawn mower over child

**IA** HAWKEYE — Authorities said a man was drunk when he backed a lawn mower over a 3-year-old girl in northeast Iowa's Fayette County.

Medics treated the little girl, and she was flown to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for treatment.

Authorities said the blood alcohol level of Tanner Miller, 23, while he was mowing exceeded the legal limit for operating a motorized vehicle. He was charged with operating while intoxicated and with causing serious injury by vehicle.

## Man shot by former girlfriend near hospital

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Police said a man was shot and wounded by his ex-girlfriend just outside a Phila-

delphia hospital's emergency room entrance.

Chief Inspector Scott Small told WPVI-TV that the 31-year-old was leaving Jefferson Torresdale Hospital after visiting sick relatives when his ex-girlfriend got out of a vehicle and fired four shots. He was struck once in the back.

Small said for an "unlucky guy to get shot by his ex-girlfriend, he's very lucky he got shot feet away from the emergency room."

A 30-year-old woman was arrested in the shooting.

## Students used stolen credit cards for tuition

**NH** DOVER — Two University of New Hampshire students have been accused of using stolen credit cards to pay for tuition.

Court documents said one student, Chunyang Li, 20, allegedly sought to pay the university over \$56,000 for services using credit cards from nine people. Police said the credit card owners were from Texas, California, Virginia, Florida, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Australia.

The other student, Chenghan Wang, 20, was charged with one felony and one misdemeanor of a fraud attempt. Wang allegedly used a credit card to charge over \$6,300 to pay UNH from a person who lived in Maryland.

Both students, who are from China, pleaded not guilty and were released on \$5,000 bond. Their passports were seized.

## Newlyweds, guests break into school

**FL** MILTON — Two Florida newlyweds and four wedding guests were arrested for breaking into a former elementary school after their ceremony.

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's officials said the four wedding guests and the groom, Zachary Fuit, 26, are U.S. Marines. They were all charged with burglary, criminal mischief and theft.

The bride, Abigail Carlson, 21, told authorities they thought the school was abandoned and decided to check it out.

## Teacher awards boy 'most annoying male'

**IN** GARY — An Indiana school district apologized after a teacher awarded an 11-year-old autistic student a trophy naming him the "most annoying male" of the school year.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that a special education teacher at Bailly Preparatory Academy in Gary gave the boy the trophy May 23 during a fifth-grade awards luncheon attended by students, parents and the school principal.

The boy's father said his family was blindsided.

Gary Community School Corp. issued an apology to the boy and his family.

## Bomb squad called after gun fires in bag

**CO** GRAND JUNCTION — Police said the bomb squad was called to examine a backpack after an improvised gun went off inside it and wounded a Colorado man.

The Daily Sentinel reported Emmett Wells, 36, was hit in the arm after the gun discharged when he set his backpack down in the hallway between two Grand Junction businesses.

Police said in arrest documents that the Grand Junction Bomb Team found two firearms in the backpack and determined the pack was safe.

Wells was taken to a hospital. He was later booked into the Mesa County Jail on suspicion of illegal possession of a firearm, illegal discharge of a firearm and unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon.

## Female lawyers fight jail underwire bra policy

**MO** KANSAS CITY — Kansas City area attorneys whose underwire bras had been setting off jail metal detectors can now see their clients without removing their lingerie for screening, but only if they agree to talk to their clients by phones separated by glass.

KCUR-FM reported that the new protocol was announced the same day that nearly 100 defense attorneys signed an open letter complaining that the restrictions were making it difficult to represent inmates.

Jackson County Department of Corrections Director Diana Turner described the option as a "happy medium."

## Kangaroo found after 2 days 'on the hop'

**MS** GULFPORT — A missing kangaroo was found after two days "on the hop" along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Cody Breland and Gulfport police told news outlets Jojo was found about 1 a.m. Friday in a Gulfport neighborhood.

Breland owns Wild Acres Wildlife Photography & Mobile Petting Zoo. He said he was showing animals to children Wednesday morning when Jojo got scared by heavy rain and jumped away.

The kangaroo is now back home with big brother Mercury.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Raptors move within 1 win of NBA title

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kawhi Leonard's hot hand is sending the Raptors home to Toronto on the cusp of a startling upset for Canada.

