

Marines join Japan, Australia for drills

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

A company of U.S. Marines will soon join Australian and Japanese troops in the Outback for drills that aim to enhance their ability to coordinate artillery and air support with both manned and unmanned aircraft.

Exercise Southern Jackaroo kicks off Tuesday and runs through June 24, Capt. Thomas deVries, a spokesman for Marine Corps Rotational Force — Darwin, said in an email Thursday.

“The purpose of the exercise is to increase the capacity to mutually support one another during joint operations,” he

said.

The force of 2,200 Marines is twice the size of the one that deployed to Darwin for the annual six-month rotation last year as the coronavirus pandemic raged. A record 2,500 Marines were sent there in 2019.

Southern Jackaroo, which happens annually, reinforces cooperation across a range of military disciplines, including infantry, aviation, artillery and combat engineer training, according to the head of Australia’s army, Lt. Gen. Rick Burr.

“The three forces will conduct complex activities coordinating artillery, unmanned aircraft systems and rotary wing assets,” he said in an army statement. “There is a

lot to learn from our partners and this trilateral format allows us to better understand our respective capabilities. It also enables us to continue to work together and be ready to contribute to national and collective responses.”

The exercise comes just before Talisman Sabre, large-scale biennial training involving 17,000 troops, mostly from the United States and Australia, that starts in late June and peaks July 18-31. Canada, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are also involved.

France, India and Indonesia will participate as observer nations, the Australian Defence Department said last week.

Marine’s son, girlfriend sail to Hawaii to attend college

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Every summer as a boy, Tyler Savage’s mother took him to spend time in her native country of Hungary, where he swam and learned to sail on Lake Balaton, the largest body of water in Central Europe.

But Savage, now 19, was always frustrated with the strict rules preventing him from sailing all the way across the lake.

Last month, he, along with his 19-year-old girlfriend, Bella Siegrist, set sail on a journey that had no boundaries, crossing the Pacific Ocean from San Diego to Honolulu in a 29-foot boat in 21 days.

They arrived June 5 at a Waikiki Beach marina and will begin attending the University of Hawaii in August. That’s a long, long way from Stuttgart High School in Germany, where the two met.

At the time, Savage’s father, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Glenn Savage, was stationed in Germany. Siegrist’s father, a retired soldier, worked as a government employee.

The sailing trip came about through happenstance and a sense of adventure.

They graduated in the spring of 2020, after which Savage’s father was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. The teen moved with them, and

Siegrist joined him there later in the summer.

They had both planned to attend college in Oregon that fall but decided to forgo school for a year when that college offered only virtual classes. They then set their sights on attending the University of Hawaii.

In the meantime, they immersed themselves in San Diego’s sailing world, first buying a tiny catamaran for a few hundred dollars, which they rented out for income. Siegrist worked at a marina at Lake Miramar.

With money borrowed from his parents, they bought a 24-foot boat, and with it, the seed of an idea.

“I said to Ty, ‘What if we sail to Hawaii with this boat?’” Siegrist said during an interview Wednesday under a huge banyan tree on Waikiki Beach near the marina at which they arrived.

“Ty got into the idea, and he just carried it away.”

Ultimately, they did not think their first boat was up to the rigors of a transpacific trip, so they ended up selling the boats they had to buy the 29-footer they ended up taking — after a fair amount of refurbishment.

They set off May 15, shortly after they had both gotten their second dose of coro-

navirus vaccine.

Week one was not at all pleasant — cold and windy, with choppy waters pounding onto the side of the boat and drenching what was inside.

“The first night I threw up,” Savage said.

But as they reached a warmer clime and began sailing into the waves, there was more to enjoy.

Whales seemed to be curious about their small boat, swimming under it at times and partially surfacing near it. They once saw a shark rocket out of the water and catch a low-flying bird.

Savage’s parents, who flew to Hawaii for their arrival Saturday, provided them with a lifeboat and other safety devices for the trip.

The teens are staying with friends as they begin preparing for school in the fall. Siegrist plans on majoring in marketing or management, while Savage will focus on physics.

As for their boat, they hope to generate some income by perhaps chartering it during summers for tourists seeking a taste of life at sea, perhaps offering trips to neighboring islands.

“I think a lot of people want to see the more unfiltered version of sailing,” Savage said.

Fires Shock drills end in the Arctic

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany —The U.S. Army's only long-range artillery brigade in Europe fired its rockets this week in the Arctic region, marking a first for a unit that has been tested in a new series of drills stretching from the High North to Africa.

The 41st Field Artillery Brigade marked the end of its Fires Shock exercises with a live-fire event in Setermoen, Norway, where it combined forces Thursday with its Norwegian counterparts.

The exercise was the farthest north the brigade, based in Grafenwoehr, has operated since being reactivated in 2019. It was also the first time in more than 25 years that the U.S. Army had conducted a Multiple Launch Rocket System live-fire in Norway.

"This type of training in the Arctic increases the Army's ability to operate in extreme cold-weather, mountainous and high latitude environments and supports the Army's Arctic strategy," U.S. Army Europe and Africa said in a statement.

