

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US sets sanctions on Iran's supreme leader, associates

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday targeting Iran's supreme leader and his associates with financial sanctions, the latest action the U.S. has taken to discourage Tehran from developing nuclear weapons and supporting militant groups.

The sanctions follow Iran's downing of a more than \$100 million U.S. surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz that has ratcheted up tensions. Trump pulled back from the brink of retaliatory military strikes on Iran last week but is continuing his pressure campaign. The targets of the new sanctions include senior military figures in Iran, blocking their access to any financial assets under U.S. jurisdiction.

"These measures represent a strong and proportionate response to Iran's increasingly provocative actions," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

"We will continue to increase pressure on Tehran until the regime abandons its dangerous activities and its aspirations, including the pursuit of nuclear weapons, increased enrichment of uranium, development of ballistic missiles, engagement and support for terrorism, fueling of foreign conflicts and belligerent acts directed against the United States and its allies."

The sanctions work to deny Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and his close aides access to money and support.

Iran's naval commander has warned that Iranian forces would not hesitate to act again and shoot down more U.S. drones that violate Iranian airspace. The U.S. said the drone was over international waters.

## Boxer arrives in 5th Fleet waters amid Iran tensions

BY JOSHUA KARSTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — Thousands of sailors and Marines sailed into 5th Fleet waters Monday as an amphibious assault group led by the USS Boxer deployed to the region, where tensions are flaring between the U.S. and Iran.

The Boxer, which carries the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and a combat helicopter squadron, was accompanied by the amphibious transport dock USS John P. Murtha and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry, the Navy said in a statement.

The group replaced another led by the USS Kearsarge, the statement said. The Kearsarge group has been in 5th Fleet waters since April.

Although the 5th Fleet declined comment on what the Boxer would be doing in relation to Iran, the Boxer's air squadron commander, Capt. Brad Arthur, said in a statement that the group was "prepared to respond to any crises across the range of military operations."

"Our training and preparation to enter the 5th Fleet area of operations has all been designed to ensure we can be ready where it matters, when it matters," said Col. Fridrik Fridriksson, the group's Marine unit commander.

The Boxer group left San Diego on May 1 and has operated in the Pacific and Indian oceans, the Navy statement said. The 5th Fleet area of responsibility includes much of the Middle East.

Already tense relations between Iran

and the U.S. worsened last week when a U.S. surveillance drone was shot down by the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Iranians said the unmanned RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft had entered its airspace, but the U.S. has insisted the attack occurred when the drone was flying over international waters.

The U.S. was poised to launch a retaliatory strike but pulled back beforehand. President Donald Trump said Friday in a television interview that he canceled the strikes after being told 150 people could die.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Saudi Arabia on Sunday for talks with Saudi royals about a global coalition against Iran, The Associated Press reported Monday. Pompeo was also scheduled to visit the United Arab Emirates, according to the AP.

"We'll be talking with them about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned and how we can build out a global coalition, a coalition not only throughout the Gulf states, but in Asia and in Europe, that understands this challenge as it is prepared to push back against the world's largest state sponsor of terror," Pompeo said about Iran to reporters in Washington prior to his departure, according to the AP.

Meanwhile, Iranian naval commander Rear Adm. Hossein Khanzadi said Monday that Iranian forces wouldn't hesitate to shoot down more U.S. surveillance drones.

A "crushing response can always be repeated, and the enemy knows it," Khanzadi said, according to Iran's Tasnim news agency.

## US firms told to prepare for Iranian hacks after US cyberattack

*The Washington Post*

U.S. businesses should get ready for a barrage of digital retaliation from Iran after the Trump administration launched a cyberattack against the Islamic Republic's rocket and missile launching systems, current and former U.S. government officials said this past weekend.

Iranian hackers are already targeting

U.S. companies with specialized malicious software designed to wipe the contents of their computer networks rather than to simply steal their data, Chris Krebs, director of the Homeland Security Department's cybersecurity division, warned in a Saturday email.

Cybersecurity companies — which were already clocking a dramatic increase in

Iranian hacking during the past few weeks — began warning over the weekend that the nation could increase its attacks and make them far more destructive.

Those retaliatory strikes are likely to hit a far broader range of targets than the U.S. cyberstrikes, which The Washington Post reported were limited to military systems and entailed weeks of preparation.

# Pompeo: US ready to resume N. Korea talks

BY KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump will make a two-day visit to South Korea this weekend, officials said Monday, as the U.S. administration said it's ready to resume nuclear talks with the North "at a moment's notice."

Trump's visit, which will be his second trip to the divided peninsula as president, comes amid new optimism for the stalled diplomatic push to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons.

The president sent a letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong

Un that was welcomed by the communist state, raising hopes for efforts to break the deadlock that followed the February summit in Vietnam between the two men, which ended without agreement.

"I can confirm that that letter was, in fact, sent," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday. "And I am hopeful that this will provide a good foundation for us to begin to continue the important discussions with the North Koreans to denuclearize the peninsula."