Leonard outdueled the Splash Brothers for 36 points and 12 rebounds, and the Raptors moved within a victory of the franchise's first championship by winning a second straight game on Golden State's home floor, beating the Warriors 105-92 on Friday night for a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals.

Not that the Raptors are ready to celebrate yet.

"We've won three games, it's the first to four," Kyle Lowry said. "We understand that they're the defending champs and they're not going to go out easy. They're going to come and fight and prepare to play the next game. That's how we're preparing ourselves. We've got to prepare ourselves to play the next game. We haven't done

anything yet."

Klay Thompson made a strong return after missing Game 3 with a strained left hamstring and scored 28 points with six three-pointers in what might have been the final game after 47 seasons at Oracle Arena before the team's move to new Chase Center in San Francisco next season. Stephen Curry added 27 points but shot just 9-for-22 and 2-for-9 from three-point range on the heels of his postseason career-best 47-point outing in a 123-109 Game 3 defeat.

Serge Ibaka scored 20 points on 9-for-12 shooting in 22 minutes off the bench for the composed and confident Raptors, who for a second straight game found an answer to every Warriors threat at raucous Oracle — where home fans were stunned and silenced when the final buzzer sounded.

A huge section of Toronto fans then broke into singing "O Canada!"

"It's awesome," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "Our fans travel really well in the regular season. We get this a lot on the road. It's really amazing. It's Canada's team, and Canadians from all over the country are traveling down and making plans when we play in Florida or California or Detroit, especially."

The two-time defending champions' quest for a three-peat is suddenly in serious jeopardy.

Toronto will take its first try at the title in Game 5 on Monday night back at Scotiabank Arena. Golden State, still hopeful of injured star Kevin Durant's return, will try to force one more at Oracle next Thursday.

"It's not over. It's not a good feeling right now, obviously," Curry said. "We've been on both sides of it and for us it's an opportunity to flip this whole series on its head."

In 2017, Leonard's postsea-

son with San Antonio got cut short against the Warriors in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals after he re-injured his troublesome left ankle when Zaza Pachulia's foot slid under his.

Dominant in his first postseason since, Leonard knocked down two jumpers in the final 42 seconds of the third to put the Raptors up 79-64. Fred VanVleet then dealt another dagger on the first possession of the fourth with a 30-footer.

A bloodied VanVleet then went to the locker room with 9:35 left after being hit in the face by Shaun Livingston's left elbow when the Warriors guard went up for a shot and VanVleet was just behind him. Replays showed a tooth in the middle of the key even after play resumed.

These poised Raptors kept level heads again after falling behind by 11 points in the first half. Pascal Siakam scored 19 for Toronto.

## Australia's Barty wins French Open women's crown

Associated Press

PARIS — Ash Barty decided to take a break from tennis in 2014 to play cricket. After almost two years away, the Australian returned to the tour, and that career choice paid off in a big way Saturday with her first Grand Slam title.

The No. 8-seeded Barty took control right at the start of the French Open final and never really let go, beating unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-3.

"I played the perfect match today," Barty said.

Pretty close to it, particularly at the start.

She raced to a 4-0 lead and then held on, showing that she learned her lesson after blowing a 5-0 edge in the opening set of her quarterfinal victory a day earlier over another unseeded teenager, 17-year-old American Amanda Anisimova.

Barty wound up with a 27-10 edge in winners against a far shakier Vondrousova and became the first Australian to win the trophy at Roland Garros since Margaret Court in 1973.

"You gave me a lesson today," Vondrousova said to Barty during the trophy ceremony at Court Philippe Chatrier.

The women's final started about 1½ hours later than scheduled because it followed the resumption of Dominic Thiem's 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 victory over Novak Djokovic in the men's semifinals, a match suspended Friday evening because of rain.

Thiem will face 11-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal on Sunday in a rematch of last year's final.

Neither Barty, 23, nor Vondrousova had ever played in a Grand Slam final before. Neither had even been in a major semifinal until this week,

either.

Told during an on-court interview that she hadn't seemed jittery, Barty replied: "Oh, I was. Very nervous."

Barty hadn't even been past the fourth round in her first 17 Slam appearances before getting to the quarterfinals in front of a supportive home crowd at the Australian Open in January.

But she truly looked the part Saturday, with her formidable sliced backhand creating openings that she took advantage of with her topspin forehand, which produced 11 of her winners.