The Arctic has emerged as a larger priority for the Pentagon amid concerns about Russia's escalating military presence. The Army released a strategy document in March that called for specially equipped and trained brigades in the Arctic "given increasing levels of great power competitor activities" in the region.

"This will be the first time we have conducted an MLRS live fire this far north, but in accordance with the Army's Arctic Strategy I doubt it will be the last," brigade commander Col. Daniel Miller said in a statement.

For USAREUR-AF, the exercise was the culmination of a more than monthlong effort that has showcased the 41st's FAB's range across Europe. Fires Shock has sent its artillerymen on missions to the Baltics, Black Sea region, Germany and northern Africa.

In Norway, U.S. soldiers worked with Norwegian forces and Marines based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. The brigade also coordinated with Norwegian F-16s to conduct precision targeting.

"Throughout the Fires Shock exercises, we have proved our ability to expertly plan, deploy and execute multiple missions simultaneously across the globe at the time and place of our choosing," Miller said.

Biden, NATO leaders bid adieu to Afghanistan war

Associated Press

U.S. President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts will bid a symbolic farewell to Afghanistan on Monday in Brussels, their last summit before America winds up its longest "forever war" and the U.S. military pulls out for good.

The meeting is bound to renew questions about whether NATO's most ambitious operation ever was worth it.

The 18-year effort cost the United States alone \$2.26 trillion, and the price in lives includes 2,442 American troops and 1,144 personnel among U.S. allies, according to Brown University. NATO does not keep a record of those who die in its operations.

Those casualty figures dwarf Afghan losses, which include more than 47,000 civilians, up to 69,000 members of the national armed forces and police, and over 51,000 opposition fighters.

The military effort followed the 2001 arrival of a U.S.-led coalition that ousted the Taliban for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. Few experts argue that it brought long-term stability, meaningful democracy or security.

"At this point, you get the impression that NATO leaders almost want to downplay and leave quietly, rather than making too big a deal of it, and going on to focus on other business," said Erik Brattberg, director of the Europe Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

With the U.S. leading the withdrawal, European allies and Canada want to hear Biden's thinking about how security will be assured at their embassies, along major transport routes and above all at Kabul's airport.

Many wonder whether the Afghan government can survive a resurgent Taliban. Some think Kabul's capitulation is only a matter of time.

"We are currently in intense discussions with our member states, the United States, NATO and the United Nations on the absence of essential security conditions for our continued diplomatic presence. It will be difficult to keep it" in place, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

For now, NATO plans to leave civilian advisers to help build up government institutions.

Familiar face returns to Okinawa to command 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine air power in Japan welcomed a familiar face as its new leader Friday at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa.

Brig. Gen. Brian Cavanaugh took command of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing from Brig. Gen. Christopher McPhillips during a flight-line ceremony with MV-22B Ospreys and F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters parked nearby.

Cavanaugh, a Bronze Star recipient, is no stranger to 1st MAW. He has held every rank in his 30-year career, save for second lieutenant, while serving under its banner.

"I understand that 1st MAW, through the

work of Gen. McPhillips and his team, is ready to fight now and we will continue to be ready to fight now," Cavanaugh told the audience. "All I ask of the Marines and sailors is to be ready."

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing — often referred to as the "tip of the spear" in Marine aviation — consists of approximately 7,500 Marines and sailors operating a complement of fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft from bases across Japan and Hawaii. The unit is the aviation combat element of III Marine Expeditionary Force.

McPhillips, a career AV-8B Harrier pilot who took over in June 2019, heads to a joint billet at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii, wing spokesman Maj. Ken Kunze said.

G-7 leaders agree on vaccines and China

Associated Press

CARBIS BAY, England — Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations on Sunday pledged more than 1 billion coronavirus vaccine doses to poorer nations, vowed to help developing countries grow their economies while fighting climate change and agreed to challenge China's "non-market economic practices" and call out Beijing for rights abuses in Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

Speaking at the end of a G-7 leaders' summit in southwest England, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson praised the "fantastic degree of harmony" among the reenergized group, which met in person for the first time in two years.

The leaders wanted to show that international cooperation is back after the upheavals caused by the pandemic and the unpredictability of former U.S. Presi-

dent Donald Trump. And they wanted to convey that the club of wealthy democracies — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States — is a better friend to poorer nations than authoritarian rivals such as China.

Johnson said the G-7 would demonstrate the value of democracy and human rights to the rest of the world and help "the world's poorest countries to develop themselves in a way that is clean and green and sustainable."

"It's not good enough for us to just rest on our laurels and talk about how important those values are," he told reporters after the 3-day meeting on the Cornwall coast. "And this isn't about imposing our values on the rest of the world. What we as the G-7 need to do is demonstrate the benefits of democracy and freedom and human rights to the rest of the world."

But health and environmental campaigners were distinctly unimpressed by the details in the leaders' final meeting communique.

"This G-7 summit will live on in infamy," said Max Lawson, the head of inequality policy at the international aid group Oxfam. "Faced with the biggest health emergency in a century and a climate catastrophe that is destroying our planet, they have completely failed to meet the challenges of our times."