North Korea's government mouthpiece, the Korean Central News Agency, described the letter as "excellent" and re-

ported that Kim said he would "seriously contemplate" the content, although neither side provided details about what those were.

Neither said exactly when the letter was sent.

The two sides have agreed to a vague promise to denuclearize the peninsula but have failed to bridge a wide gap over how to do that.

The United States has insisted it will maintain punishing economic sanctions against the North until it gives up its nuclear weapons. Pyongyang wants a phased approach that would include rewards for steps taken along the way.

In response to a question, Pompeo said the North's response to the letter indicated that the resumption of working-level talks "may well be a very real possibility."

"We have been working to lay the foundations for that since Hanoi. We think we're in a better place," he told reporters at Joint Base Andrews, Md., before flying to the Middle East. He will join Trump in South Korea.

"We're ready to go. We're literally prepared to begin at a moment's notice if the North Koreans indicate that they are prepared for those discussions," Pompeo said.

## Battle of Okinawa 74th anniversary commemorated

BY CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
*Stars and Stripes*

ITOMAN, Okinawa — Despite the heavy rain Sunday morning, thousands of visitors including Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, U.S. and Japanese government and military officials and family members of the deceased marked 74 years since the end of the Battle of Okinawa.

The annual Irei no Hi ceremony, held at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park on the anniversary of the day fighting ended on Okinawa in 1945, serves as a tribute to the 12,520 American servicemembers, 110,000 Japanese troops and 140,000 Okinawan noncombatants who lost their lives, although the exact total number of civilian casualties may never be known.

The World War II battle lasted 82 days but left behind deep feelings and remnants of war. During portions of the ceremony, particularly during Abe's speech, protesters shouted their opposition to the continued U.S. military presence on the island.

"The Okinawans suffered," III Marine Expeditionary Force commander Lt. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III said while laying wreaths at the Cornerstone of Peace monuments, which bear the names of fallen U.S. servicemembers. "This beautiful island still bears the wounds and scars of that war."

"It has been 74 years since the Battle of Okinawa," Abe said in a speech punctuated by the shouts of protesters. "Our current peace and prosperity are based on many people's sacrificed lives and their future," he said.

war."

In pauses during Abe's speech, protesters shouted in Japanese, "Go home!" "Liar!" and "Stop Henoko construction!"

Protesters in Okinawa have called for halting construction of a runway at Camp Schwab — a small, coastal Marine Base in less-populated Henoko — that will one day facilitate the relocation and closure of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

## Deadline looms for transferring Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits

BY SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

Starting next month, some mid-career and senior servicemembers will be unable to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to family members.

New rules the Pentagon put in place last summer take effect July 12, limiting the option to transfer the benefit to troops who have served at least

six years, but not more than 16, and who commit to serve an additional four years.

The date next month also marks the end of a policy exception the Pentagon announced in January to allow troops with at least 10 years of service, but who were ineligible to reenlist for an additional four, to transfer their benefits.

That exception applied to servicemembers affected by

mandatory retirement, a career-ending medical problem or failure to gain timely promotion.

Servicemembers wounded in combat who have received Purple Heart medals are exempted from the rule changes.

In most cases, the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits cover the cost of in-state public university tuition plus a monthly housing stipend that can pay for a four-

year degree or other educational programs for eligible troops, veterans and family members. Many private schools also offer grants to pay the difference between the cost of public and private school tuition.

There had not previously been a restriction on when servicemembers could transfer education benefits to their family members once they had served six years.

# Report: Tell hostage families 'hard truths'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States must do a better job communicating with families of American hostages held overseas, including telling “hard truths” to loved ones about the chances for rescue and clarifying the government’s position on ransom payments to captors, according to a new report.

The report also says hostages who do make it home need more support, including for financial and mental health problems, and that Americans unlawfully detained by foreign governments should get the same level of attention from the U.S. as hostages held by terrorist groups.

The study from the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation is the first nongovernment effort to measure the successes and shortcomings of changes to the hostage recovery process enacted by the Obama administration and left in place by President Donald Trump. The foundation is named for James Foley, a journalist from New Hampshire who was kidnapped in Syria in 2012 and killed by Islamic State militants two years later.

The 2015 actions included the creation of an FBI-led intra-government fusion cell that works full time on hostage cases and the appointment of a State Department presidential envoy to handle diplomatic

negotiations.

The changes were meant to streamline the hostage recovery process after complaints from American families that the government had failed to prioritize the rescue of their loved ones and communicate effectively with them.

The report — based on interviews with 27 people connected to hostage cases, including former hostages themselves and loved ones — makes clear that those changes have led in some instances to better interactions between government officials and hostage families but that challenges remain.

Among its main recommendations is that the U.S. should communicate more honestly and regularly with hostage families, and be straightforward about capabilities and limitations in recovery efforts as well as the outcome of the case.

“Families asserted that they want to be spoken to directly and not placated; to be told hard truths and not how to feel,” the report says.