After the U.S. Open five years ago, Barty walked away from professional tennis. She had been a successful junior, winning the 2011 Wimbledon girls' title, and played in three doubles finals by then, too.

But her time in cricket gave her a chance to reconsider how she wanted to approach her

other sport, and she returned to the WTA in 2016.

"It's been a magical two weeks," Barty said.

Addressing her coach and others in her guest box Saturday, Barty said: "Thank you guys for sticking with me. It's been the most amazing journey we've been on the last three years. And I feel like it's just the start. Let's go celebrate tonight."

The 38th-ranked Vondrousova was playing in only her ninth major tournament and this was her first trip beyond the fourth round.

She hadn't dropped a set over the past two weeks, using a game filled with variety and every shot in the book, a style her semifinal opponent, Johanna Konta, called "tricky."

Wasn't too tricky for Barty.

"She didn't let me play my game," Vondrousova said.

## Briefly

# Biffle wins Trucks race in Texas

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Greg Biffle won his first NASCAR Trucks series start since 2004, taking the SpeedyCash.com 400 at Texas Motor Speedway on Friday.

With 10 laps remaining, Biffle came out of a caution with the lead and held off the field for his first trucks series win since 2001. It was his first NASCAR start of any kind since 2016.

It was the first race of the Triple Truck Challenge, a three-race program that moves to Iowa Speedway on June 15 before wrapping up at Gateway Motorsports Park on June 22. The winner of any one, two or three of those races will receive a bonus of \$50,000, \$150,000 or \$500,000, respectively.

Matt Crafton came in second and 18-year-old rookie Tyler Ankrum finished a career-best third.

Johnny Sauter, the defending champion and a five-time winner at Texas Motor Speedway, won Stage 1 but went into the wall at turn 4 after contact with Austin Hill on lap 56. The wreck-filled race featured 13 cautions, the most in the 44-race history of the series at Texas.

## Sabres re-sign Skinner

BUFFALO, N.Y. — After first hiring a new coach, Sabres general manager Jason Botterill addressed his next most pressing offseason need by re-signing leading scorer Jeff Skinner.

And it came at a hefty price.

Skinner became the Sabres' second-highest paid player — behind captain Jack Eichel — after signing an eight-year, \$72 million contract, the team announced Friday night.

The deal was reached three weeks after Ralph Krueger was hired to take over as coach, after Phil Housley was fired following two seasons. And it comes three weeks before the 27-year-old forward was eligible to become an unrestricted free agent.

The Sabres had an edge in re-signing Skinner, who is coming off a career-best season in which he scored 40 goals and finished third on the team with 63 points in 82 games because under NHL rules they were allowed to offer him an eight-year contract. He would have been limited to signing a maximum seven-year deal as a free agent.

## Women's World Cup roundup

# Host France routs S. Korea

Associated Press

PARIS — France's women took a first step to follow in the World Cup footsteps of the French men.

Wendie Renard, at 6-foot-2 the tallest player in the tournament, scored twice on headers off corner kicks, and Les Bleues overwhelmed South Korea 4-0 Friday night in a gala World Cup opener.

Eugenie Le Sommer and Amandine Henry also got goals on a cool, windy night at Parc des Princes, the home of Paris Saint-Germain. French pop star Jain provided the pregame entertainment for the sellout crowd of 45,261, and French President Emmanuel Macron was among the spectators singing "La Marseillaise" and looking on.

"We knew that it was going to be a really emotional evening. But I think we managed it well," Renard said. "When you have more than 45,000 people singing the French national anthem, obviously it drives you forward."

France is hosting the tournament at a time when women's teams are increasing their push for equal treatment from FIFA and other soccer governing bodies. It is vying to become the first nation to hold both the men's and women's World Cup titles at the same time.

"I'm sure people expect or hope, and the same goes for us, we'd like to follow in the footsteps of the senior men's national team," French coach Corinne Diacre said. "But everything takes time. We won tonight, but we haven't still won anything. We have six more steps on the road that need to be taken. We need to be serious and focused for six games, and then we'll see what comes of it."

Norway and Nigeria meet in the other Group A opener on Saturday. France faces Norway on Wednesday and Nigeria on June 17.