Despite Johnson's call to "vaccinate the world" by the end of 2022, the promise of 1 billion doses for vaccine-hungry countries — coming both directly and through the international COVAX program — falls far short of the 11 billion doses the World Health Organization said is needed to vaccinate at least 70% of the world's population and truly end the pandemic.

U.S. President Joe Biden also wanted to persuade fellow democratic leaders to present a more unified front to compete economically with Beijing and strongly call out China's "nonmarket policies and human rights abuses."

In the group's communique published Sunday, the group said: "With regard to China, and competition in the global economy, we will continue to consult on collective approaches to challenging nonmarket policies and practices which undermine the fair and transparent operation of the global economy."

The leaders also said they will promote their values by calling on China to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Xinjiang, where Beijing is accused of committing serious human rights abuses against the Uyghur minority, and in the semi-autonomous city of Hong Kong.

Mass shootings rise as summer nears in US

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Two people were killed and at least 30 others wounded in mass shootings overnight in three states, authorities said Saturday, stoking concerns that a spike in U.S. gun violence could continue into summer as coronavirus restrictions ease and more people are free to socialize.

The attacks took place late Friday or early Saturday in the Texas capital of Austin, Chicago and Savannah, Ga.

In Austin, authorities said they arrested one of two male suspects and were searching for the other after a shooting early Saturday on a crowded pedestrian-only street packed with bars and restaurants. Fourteen people were wounded, including two critically, in the gunfire, which the city's interim police chief said is believed to have

started as a dispute between two parties.

In Chicago, a woman was killed and nine other people were wounded when two men opened fire on a group standing on a sidewalk in the Chatham neighborhood on the city's South Side. The shooters also got away and hadn't been identified by mid-afternoon Saturday.

In the south Georgia city of Savannah, police said one man was killed and seven other people were wounded in a mass shooting Friday evening, police said. Two of the wounded are children — an 18-month-old and a 13-year-old.

Savannah's police chief, Roy Minter, Jr., said the shooting may be linked to an ongoing dispute between two groups, citing reports of gunshots being fired at the same apartment complex earlier in the week.

Airline industry sees rebound

Associated Press

DALLAS — The airline industry's recovery from the pandemic passed a milestone as more than 2 million people streamed through U.S. airport security checkpoints on Friday for the first time since early March 2020.

The Transportation Security Administration announced Saturday that 2.03 million travelers were screened at airport checkpoints on Friday. It was the first time in 15 months that the number of security screenings has surpassed 2 million in a single day.

Airline bookings have been picking up since around February, as more Americans were vaccinated against COVID-19 and — at least within the United States — travel restrictions such as mandatory quarantines began to ease.

The recovery is not complete. Friday's crowds were only 74% of the volume compared to the same day in 2019. The 2.03 mil-

lion figure, however, was also 1.5 million more travelers than the same day last year, according to the TSA.

The 2-million mark represents quite a turnaround for the travel industry, which was hammered by the pandemic. There were days in April 2020 when fewer than 100,000 people boarded planes in the U.S., and the CEO of Boeing predicted that at least one major U.S. airline would go bankrupt.

Most of the airlines are still losing money. Southwest eked out a narrow first-quarter profit thanks to its share of \$64 billion in federal pandemic relief to the industry, and others are expected to follow suit later this year.

The fear of large-scale furloughs has lifted. United Airlines, which lost \$7 billion and threatened to furlough 13,000 workers last fall, told employees this week that their jobs are secure even when the federal money runs out in October.

Israel votes Netanyahu out

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's parliament narrowly voted in favor of a new coalition government, ending Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's historic 12-year rule.

Naftali Bennett, a former ally of Netanyahu turned bitter rival, becomes prime minister, presiding over a diverse and fragile coalition comprised of eight parties with deep ideological differences. Netanyahu remains head of the Likud party and will hold the post of opposition leader.

Netanyahu sat silently during the vote. After it was approved, he stood up to leave the chamber, before turning around and shaking Bennett's hand.

A dejected Netanyahu, wearing a black medical mask, then sat down in the opposition leader's chair.

Sunday's vote, passed by a 60-59 margin, ended a two-year cycle of political paralysis in which the country held four elections.

The eight parties, including a small Arab faction that is making history by sitting in the ruling coalition, are united in their op-

position to Netanyahu and new elections but agree on little else. They are likely to pursue a modest agenda that seeks to reduce tensions with the Palestinians and maintain good relations with the U.S. without launching any major initiatives.

Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption, remains the head of the largest party in parliament and is expected to vigorously oppose the new government.

If just one faction bolts, it could lose its majority and would be at risk of collapse, giving him an opening to return to power.

The country's deep divisions were on vivid display as Bennett addressed parliament ahead of the vote. He was repeatedly interrupted and loudly heckled by supporters of Netanyahu, several of whom were escorted out of the chamber.

Bennett's speech mostly dwelled on domestic issues, but he expressed opposition to U.S. efforts to revive Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Bennett nevertheless thanked President Joe Biden and the U.S. for its decades of support for Israel.