The report also suggested that the U.S. improve its communications of laws and policies to families, particularly the government’s stance on ransom payments to captors. The Obama administration in 2015 reaffirmed its position that while the government would not make ransom payments, it would also not prosecute families who did

so and would support families attempting to negotiate their loved ones’ releases.

“Nonetheless, given the complexity revolving around negotiations and private payments of ransoms, confusion among hostage families persists,” the report states.

The report also cites a disparity in treatment given to hostages and to Americans who are wrongfully detained by foreign governments. The 2015 actions were meant to cover hostages — people held by an individual or group looking to extract concessions as a condition of release — “but only optionally and partially” apply to cases in which an American is held overseas and is acknowledged to be detained by a foreign government, according to the report.

“The U.S. government, and more importantly the State Department, must ensure that cases in the second category also benefit from the June 2015 reforms,” the report says. “This includes an increase in information sharing and U.S. government support for families, both foreign and domestic.”

The report acknowledges that additional support for the thousands of Americans held by a foreign government would require additional personnel and resources.

## Wallenda ‘freaked’ when pole slipped over Times Square

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nik Wallenda says he “freaked” out when his balancing pole slipped during a high-wire walk with his sister above New York’s Times Square.

Nik and Lijana Wallenda spoke Monday on ABC’s “Good Morning America,” just hours after their harrowing feat.

Nik Wallenda said the scare occurred as his sister knelt so he could step over her while they crossed paths 25 stories above the pavement.

“My pole started to slide down,” he said, adding that he briefly lost his grip. “It freaked me out for a second” — though his voice and facial expression remained outwardly calm during riveting close-ups shown on

television.

Lijana Wallenda was performing with him for the first time since she had a near-fatal fall in 2017.

She conceded that she felt “a little shaky in the legs” for the first 20 feet.

But “it becomes home,” she said. “This is what I’ve done my whole life. ... It’s peaceful.”

Lijana Wallenda said she

could have quit wire walking after her traumatic fall but “I wouldn’t let that fear consume me.”

She is “living proof” that anybody can step out of their comfort zone and overcome their own fears, her brother said.

After conquering Times Square, Nik Wallenda said he’s got his eye on an “active volcano.”

## O’Rourke says ‘war tax’ could fund veterans’ health care

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Democratic presidential candidate Beto O’Rourke is pledging to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and help create a federal health care fund to cover the costs of caring for

those who serve in future wars by taxing those who don’t.

The former Texas congressman unveiled his proposal Monday before attending a veterans’ roundtable in Tampa, Fla., ahead of the first Democratic presidential debate in

Miami on Wednesday.

The new health care fund would be paid for using a “war tax,” ensuring Americans not serving share “some of the cost of going to war according to their means.”

The proposal pledges to im-

prove the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system and provide immigrant veterans a “pathway to citizenship.”

O’Rourke wants to expand “reverse boot camps” to better prepare veterans for life after the military.

# Truck driver charged in bikers' deaths

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, N.H. — A long-planned Blessing of the Bikes ceremony for motorcycle enthusiasts became a scene of mourning and reflection Sunday as about 400 people paid tribute to seven bikers killed in a devastating collision with a pickup truck.

The driver of the truck was charged Monday with seven counts of negligent homicide, authorities said.

Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, was arrested Monday morning at his home in West Springfield, Mass., on a fugitive from justice charge related to Friday's crash, the New Hampshire attorney general's office said.

Zhukovskyy's pickup towing a flatbed trailer collided with a group of 10 motorcycles Friday on a two-lane highway in the northern New Hampshire community of Randolph, investigators said.

The victims were members or supporters of the Marine JarHeads, a New Eng-

land motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses, and ranged in age from 42 to 62.

"When they fall, we all fall," Laura Cardinal, vice president of the Manchester Motorcycle Club, said at the Blessing of the Bikes ceremony, adding that fellow bikers will support the families of those who died. "Those families, they're going to go through a lot now. They have a new world ahead of them."

Blessing of the Bikes ceremonies are held in many locations as a way to give prayers for a safe season. Sunday's event, situated about an hour from the accident site, was expected to draw maybe 100 or 200 people before it was transformed by tragedy.

The Rev. Rich Baillargeon presided, blessing the bikes using a branch dipped in holy water as they filed by, and held a moment of silence and prayer for the victims. One biker got up to say a prayer but got choked up and couldn't finish. The ceremony also included a bugle playing of taps.

Authorities identified the dead as Michael Ferazzi, 62, of Contoocook, N.H.; Albert Mazza Jr., 59, of Lee, N.H.; Desma Oakes, 42, of Concord, N.H.; Aaron Perry, 45, of Farmington, N.H.; Daniel Pereira, 58, of Riverside, R.I.; and Jo-Ann and Edward Corr, both 58, of Lakeville, Mass.

One person injured in the wreck remained hospitalized in stable condition. Relatives of all but one of the victims could not be reached for comment or their numbers were not listed. The state attorney general's office said the Ferazzi family had asked that reporters not contact them.