France's margin of victory was the largest in a Women's World Cup opener since China beat Norway by the same score at the first tournament in 1991. Four years ago, all nine teams that won their openers advanced from the 24-nation group stage to the round of 16.

The world's fourth-ranked team wasn't tested by No. 14 South Korea. France had a 17-0 advantage in shots during the first half and 21-4 overall.

Les Bleues, eliminated by Germany on penalty kicks in the quarterfinals four years ago in Canada, applied pressure from the start on goalkeeper Kim Minjung.

Le Sommer scored in the ninth minute off a cross from Henry and held up her

hands in the shape of a heart in celebration after her 75th international goal, the earliest in a Women's World Cup opener. South Korea has conceded the first goal in all eight World Cup games it has played.

Griedge Mbock Bathy appeared to score in the 30th minute but the goal was disallowed in a video review, technology also used by FIFA at last year's men's tournament in Russia.

"On the spur of the moment you're happy and when the goal's disallowed it's frustrating, but you have to switch quickly," she said. "We had a lot of time left and we had a lot of opportunities to score."

Renard doubled the lead in the 35th from Gaetane Thiney's corner kick as the crowd chanted "Wendie! Wendie!"

She made it 3-0 from Amel Majri's corner kick in stoppage time with her 22nd international goal. Ten of her last 11 goals have come on headers.

"It really feels good on a personal level," Renard said. "But I think above all as a team, because these were very important goals. It allowed us to go into the break with a three-goal lead."

Henry added her 12th international goal off a pass from Le Sommer in the 85th.

South Korea substitute Lee Mina had the best chance for her team on a breakaway in the 76th minute, but the shot went just wide.

**Germany 1, China 0:** Giulia Gwinn scored a second-half winner as two-time champion Germany opened its Women's World Cup campaign by beating China 1-0 on Saturday.

Gwinn's powerful 66th-minute shot from the edge of the penalty area flew into the left corner. The ball fell to her after Chinese defenders failed to properly clear a corner floated in from the right.

In an even first half at Roazhon Park, in the Brittany city of Rennes, Germany defender Carolin Simon hit the crossbar and China striker Yang Li hit the post.

China failed to take advantage of pressure it created in the second half.

Germany won its last title in 2007 and next faces South Africa in Group B on June 17 in the southern city of Montpellier.

China, runner-up to the United States in 1999, plays Spain the same day in the northern port city of Le Havre.

**Spain 3, South Africa 1:** At Le Havre, France, Jennifer Hermoso scored two of her side's three second-half goals and Lucia Garcia added a late goal in the Group B opener for both teams.

## Super regionals Michigan, Duke stun top 2 seeds

Associated Press

Two of the last teams selected for the NCAA Tournament knocked off the top two national seeds Friday night, and now both are a win away from making the College World Series for the first time in decades.

Karl Kauffmann's second straight dominant postseason start helped put Michigan on the cusp of its first CWS since 1984 and No. 1 UCLA on the brink of elimination. The Colorado Rockies' second-round draft pick carried a one-hit shutout through eight innings, and the Wolverines (45-19) survived a stressful ninth to beat the Bruins 3-2 in their super regional opener in Los Angeles.

Duke scored 10 runs in the eighth inning on its way to stunning No. 2 Vanderbilt 18-5 in a game in Nashville, Tenn.. Duke is trying to get to the CWS in Omaha, Neb., for the first time since 1961.

Louisville and Texas Tech also won their super regional openers. Game 2s are Saturday, as are the openers in the four other super regionals.

Kauffmann's performance came a week after he went 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in a shutout of Creighton in regionals. He allowed a single, walked two and struck out eight before running into trouble. A leadoff walk and two infield singles loaded the bases with one out in the ninth for the Bruins (51-10) before Michael Togli ripped a two-run single. Jeff Criswell came on and got the last two outs.

"This team is built for three games," Kauffmann said. "We have a great starting staff and bullpen. And our offense, when we're rolling, it's something special."

Vanderbilt (52-11) allowed eight runs in three games in regionals, but Duke (35-25) jumped on Commodores ace Drake Fellows and knocked him out in the fifth after he had allowed seven runs, five earned.

# Bruce leads Phillies over Reds

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jay Bruce is happier about playing in front of big crowds than a hitter-friendly ballpark.

Bruce hit a two-run homer, Zach Eflin threw 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> sharp innings and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-2 Friday night.