Remains of 17 victims found in Mexico serial killer's home

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Investigators digging under the house of a suspected serial killer on the outskirts of Mexico City said Saturday they found 3,787 bone fragments, apparently belonging to 17 victims.

Prosecutors in the State of Mexico, which borders Mexico City, suggested the grisly finds may not end there. In excavations carried out since May 17, authorities have dug up the floors of the house where the suspect lived. They now plan to extend the search to the soil beneath several other rooms he rented out on the same property.

ID cards and other possessions from people who disappeared years ago were found at the junk-filled home, suggesting the trail of killings may go back years.

The number of bone fragments found underneath concrete floors at the suspect's home would imply the corpses may have been hacked into tiny pieces. That could make sense: the suspect, identified by prosecutors only as "Andrés," was formerly a butcher and, in fact, sectioned and filleted his last victim.

Authorities have not released the full name of the 72-year-old suspect under Mexican laws protecting a suspect's identity.

He has been ordered to stand trial in the killing of his last victim, a 34-year-old woman whose body he allegedly dismembered May 14 with a butcher's hacksaw and knives.

He was caught, not as a result of keen investigative work, but because his most recent alleged victim was the wife of a police commander whom he knew personally. He was to have accompanied the victim on a shopping trip the day she disappeared, so her husband suspected him when she failed to return.

The police officer gained access to police surveillance cameras showing his wife had entered, but not left, the street where the suspect lived; the policeman went to the home, confronted the suspect, and found his wife's hacked-up body inside.

Prosecutors said they are still examining the bone fragments to see if they can extract any DNA to identify the victims.

2 Americans on trial in Japan for aiding in escape of Nissan's Ghosn

Associated Press

TOKYO — Americans Michael Taylor and his son, Peter Taylor, go on trial in Tokyo on Monday on charges they helped Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, skip bail and flee to Lebanon in December 2019.

The Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts in May 2020 and extradited to Japan in March. They have not been released on bail and are not available for comment, which is standard in Japan. They were formally charged in March with helping a criminal escape. Michael Taylor, a former Green Beret, told The Associated Press while still in the U.S. that Peter was not in Japan when Ghosn fled the country. The elder Taylor has helped parents rescue abducted children, gone undercover for the FBI and worked as a contractor for the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ghosn led Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. for two decades before his arrest in Tokyo in November 2018. He was charged with falsifying securities reports in underreporting his compensation and with breach of trust. He says he is innocent and the compensation he is accused of not reporting was never de-

cidated on or paid. Ghosn says he feared he would not get a fair trial in Japan, where more than 99% of criminal cases result in convictions. Japanese prosecutors say he paid at least \$1.3 million to organize his escape. Ghosn is on Interpol's wanted list, but Japan has no extradition treaty with Lebanon.

Tokyo prosecutors say Michael Taylor and another man, George-Antoine Zayek, hid Ghosn in a large box meant to carry audio equipment, snuck him through airport security in Osaka, central Japan, and loaded him onto a private jet to Turkey. Peter Taylor is accused of meeting with Ghosn to help with the escape. Zayek has not been arrested. A U.S. appeals court rejected the Taylors' petition to put their extradition on hold.

The Taylors will go through the Japanese equivalent of entering a plea before a panel of three judges. They may also give statements. They have said they didn't break any laws because skipping bail is not technically illegal in Japan. But Ghosn was not supposed to leave the country. Deputy Chief Prosecutor Hiroshi Yamamoto said prosecutors will outline the charges, but he declined to comment specifically on the case.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police arrest ‘crawling’ restaurant burglar

GA MARIETTA — Police said they nabbed a man they call “the crawling burglar” for crawling through windows of metro Atlanta restaurants and then slithering across the floor to avoid motion detectors.

He is linked to at least a dozen such crimes, in which cash and liquor were stolen, police in Cobb County told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The thefts were part of a monthslong burglary spree dating to September at restaurants in the Marietta, Kennesaw and Acworth areas northwest of Atlanta, police said. The spree ended with the arrest of Aron Jermaine Major of Atlanta during a traffic stop, authorities said.

Police recover prosthetic leg stolen after crash

FL TAMPA — When Christopher Allen Harris’ daughter was just 5 years old, she drew a picture of her father holding her in his arms. She included Harris’ prosthetic leg in the stick-figure drawing.

But after the father, 49, was struck by a car, his prosthetic leg was dislodged and stolen. Police found the limb, after a tipster reached out. The prosthetic was found with some discarded items at a laundromat, according to the St. Petersburg Police Department. Officers returned it to Carrie Harris, his estranged wife, who advocated for the limb’s return.

Harris has had a prosthetic leg since he was 3 years old, a

result of a birth defect. His most recent one was covered in one-of-a-kind Marvel artwork and valued at \$15,000.

Troopers: No citation for man who helped moose

AK ANCHORAGE — Alaska Wildlife Troopers do not intend to issue a citation to a man who was seen lifting a baby moose over a guardrail in south-central Alaska, though it is illegal to “handle any wild animal in a similar fashion,” an Alaska State Troopers spokesperson said in an email to The Associated Press.