Mazza's family described the former Marine and father of two as a quiet self-starter who fell in love with motorcycles at an early age and always seemed to best anyone he competed against. When he got out of the Marines, he worked in the defense industry and then the construction business.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

## UN: Relatives of ex-ISIS fighters should go home

Associated Press

GENEVA — Thousands of relatives of former foreign fighters in Islamic State should be repatriated, the U.N. human rights chief said Monday, insisting that children, in particular, have suffered "grievous violations" of their rights — a challenge to European and other countries that have been reticent about taking back jihadis and their kin.

Michelle Bachelet said more than 55,000 suspected ISIS fighters and their families have been detained in Iraq and Syria. Most are in the custody of the Iraqi government and the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, and the alleged fighters come from more than 50 countries. More than 11,000 relatives are being held at the Al Hol camp in northeastern Syria alone.

Bachelet appealed to the relevant countries to uphold their responsibilities under international law, even with regard

to members of an extremist group infamous for beheadings and other grave violence. Many European countries have been reluctant to take back their nationals, led by France, which saw more of its citizens join ISIS than any other European country.

"Foreign family members should be repatriated unless they are to be prosecuted for crimes in accordance with international standards," Bachelet told the Human Rights Council as it opened its summer session.

In her wide-ranging speech, Bachelet also expressed "regret" at Saudi Arabia's "dismissal" of a report last week by an independent U.N. human rights expert criticizing the kingdom over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. As for China, she commended a "sound decision" by Hong Kong authorities to delay a bill on extradition that fanned mass protests.

## Air Canada reviewing how crew left passenger on plane

Associated Press

Air Canada said Sunday it's looking into how crewmembers could have disembarked from a plane without noticing a sleeping passenger who was left behind.

The airline was responding to an incident involving a woman who described waking up "all alone" on a "cold, dark" aircraft after a flight to Toronto earlier this month.

"I think I'm having a bad dream bc like seriously how is this happening!!?!" Tiffani Adams recounted in a June 19 Facebook post sent by her friend, Deanna Noel-Dale.

The airline confirmed the incident took place but declined to comment on its disembarking procedures or how the passenger may have been overlooked.

"We are still reviewing this matter so we have no additional details to share, but we have followed up with the customer and remain in contact with her," Air Canada told the Associated Press.

Adams wrote that after she woke up, she called Noel-Dale to try to explain what happened, but her phone died and she couldn't charge it because power to the plane was off. She said she was "full on panicking" by the time she found the "walky-talky thingys in the cockpit," which also didn't work.

After no one saw the "sos signals" she made by shining a flashlight out the window, she unbolted a cabin door. Facing a steep drop to the tarmac, she leaned out of the aircraft and called over a ground crew, who got her out.

The passenger wrote that Air Canada personnel asked if she was OK and whether she would like a limo and hotel, but she declined the offer.

She said airline representatives apologized and said they would investigate.

The AP attempted to reach Adams through Noel-Dale's Facebook account but had not received a response by late Sunday morning.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### YouTube duck calls are used in rescue

**CO** LITTLETON — A flock of ducklings is safe in suburban Denver after a firefighter used a recording of duck calls to coax some of them from a storm drain.

A video from South Metro Fire Rescue shows how a firefighter was able to scoop out four of the birds in the water at the bottom of the drain. Four others were hiding in an adjacent pipe.

The firefighter held up his cellphone to an opening in the pipe and played a YouTube video of duck calls. The ducklings walked toward the sound.

### Insect-eating plant is a first in state

**MD** SNOW HILL — An insect-eating plant has been found in Maryland for the first time.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources told news outlets that botanists recently confirmed the discovery of dwarf sundew, the smallest native species of sundew in the United States. It was found in open areas with wet, peaty sand near the Nassawango Creek in Worcester County.

The department said this is the first record of the plant growing in the state.

### Woman bitten by snake in basement

**PA** MOUNT PENN — Officials said a Pennsylvania woman was bitten on the arm by a venomous snake when she went to her basement to do laundry.

The Reading Eagle reported that the Mount Penn woman called 911 to report that she'd been bitten by a rattlesnake.

Authorities said it was actually a 2-foot-long copperhead.

Police called the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, which bagged the snake and moved it to a safer location. The woman was taken to a hospital.

### Man wanted for putting poop on cars

**IL** CHICAGO — Chicago police said in a community alert that they're searching for a man who plopped feces "all over" parked cars in the city's Bridgeport neighborhood, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Three of the poop-smearing incidents occurred June 9 in the early morning hours, with a fourth coming between June 15 and 17, according to the alert.

In addition to the cars, a storefront was also covered in excrement, police said.

### Sheriff steps in after 140 skip jury duty

**GA** DUBLIN — A Georgia sheriff said he had to get involved when nearly three-fourths of people summoned for jury duty in his county failed to show up for court.