Bruce already has four homers in four games with the NL East-leading Phillies after hitting 14 for Seattle before he was acquired in a trade last week. He's the first Phillies player who debuted with the team in the modern era to hit four home runs in his first four games with the team, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"I'm excited to play in front of people, a lot of them," Bruce said. "Not to take away from any other situations I've been in, this place is differ-

ent. I'm excited."

Joey Votto hit a solo shot for the Reds, who have dropped four of five.

Eflin (6-5) gave up two runs — one earned — and four hits. An injury-depleted bullpen missing seven relievers got eight outs, with Hector Neris finishing for his 13th save in 13 tries.

Vince Velasquez, a converted starter, fanned two in a perfect eighth for the Phillies. Velasquez began the season in the rotation but moved to the bullpen after six mostly ineffective starts.

"It's a big role," Velasquez said. "I'm very optimistic about any type of role. I'm waiting for the call."

Reds starter Tyler Mahle (2-6) allowed three runs — two earned — and four hits in five innings.

## MLB roundup

# Chirinos, Rays knock off Red Sox

Associated Press

BOSTON — Yonny Chirinos pitched two-hit ball for eight scoreless innings and the Tampa Bay Rays stopped Boston's four-game winning streak, beating the Red Sox 5-1 on Friday night.

Kevin Kiermaier homered and drove in four runs and Ji-Man Choi also homered for the Rays, who didn't need much offense to front Chirinos in the longest outing of his career.

Chirinos (7-2) had never gone more than 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings before stifling the Red Sox. He cruised through the first five innings on just 50 pitches and didn't allow a baserunner or hit until the sixth.

Chirinos struck out six and walked two before Emilio Pagan took over in the ninth. Boston broke up the shutout with doubles by Andrew Benintendi and Xander Bogaerts.

**Diamondbacks 8, Blue Jays 2:** Kevin Cron hit his first major league home run, David Peralta had a solo shot among his three hits and visiting Arizona topped Toronto.

Merrill Kelly (6-6) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings for his second straight victory, and the Diamondbacks used a five-run fourth inning to

win for the fourth time in six games.

**Cubs 3, Cardinals 1:** Cole Hamels threw eight innings of three-hit shutout ball, Javier Baez hit a two-run homer and Chicago topped St. Louis.

The Cubs have won four of five since being swept in a three-game series at St. Louis last weekend.

**Braves 7, Marlins 1:** Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a score-settling homer off Jose Urena and Atlanta rode starter Mike Soroka to a win over host Miami.

**Rockies 5, Mets 1:** Ian Desmond got plunked in the back by a pitch from New York rookie Drew Gagnon immediately after two colossal homers, leading to a bench-clearing scrum late in visiting Colorado's victory.

**Indians 5, Yankees 2:** Carlos Santana's two-run homer in the sixth inning helped rookie Zach Plesac get his first major league win and sent host Cleveland past New York.

**Twins 6, Tigers 3:** Mitch Garver homered and had three hits, Marwin Gonzalez matched his career high with four hits and visiting Minnesota defeated Detroit.

**Padres 5, Nationals 4:** Austin Hedges' RBI single with two outs in the ninth capped a

two-run rally off Sean Doolittle and gave host San Diego a victory over Washington.

**Astros 4, Orioles 3 (11):** Robinson Chirinos hit an RBI double with two outs in the 11th inning to lift Houston to a win over visiting Baltimore.

**Athletics 5, Rangers 3:** Marcus Semien hit his second homer of the game in the ninth inning, a two-run, tiebreaking shot that sent Oakland past host Texas.

**Royals 6, White Sox 4:** Adalberto Mondesi had three hits and two RBIs, and Kansas City ended a six-game losing streak with a win over visiting Chicago.

**Brewers 10, Pirates 4:** Brandon Woodruff struck out 10 in six innings and Ryan Braun hit a three-run homer, helping host Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

**Giants 2, Dodgers 1:** Kevin Pillar hit an RBI single in a two-run sixth inning and San Francisco snapped a five-game home losing streak by dealing visiting Los Angeles ace Clayton Kershaw his first loss of the season.

**Mariners 6, Angels 2:** Tom Murphy hit a three-run homer, Domingo Santana added two solo shots and Seattle beat host Los Angeles.