Alaska’s News Source reported an Anchorage man, Joe Tate, was driving home from a fishing trip with friends when he saw a line of cars and a moose in the road on the Kenai Peninsula.

Tate said a mother moose was pacing in the road, and a young calf struggled to scale a guardrail to join her. He said he considered calling wildlife officials or law enforcement but worried an accident could occur before they arrived.

Fire crew helps cool down stranded chickens

IL ADDISON — A load of 14,000 chickens that were stranded in suburban Chicago when the semitrailer they were in lost a wheel were later sprayed down by firefighters to protect the tightly-packed birds from overheating.

After the semi arrived at Super Truck Service in Addison, a medic crew from the Addison Fire Protection District saw mechanic Andrew Loucks hosing down the birds and knew that wouldn’t be enough for the

chickens to survive the heat on a day when temperatures climbed well into the 80s.

Battalion Chief Chris Mansfield said a firetruck was dispatched and firefighters hosed “probably several hundred gallons of water” onto the chickens.

Despite those efforts, Mansfield said several hundred, “if not a thousand,” chickens died as they awaited the arrival of a truck from Wisconsin to take them to a farm.

Police: Driver hit 141 mph before killing man

NV LAS VEGAS — Authorities in Las Vegas said a man from El Paso, Texas, was arrested on reckless driving and DUI charges after fatally hitting a moped rider while driving 141 mph near the Strip.

Police said in a statement that Andrew James Rodriguez, 33, was driving a blue 2017 Lamborghini Huracan with a Minnesota license plate at “an extremely high rate of speed” when it crashed into the back of the TaoTao moped driven by Walter Richard Anderson, 58. Anderson died at the scene.

Rodriguez did not have a valid license and was identified by law enforcement with a passport, authorities said. Rodriguez was also not the registered owner of the vehicle.

Truck runs Border Patrol van off road

TX VAN HORN — At least six people were injured when a semitrailer cut off a Border Patrol van carrying migrants on a West Texas highway, forcing the van from the

road and rolling it, an agency spokesman said.

The crash happened two miles east of Van Horn, which is roughly 115 miles southeast of El Paso, said Greg Davis, Customs and Border Protection spokesman for the Big Bend Sector. He said the van was in a passing lane when the truck pulled in front of it, forcing it from the road and rolling it.

The agent at the wheel and a passenger were airlifted to an El Paso hospital. The rest were taken by ambulance, Davis said.

The truck driver was cited, Davis said.

Authorities seize illegal marijuana grows in bust

CA LANCASTER — Authorities seized tens of millions of dollars worth of illegal marijuana grown in the high desert as part of an effort to curtail the black market’s grip on Southern California.

Twenty-three people were arrested in the Antelope Valley, 70 miles north of Los Angeles, and officials planned to bulldoze 500 illegal grows in the area.

The massive bust was partly in response to residents’ complaints of water being stolen, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva said during a news conference in Lancaster. The largest grow had more than 70 greenhouses over 10 acres, with an estimated marijuana crop worth \$50 million.

Villanueva said the amount of seized marijuana was being measured by the tons. Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris said the operation had found \$380 million worth of infrastructure and marijuana in the area.

— From wire reports

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Hey, 19: Djokovic tops Tsitsipas in 5 sets

Associated Press

PARIS — Talented and tenacious as they come, Novak Djokovic was not about to concede a thing after dropping the first two sets of the French Open final against his younger, fresher foe, Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Djokovic looked diminished and depleted at the outset Sunday. By the end, he was at his imperious best.

The top-seeded Djokovic came all the way back to beat the fifth-seeded Tsitsipas 6-7 (6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 for his second championship at Roland Garros and 19th Grand Slam title overall.

“I’m very proud, very happy. I don’t want to stop there,” said Djokovic, who spread his arms, then tapped his chest and crouched to touch the red clay at Court Philippe Chatrier after ending the match with a leaping volley. “Hopefully I can keep on (winning) here in Roland Garros, at least one or two more times.”

As things stand, Djokovic is just one major trophy away from tying the men’s record of 20 shared by Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer and will get his first chance to pull even with his rivals at Wimbledon, which starts in two weeks.

Djokovic became one of only three men — alongside Rod Laver and Roy Emerson — to have won each major tournament at

least twice. And now, as the reigning champion at the Australian Open and French Open, Djokovic can set his sights on another rare achievement: He is halfway to joining Laver (1962 and 1969) and Don Budge (1938) as the only men with a calendar-year Grand Slam.

The 34-year-old Djokovic eliminated 13-time French Open champion Nadal — a challenge the Serb likened to scaling Mt. Everest — in a semifinal that lasted more than four hours Friday night.

That was only Nadal’s third career loss in 108 matches at the clay-court major tournament.

He also had defeated Nadal in Paris in 2015 before losing that year’s final, and it appeared as if the same fate was waiting Sunday.

Djokovic looked drained early, and the 22-year-old Tsitsipas had the upper hand for two sets.