WMAZ-TV reported courts in Laurens County faced a small crisis when only 60 people showed up for jury duty out of 200 who were mailed subpoenas. Sheriff Larry Dean had deputies make calls to the no-shows.

### Sanctuary combines big cats and yoga

**FL** SARASOTA — Lions and tigers and ... yoga?

An animal sanctuary in Sarasota has begun a unique yoga program amid the enclosures housing some of its 50 big cats. The Sarasota Herald Tribune

reported that a recent session sold out at Big Cat Habitat & Gulf Coast Sanctuary.

The intent is to provide people with exercise of body and mind through yoga combined with an up-close experience with lions, tigers and other big cats.

### Workshops pitched to veterans who farm

**IN** WEST LAFAYETTE — A series of workshops and farm tours this summer is being pitched to military veterans who are farmers.

Purdue Extension and the Purdue-based Indiana AgrAbility Project are teaming up for the workshops at a fruit and vegetable operation in Rossville; July 21 in North Salem on home food preservation, raising small livestock and other topics; and Aug. 17 at a dairy goat operation in Scottsburg.

No fee is required but participants must register online.

### Rally permit precludes Secessionist event

**SC** COLUMBIA — This year, the Confederate flag won't temporarily be raised at the South Carolina Statehouse to mark the day it was permanently taken down.

A group calling for racial fairness — Showing Up for Racial Justice Columbia — has a permit to rally on the capitol grounds July 10.

The South Carolina Secessionist Party has raised a Confederate flag on a temporary flagpole the past three years to protest the date the rebel banner was permanently removed.

Showing Up for Racial Justice Columbia founder Sarah Keeling told The State newspaper she applied for the permit the minute it was available so the Secessionist Party couldn't gather.

### Authorities: Inmates' bombing plot foiled

**AL** JASPER — An Alabama sheriff's department said it has foiled a plan by two inmates to detonate homemade bombs in a county courthouse.

Al.com reported that Bryant Wayne Williams Jr., 29, and Terry Keith Hammond, 56, are charged with four counts of making a terroristic threat. Both men are from Jasper, and both remain in the Walker County jail.

Investigators said the plan was for one man to bond out of jail, then gather items and instructions to create the devices.

### Police: Couple sold stolen baby formula

**AZ** CHANDLER — Authorities said a Chandler couple was arrested for allegedly buying stolen baby formula and then selling it for a profit.

Chandler police said Rafid Khoshi, 46, and his wife, Manal Sulaiman, 43, are accused of shipping more than 25,000 cans of baby formula to California valued at about \$425,000.

They said people shoplifted baby formula from various stores around Phoenix and then sold it to Khoshi and his wife for 30 to 50 cents on the dollar.

Khoshi is jailed on suspicion of 12 counts each of theft and trafficking in stolen property and Sulaiman on two counts each of the same charges.

The couple also are accused of one count each of fraudulent schemes, participating in a criminal syndicate and illegal control of an enterprise.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Rapinoe lifts US over Spain with PKs

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

REIMS, France — Megan Rapinoe converted a pair of penalty kicks and the United States set up a much-anticipated quarterfinal meeting with host France at the Women's World Cup with a 2-1 victory over Spain on Monday.

Rapinoe's first came in the seventh minute to the cheers of the U.S. supporters melting in temperatures that reached nearly 90 degrees at the Stade Auguste-Delaune. They were quieted a short time later when Jennifer Hermoso tied it up for Spain with the first goal the Americans had allowed in France.

Video review was used to confirm a foul on Rose Lavelle that gave the pink-haired captain the game-winner in the 75th minute, spoiling Spain's spirited effort in its first knock-

out-round appearance at a World Cup.

The defending champions head to Paris to face France on Friday night. The French defeated Brazil 2-1 in extra time Sunday night, with Amandine Henry scoring the game-winner in the 107th minute.

A meeting between the three-time World Cup champions and the hosts at the home of Paris Saint-Germain has been anticipated since the tournament draw in December.

The United States skated through its group with a stage record 18 goals. And the team didn't concede a goal in the group stage for the first time at a World Cup.

Until Monday, the Americans had not allowed a goal in eight straight competitive matches dating back to the 2016 Olympics, outscoring opponents 44-0. It was the first goal the United States had allowed this

year since a 5-3 win over Australia in an April friendly.

La Roja had not scored in its previous two games but still finished second in its group to Germany to get the matchup with the Americans.

Rapinoe's first penalty kick was the result of Maria Leon's tackle on Tobin Heath after a pass from Abby Dahlkemper.

Less than three minutes later, goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher's pass to Becky Sauerbrunn was stripped by Lucia Garcia and the ball wound up at the feet of Hermoso, who sent her shot from the penalty arc into the top right corner. It was Hermoso's third goal of the tournament to lead Spain.

Alex Morgan was set to take the penalty after Lavelle was tripped up by Virginia Torrecilla, but after review Rapinoe stepped forward and slotted the ball just under the outstretched arm of Spain goalkeeper San-

dra Panos.