“It was not easy for me,” Djokovic said, “both physically and mentally.”

Eventually, though, he got his best-in-game returning on track and served so flawlessly down the stretch that he did not face a single break point over the last three sets.

That enabled him to complete his sixth career comeback from two sets down —

and second of the past week.

Indeed, the International Tennis Federation said Djokovic — who trailed 19-year-old Lorenzo Musetti two sets to none in the fourth round — is the first man in the professional era to win a Grand Slam tournament after twice facing a 2-0 deficit in sets.

Experience could have been a factor, too.

This was the first major final for Tsitsipas and the 29th for Djokovic, who also won the French Open in 2016, to go with nine titles at the Australian Open, five at Wimbledon and three at the U.S. Open.

Of just as much, if not more, significance to the ultimate outcome: Djokovic is 35-10 in five-setters — including a men’s-record 32 wins in Grand Slam matches of that length — while Tsitsipas is merely 5-5.

“I’d like to thank the Greek fans, and my team, who are constantly behind me, for my dreams. This is a long journey,” said Tsitsipas, who was trying to become the first tennis player from Greece to win a major singles title.

On a sunny, breezy afternoon, with the temperature approaching 80 degrees Fahrenheit (over 25 degrees Celsius) and attendance limited to 5,000, about a third of the stadium capacity, because of COVID-19 restrictions, Tsitsipas needed just about 100 minutes to grab his big lead.

NHL playoff teams are holding their own on the road

Associated Press

Fans gave the Carolina Hurricanes a standing ovation after their team bowed out of the second round of the playoffs in five games to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The crowd of 16,000-plus did not get much to cheer about on the ice before the final horn sounded because the defending Stanley Cup champion Lightning kept the Hurricanes from scoring.

“We’re slowly getting back used to this, but I think ultimately the way to try and keep the crowd down is don’t let their team score on you,” Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said.

Fans are back at varying levels for every team left in the NHL playoffs, and yet road teams are holding their own, winning just under half the games played so far. Players and coaches are enjoying the warmth and noise of having fans back after the 2020 bubble playoffs went on in cold, empty buildings.

With that comes the natural desire to silence a home crowd when on the road.

“If you take the fans out of it right away, your squad gets energy and momentum and that’s the whole goal,” Montreal defenseman Joel Edmundson said Thursday. “The crowds definitely help the home team especially in the playoffs, so the earlier you can take them out of it, the better it’s going to set up for you in the game.”

While goaltending has played a major role in the success of visiting teams, the biggest key has been scoring first. The road team has scored first in 23 of 32 victories through the first two rounds and trailed first in 22 of the 33 wins by the home team.

“If you can do that, maybe the crowds get a little bit nervous and in anticipation and they watch the clock wind down,” said Cooper, whose Lightning are 5-1 on the road. “But (if) you let the opposing team score goals, all it does is amp up the energy in the building.”

That energy doesn’t just benefit the home team. After skating in eerily silent rinks with piped-in noise for so many games, any crowd is a good crowd.

“It’s just really exciting to be around any crowd just because of what we’ve been through,” Boston winger Brad Marchand said. “Typically in playoff time it’s tough to go in an opposing team’s building and be in front of their crowd, but I think we get excited for it now just as much as the other team.”

Which team has the better goalie sometimes makes the difference. NBC Sports analyst Pierre McGuire credited Minnesota goaltender Cam Talbot for stealing the first playoff game with fans at Vegas and New York’s Semyon Varlamov for winning a game for the Islanders in Boston.

“That’s the goaltending thing,” McGuire said. “The biggest thing now moving forward will be that the crowds are electrifying.”

Phils top Yanks for 3rd straight walkoff win

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jean Segura scored Ronald Torreyes with an infield single in the 10th inning for his second straight game-ending hit and the Philadelphia Phillies got a third consecutive walkoff win with an 8-7 victory over the New York Yankees on Saturday.

After Yankees star DJ LeMahieu hit a tying, three-run homer in the ninth, Archie Bradley (2-1) pitched a perfect 10th to strand the designated runner.

Travis Jankowski led off the bottom of the inning against Aroldis Chapman (4-2) by reaching on the pitcher's error. Jankowski bunted, and Chapman fielded the ball, checked Torreyes at second, then hurried a throw high to first. Torreyes advanced to third.

Odubel Herrera popped out, then Segura hit a hard grounder to third baseman Gio Urshela, who dived toward the line to catch it but couldn't relay the ball home ahead of Torreyes.

Bryce Harper doubled, had two singles and drove in two for the Phillies, who have won five of six.

Gary Sánchez hit a solo homer and had an RBI single, and Rougned Odor also went deep for New York, which has lost six of eight.

Rangers 12, Dodgers 1: Jonah Heim and Nate Lowe had two-run homers among their three hits apiece, and Texas snapped its 16-game road losing streak.

Jason Martin hit his first major league homer and Willie Cal-

houn had an RBI triple for the Rangers, who hadn't won away from Arlington since May 6. The skid matched the longest road losing streak in franchise history, set by the expansion Washington Senators in 1961. It was also the AL's longest road losing streak since 2010, and the longest within a single season since 1970.