Morgan, who leads the field in France with five goals, took a beating throughout the game. She stayed down for a long while in the second half after a hard tackle by Irene Paredes.

Coach Jill Ellis did not start midfielder Lindsey Horan, replacing her with Samantha Mewis. Horan, who came in as a sub in the 89th minute, had a yellow card in the team's second match.

Rapinoe collected a yellow card in the 37th minute against Spain. The cards could become an issue for the United States against France. Players who accumulate two through the quarterfinals must sit out the next game.

Ellis coached her 124th match with the U.S., matching April Heinrichs for most in the team's history.

## France survives Brazil to reach quarters

Associated Press

As the score remained tied in extra time and the clock ticked toward a penalty kicks shootout, France's stress kept increasing. Hosting the Women's World Cup, Les Bleues are expected to win the title or at least come close.

"It's not simple. We're playing on our home turf," coach Corinne Diacre said through a translator. "There's a constant reminder that we have this pressure to perform."

France survived its first knockout match and advanced to the quarterfinals when captain Amandine Henry redirected Amel Majri's free kick for a tiebreaking goal in the 107th minute of a 2-1 victory over Brazil on Sunday night at Le Havre.

"I didn't remember what happened," Henry said through a translator. "I had my teammates jumping on top of me,"

The World Cup hosts, in the quarterfinals for the third straight time, will play the defending champion United States or Spain at Paris on Friday.

"France has everything that it takes to win," Brazil coach Vadao said through a translator. "France is absolutely prepared to win this World Cup."

France joined England, Germany and

Norway in a thus far all-European quarterfinal field.

"We know that there will be pressure, We know that there will be this burden to bear," Diacre said. "You have to understand that when you're playing in front of such a huge crowd, even when you're on your home turf, it's not something that's easy to get your head around. I think that we can be a little bit patient. I think we can allow our players to crumble under pressure, albeit for a couple of seconds."

Valerie Gauvin, whose first-half goal was disallowed in a video review, put fourth-ranked France ahead in the 52nd minute before a crowd of 23,965 at Stade Oceane, but Thaisa tied the score 11 minutes later for No. 10 Brazil.

Henry scored on a left-footed shot from 7 yards, getting ahead of Monica for her 13th goal in 86 international appearances, her second goal of the tournament.

Brazil had a chance to go ahead near the end of the first extra-time period when Debinha broke in alone and beat goalkeeper Sarah Bouhaddi, but her shot headed toward goal was blocked in front of the line by defender Griedge Mbock Bathy.

"We weren't at our best. ... I didn't recognize my team," Diacre said. "There is something that is not jelling. Why? Because

people are unfortunately not hitting their potential on an individual basis."

This marked perhaps the final World Cup game for 33-year-old Brazilian star Marta, a six-time world player of the year who scored a record 17 goals in five tournaments. And it likely was the last game in the showcase for 41-year-old Formiga, who appeared in a record seven World Cups.

"It's very unlikely that we will see another Marta," Vadao said. "It's unlikely that we still see another player like her for her talent, her professionalism, her character, everything."

France appeared to go ahead in the 23rd minute when Kadidiatou Diani lifted a cross in front of the goal. Brazil goalkeeper Barbara got her hands on the ball and Gauvin crashed into her. The ball went off Gauvin's shoulder and into the net as both players fell to the ground. After they recovered, Canadian referee Marie-Soleil Beaudoin signaled for a video review, and the goal was disallowed because of a foul.

Gauvin did score a goal that counted early in the second half. Diani sped down a flank past Brazilian defender Tamires and crossed. Gauvin slid in ahead of Leticia Santos and poked the ball past Barbara for her 12th goal in 22 international appearances, her second of the tournament.

# Milan-Cortina to host 2026 Winter Games

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Riding a wave of widespread Italian enthusiasm to be an Olympic host, Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo won the vote Monday to stage the 2026 Winter Games.

International Olympic Committee members voted 47-34 for the long-favored Milan-Cortina bid over Stockholm-Are from Sweden that also included a bobsled track in Latvia.

Milan-Cortina's jubilant delegation broke into chants of "Italia! Italia!" when the result was announced, giving the Alpine nation a second Winter Games in 20 years.

"I'm really emotional," Italian Olympic president Giovanni Malago said, close to tears at the winner's news conference. "It's a very important result, not only for me but the whole country."

Italy will get a third Winter Games, after Turin hosted in 2006 and ski resort Cortina staged in 1956.

Sweden never hosted the Winter Games and was sent to an eighth loss in bidding in the past 41 years.

A lack of enthusiasm for the project in Sweden — rating 28% below the Italians in the IOC's own polls — was a decisive factor.

"What was clear was the gap in public support," IOC President Thomas Bach said, suggesting it hinted at weaker political backing.

A spirited late campaign effort was in vain, including Stockholm's mayor Anna König Jerlmyr appealing to voters from the stage by singing a lyric from Abba song 'Dancing Queen'.