Kolby Allard (2-2) pitched five scoreless innings of five-hit ball, striking out four with one walk. Isiah Kiner-Falefa extended his hitting streak to 10 games with three hits and also stole three bases for the Rangers.

Indians 5, Mariners 4 (10): César Hernández scored on a throwing error by pitcher Paul Sewald in the 10th inning, completing host Cleveland's rally over Seattle.

After scoring three times with two outs in the ninth to make it 4-all, the Indians loaded the bases with no outs in the 10th.

Nationals 2-1, Giants 0-2: LaMonte Wade Jr. led off the eighth inning with an RBI single that broke a scoreless tie in the eighth inning and visiting San Francisco held on to beat Washington to earn a split in the day-night doubleheader.

In the opener, Erick Fedde returned after nearly a month on the COVID-19 injured list and pitched five sharp innings that led the Nationals to a seven-inning win.

Marlins 4, Braves 2: Zach Thompson pitched five scoreless innings and earned his first major league win, leading host Miami over Atlanta.

Adam Duvall and Lewin Díaz

hit solo homers for the Marlins, who won their third straight overall and second straight over the Braves to claim their first home series against Atlanta since Oct. 1, 2017.

Athletics 11, Royals 2: Matt Olson had four hits, including his 16th home run, and host Oakland roughed up Kansas City rookie Jackson Kowar.

Matt Chapman also connected and drove in three runs. Skye Bolt added his first career home run as the A's improved to 11-2 against teams from the AL Central.

White Sox 15, Tigers 2: Dylan Cease became the first White Sox pitcher to win his first eight career starts against an opponent in a rout at Detroit.

Brian Goodwin homered and drove in five runs in his Chicago debut.

Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 2: Marcus Semien hit a two-run homer — one of three longballs by Toronto in the fifth inning — to extend his club-record road hitting streak to 25 games in a win at Boston.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Bo Bichette, Cavan Biggio and Reese McGuire also went deep for the Blue Jays, who had dropped four of their last five.

Angels 8, Diamondbacks 7: Anthony Rendon homered and drove in four runs, and visiting Los Angeles rallied from a five-run deficit to deal Arizona its ninth straight loss.

Trailing 6-5, the Angels scored three runs in the top of the ninth inning off Diamondbacks closer Joakim Soria. Jose Iglesias and Taylor Ward had RBI singles

and Rendon delivered a sacrifice fly.

Reds 10, Rockies 3: Wade Miley delivered on the mound and at the plate, Joey Votto had a go-ahead two-run single in the third inning and Cincinnati beat slumping Colorado, which has lost each of its road series this season.

Mets 4, Padres 1: Marcus Stroman pitched one-run ball into the seventh inning, Francisco Lindor hit an early two-run homer and host New York defeated San Diego.

Stroman (6-4) pitched 6⅓ innings, allowing six hits and walking one while tying a season high with eight strikeouts. He took a shutout into the seventh until Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his 18th homer.

Rays 5, Orioles 4: Joey Wendle hit an RBI double during a three-run first inning and AL East-leading Tampa Bay handed Baltimore its record-setting 14th consecutive road loss.

Brewers 7, Pirates 4: Christian Yelich hit a three-run double during a five-run fourth inning and host Milwaukee bailed out starter Corbin Burnes in a victory over Pittsburgh.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 2: Joc Pederson homered for the third straight game, Sergio Alcántara and Ian Happ also went deep, and host Chicago used a five-run second inning to beat St. Louis.

Twins 5, Astros 2: José Berrios threw seven commanding innings, Jorge Polanco had three RBIs and host Minnesota beat Houston.

Vandy, Stanford win super regionals, head to CWS

Associated Press

Reigning national champion Vanderbilt and Stanford swept their NCAA super regionals Saturday and became the first teams to lock up spots in the College World Series.

Jack Leiter gave Vanderbilt another stellar pitching performance in a 4-1 win over East Carolina to send the Commodores to the CWS

in Omaha, Neb., for the fifth time since 2011.

Stanford will be in the CWS for the first time since 2008 after Alex Williams pitched a two-hitter and Brock Jones homered three times in a 9-0 win at Texas Tech.

North Carolina State bounced back from a 21-2 loss Friday to beat No. 1 national seed Arkansas 6-5 and even its best-of-three series,

and Mississippi State opened its super regional against Notre Dame with a 9-8 win.

No. 2 Texas posted a 4-3 walk-off victory against South Florida, No. 3 Tennessee defeated LSU 4-2 in an all-SEC super regional and Dallas Baptist moved within a win of its first CWS appearance after beating Virginia 6-5.

Big win: Clippers take Game 3 from Jazz

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clippers coach Tyrone Lue was looking for a prime performance from Paul George and Kawhi Leonard. They delivered Grade A games to get Los Angeles back into its second-round series against the Utah Jazz.

Leonard scored 34 points and George added 31 in the Clippers' 132-106 victory in Game 3 on Saturday night. It is the second time both have scored at least 30 in the same playoff game, and helped No. 4 seed LA cut top-seeded Utah's series lead to 2-1.

"We know that they are two of the best in the league," Lue said. "Like I said yesterday, I don't go to Mastro's to order the ketchup. I go to order the steak."

George shot only 34.3% from the field in the first two games but was 12 of 24, including 6 of 10 on three-pointers. He had 13 points in the second quarter, eight during a 13-2 run when LA seized control and took a

57-41 advantage with 2:54 remaining.

Leonard scored 24 points in the second half. It is his fourth career postseason game with at least 30 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Three have come in his two seasons with the Clippers. The big nights from Leonard and George helped offset another high-scoring game from Donovan Mitchell. The guard led the Jazz with 30 points.

The last player to do that was Leonard last year in the first round against Dallas.

"We kind of let them get comfortable. George hit some shots, but we can make it tougher on him and Kawhi," Mitchell said.

Reggie Jackson and Nicolas Batum added 17 points apiece for the Clippers. LA had struggled from the perimeter in the first two games but was 19 of 36 on three-pointers with many coming on open looks.

"Shots go in or not, our job is to keep being aggressive for ourselves and others," Leonard said. "If Paul has it going, we're going

to go to him. If I got it going, it's going to come to me. But if anybody else on the team has it going, we are going to try to get them the next shot as well."

Joe Ingles had 19 points for Utah and Jordan Clarkson added 14. The Jazz were 19 of 44 on three-pointers, but 17 of 40 inside the arc as the Clippers' zone defense caused problems. Utah committed 16 turnovers, which led to 24 LA points.

"I've said it the last two games as well. Kawhi and PG, they're capable of really making plays and they made plays for other people. There's going to be times where it's tough to stop them from making shots," Utah coach Quin Snyder said. "Some of the breakdowns and the cleaner looks that they get, particularly tonight I thought in transition when we attacked the basket there's got to be urgency to recognize that situation and really get back and show a crowd where they don't have clear lanes to the basket."

Dressel, Ledecky lead chase for Olympic berths

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Caeleb Dressel wants to command the Olympics the way he's done at worlds. Katie Ledecky is seeking to extend her dominance. Ryan Lochte is going after his fifth — and last — Olympic berth. A couple of teenage girls have designs on shaking up the veterans. Simone Manuel and Lilly King are back, too.

After a yearlong delay because of the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. Olympic swimming trials get underway looking a bit different. Masks are as much part of the equipment as suits, caps and goggles, along with frequent testing for COVID-19.

The eight-day meet began Sunday in a temporary pool inside CHI Health Center in downtown Omaha, the fourth time the U.S. team has been selected in Nebraska. Michael Phelps began his historic run to eight Olympic gold medals by making the team at the first trials held in Omaha in 2008.

He retired after Rio in 2016, leaving Dressel to pick up Phelps' mantle as the world's dominant male swimmer. He had a Phelps-like performance at the 2019 world championships, winning a record eight medals, including six gold. At 2017 worlds, he won seven golds.

"I don't think that falls on my shoulders alone," Dressel said. "Michael was one guy within USA Swimming, but he wasn't USA

Swimming. That's what makes USA Swimming so strong is the team and as a collective whole."

In the Phelps' era, swimmers were essentially competing for one spot because he earned the other. Now, things have opened up considerably on the men's side.

The pandemic forced several changes at trials, including reducing arena capacity to half of its usual 17,560. Cardboard cutouts mix with fans in the seats. The trials were split into two different meets, with the slowest swimmers competing a week earlier to avoid overcrowding. Those who finished first or second advanced to this week's competition, which NBC will air every night in primetime.

"The kids are dying to race," said Ray Looze, who coaches Olympic champion breaststroker King. "I think there's going to be some world records that go down because there's been some people that have had to go through a great deal, and they really, really want it bad."

Defending Olympic backstroke champion Ryan Murphy can't wait to swim in front of a live, loud crowd after fans were banned from meets during the pandemic.

"It really does add a level of adrenaline behind the blocks," he said, "and it makes us feel like we're doing something really cool when people are cheering, when they're in-

vested."

The U.S. trials are often considered more competitive than the Olympics. Those who finish third — and miss the team — would often be in the hunt for a medal at the games. Even the biggest names are worried about getting their hand on the wall because only the top two finishers earn Olympic berths. Those finishing in the top six of the 100 and 200 freestyles can also qualify.

"There's a lot of hype on and you can get discouraged," Lochte said. "So just stay calm and just enjoy it. Enjoy it and embrace everything that's going on around you because this is probably one of the funnest swim meets in the world."

Some story lines to follow at these trials:

■ Dressel was a minor player in Rio, winning gold on a relay with Phelps and making the 100 free final. Now, he's poised to step into the spotlight in Tokyo, having dominated at the last two world championships. He's entered in six events at trials, starting with the 200-meter freestyle on Monday.

■ Ledecky is eager to embellish her haul of six Olympic medals, including five gold. She's entered in four events — the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 freestyles. The so-called mile is a new event for women in Tokyo, and Ledecky already swam the world's fastest time in it in April.