A sign of simmering Swedish frustration came minutes later when IOC board member

Gunilla Lindberg pushed the limit of Olympic diplomacy ending her team's 30-minute presentation.

Lindberg challenged her colleagues to reward a new kind of creative, cost-effective bid the IOC has said it wanted — "Or is it just talk?"

"It just came. I felt it (needed to be said)," Lindberg told The Associated Press after the vote.

Instead, IOC members picked Italy despite a debt-hit economy which faces increasing European Union scrutiny.

"We submit with full confidence to your judgment," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte told IOC members before their vote.

Both candidates would likely have failed to get this far in previous Olympic bidding contests.

The IOC has relaxed previously strict rules that demand-

ed financial guarantees and government support earlier in the process.

It was an attempt to revive Winter Games bidding with just two candidates on the ballot paper for the second straight time, since Russia spent \$51 billion on venues and infrastructure for the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Now, the IOC seeks to avoid costly new venues — and potential white elephants — while encouraging regions and multinational bids to share the load. Hence, Sweden teamed with Latvia, across the Baltic Sea, rather than build its ice sliding sports venue.

The 2026 contest met Bach's long-stated wish to return to traditional winter sports heartlands, use existing venues and cut costs.

# Truex holds off teammate at Sonoma

Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Busch have managed to keep their long-standing rivalry quite friendly during their first season as teammates at Joe Gibbs Racing.

It's a bit easier for Truex to be a gracious winner — and for Busch to be somewhat content with second place — when their two Toyotas are blowing away the rest of the NASCAR Cup Series field by a full 31 seconds, as they did on a dominant Sunday in wine country.

Truex won on the hilly road course at Sonoma Raceway for the second straight year and the third time in his career, comfortably holding off Busch for JGR's 10th victory of the season.

Truex won for the fourth time in the last eight points-paying races, earning his 23rd career victory overall. Busch also has four wins this season, putting the two veteran drivers

in position for a long summer of friendly competition.

"We race as hard as we can possibly race on the race track, and we respect each other off it," Truex said. "That works out pretty good."

Although Busch is a vicious competitor, he had perspective on this result after failing to find a way to make a late push past Truex. Their careers have intersected regularly since 2004, when Truex held off Busch to win the Busch Series championship.

"It [stinks] to finish second to a teammate, but it is good for the company," said Busch, who has four top-five finishes in the last five years at Sonoma. "Overall, Martin is really good here. I'm just pumped that I actually ran good."

Ryan Blaney was a distant third, more than 33 seconds behind Truex. Matt DiBenedetto finished a career-best fourth, and JGR's Denny Hamlin was fifth. Erik Jones, JGR's fourth

driver, came in eighth.

Truex and Busch finished 1-2 for the seventh time in their careers, and they were the class of the final stage in a caution-free race. While JGR isn't overwhelming its foes in the points standings, it hopes to build on its strong Northern California performance into the summer.

"What a season we've turned this into," said Truex, who has won with three different team owners at Sonoma. "This group, man, they're unbelievable. Hopefully we can keep it going."

After Hamlin won the second stage, Truex got the lead early in the third stage, and Busch didn't follow Truex into the pits for the final stop. When Busch finally pitted four laps later, Truex reclaimed the lead with 23 laps to go. Truex opened an 8-second advantage and held off a strong push by Busch to win by 1.861 seconds.

More things to know about Sonoma:

## Who's hot

DiBenedetto gave an impressive performance after starting in 19th, patiently picking his way up the field with an impressively fast Toyota. The Northern California native had family and friends in the stands to watch his feat.

## Who's not

Series points leader Joey Logano had battery problems and had to pit with 15 laps to go. He finished 23rd. Chase Elliott started fourth and ran near the front for much of the day before his engine apparently blew early in the final stage.

## Bottoms up

Truex got to raise the winner's goblet full of red wine for the third time in his career, but the New Jersey native still hasn't warmed up to Northern California's signature beverage. "I just don't like wine," he said.

# Another Dodgers rookie hits walk-off HR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Will Smith had seen fellow Los Angeles Dodgers rookies Matt Beaty and Alex Verdugo deliver walk-off homers during their weekend series against the Colorado Rockies. Hours after being called up from the minors on Sunday, it was Smith's turn to join the fun.

The rookie catcher connected for a pinch-hit, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning that lifted the Dodgers to a 6-3 victory and a three-game sweep over their closest NL West pursuers.

"Just when you think it can't get any better, it does," manager Dave Roberts said. "We talk about these young players not being afraid of the moment. For Will to get a pitch in and carry it to the opposite part of the field is pretty impressive."

It is the first time in major league history that rookie teammates have hit walk-off homers in three straight games, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Beaty hit a two-run shot in the ninth inning on Friday and Verdugo did it in the 11th on Saturday.

The last team to win three straight games in walk-off fashion was Oakland two years ago. The Dodgers had not done it since a 2010 series against Arizona.

Smith, a 24-year-old catcher playing his seventh game in the big leagues, hit a slider from Scott Oberg (5-1) over the wall in center. Beaty singled to lead off the inning and advanced on a wild pitch, and Russell Martin was intentionally walked with two outs.

Smith was promoted when infielder David Freese was put on the 10-day injured list retroactive to Friday with a left hamstring sprain. He caught a morning flight from Oklahoma City and got to the ballpark a couple hours before the game.

"I didn't know if I was going to play today, so I made the most of my opportunity," Smith said. "I was concentrating on the approach of the at-bat and getting the right pitch to hit."

Colorado manager Bud Black said not having much scouting information on rookies wasn't a factor in the losses.

"A couple bad pitches got us. Scott didn't

locate his slider where he wanted to," he said. "There are going to be great wins and tough losses. They are on a little bit of a nice roll but we'll be back."

The Dodgers, with the best record in the majors, have won six straight games to tie the 1974 NL champions for the best start in franchise history (54-25) and complete a 9-2 homestand. Kenley Jansen (3-2) pitched one inning.

Dodgers star Cody Bellinger hit a line-drive foul ball down the first-base line that struck a young woman in the head during the first inning. She was taken to a hospital for precautionary tests.

In the ninth inning, a female fan ran toward Bellinger in right field. He was trying to fend her off, and security personnel tackled her as she tried to hug Bellinger.

All six Dodgers runs came via pinch-hit home runs. Chris Taylor greeted Rockies' reliever Chad Bettis with a three-run homer in the seventh to give LA a 3-2 lead. Colorado tied it in the eighth when Daniel Murphy scored from first on Tony Wolters' double into the right-field corner.

## MLB roundup

### Angels win as Pujols completes emotional return to St. Louis

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — In a weekend full of emotional moments, Los Angeles slugger Albert Pujols saved the best for last.

Pujols capped off a stirring three-day return to St. Louis by exchanging jerseys with long-time friend and Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina following the Angels' 6-4 win on Sunday.

Pujols was cheered throughout his first series in St. Louis since leaving the club in free agency after the 2011 season.

"This is probably one of the best moments of my career," Pujols said. "I'm going to put it up there with the two World Series championships."

Pujols met with Molina after the game. The two autographed and then exchanged jerseys on the field.

Los Angeles manager Brad Ausmus was overwhelmed by the support for Pujols over the three days.

"This is one of the most tremendous things I've seen in the game of baseball, the way he

was treated as a visiting player," Ausmus said.

The 39-year-old Pujols was 4-for-11 over the three-game set, including a home run during a 4-2 loss Saturday. He spent 11 years in St. Louis and won three MVP awards and two World Series (2006, 2011) with the Cardinals.

**Braves 4, Nationals 3:** Johan Camargo had a two-run, pinch-hit homer in the 10th inning, and visiting Atlanta won its fifth straight series.

**Astros 9, Yankees 4:** Jose Altuve hit a leadoff homer, rookie Yordan Alvarez connected again and visiting Houston ended its first seven-game skid in four years.

New York had won eight straight but was stopped by ace Justin Verlander (10-3) and a quartet of homers.

**Indians 8, Tigers 3:** Bobby Bradley doubled and drove in a run in his first major league plate appearance and host Cleveland completed a three-game sweep.

**Marlins 6, Phillies 4:** Jordan

Yamamoto won for the third time in three career starts, Garrett Cooper and Brian Anderson hit consecutive homers, and Miami handed host Philadelphia its seventh straight loss.

**Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 1:** Marcus Stroman pitched six shutout innings, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had three hits and threw out a runner at the plate, and visiting Toronto won its second straight.

**Brewers 7, Reds 5:** Brandon Woodruff (9-2) struck out a career-high 12, Travis Shaw homered and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

**Cubs 5, Mets 3:** Javier Baez hit the 100th homer of his career, a three-run drive in the eighth inning, as the host Cubs overcame another home run by Pete Alonso to beat New York.

**Royals 6, Twins 1:** Hunter Dozier hit a three-run shot during a five-run third inning, Homer Bailey was stingy again pitching into the sixth and host Kansas City beat Minnesota.

**Rangers 7, White Sox 4:**

Tim Federowicz and Danny Santana hit two-out, two-run homers in the second inning and Shawn Kelley shut down a late White Sox rally with his first four-out save in three years to lead host Texas.

**Pirates 11, Padres 10:** Kevin Newman walked with the bases loaded in the 11th inning to cap a four-run rally as host Pittsburgh finished a three-game sweep.

**Rays 8, Athletics 2:** Travis d'Arnaud drove in three runs, Austin Meadows hit a three-run double, and visiting Tampa Bay earned a split of the four-game series.

**Mariners 13, Orioles 3:** J.P. Crawford had a career-high four hits and drove in four, Yusei Kikuchi had his best outing in a month, and host Seattle took advantage of an eight-run third inning.

**Diamondbacks 3, Giants 2 (10):** Tim Lincecum's single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning ended host Arizona's season-high six-game losing streak.