

## US targets Houthi radar sites in Yemen

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels after a merchant sailor went missing and the vessel he was on caught fire in the latest Houthi strike on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said Saturday.

The attacks come as the U.S. Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying to counter the Houthi campaign — attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

However, the Iranian-backed rebel assaults often see the Houthis target ships and sailors who have nothing to do with the war while traffic remains halved through a corridor vital for cargo and energy shipments between Asia, Europe and the Mideast.

U.S. strikes destroyed seven radars within Houthi-controlled territory, U.S. Central Command said. It did not elaborate on how the sites were destroyed and did not immediately respond to questions.

"These radars allow the Houthis to target maritime vessels and endanger commercial shipping," CENTCOM said in a statement.

The U.S. separately destroyed two bomb-laden drone boats in the Red Sea, as well as a drone launched by the Houthis over the waterway, it said.

The Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014, did not acknowledge the strikes, nor any military losses. That's been typical since the U.S. began launching airstrikes targeting the rebels.

CENTCOM said one commercial sailor from the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned bulk cargo carrier Tutor remained missing after an attack Wednesday

by the Houthis that used a bomb-carrying drone boat to strike the vessel.

"The crew abandoned ship and were rescued by USS Philippine Sea and partner forces," CENTCOM said. The "Tutor remains in the Red Sea and is slowly taking on water."

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said Saturday afternoon that the Tutor was "still on fire and sinking."

The missing sailor is Filipino, according to the state-run Philippine News Agency, which cited Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cadac. He said most of the Tutor's 22 mariners were from the Philippines.

"We're trying to account for the particular seafarer in the ship and are praying that we could find him," he said Friday night.

Also on Saturday, Central Command said the vessel M/V Anna Meta rescued crew mem-

bers from the cargo carrier M/V Verbena, which was struck Thursday in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Yemen in two separate missile attacks by the Houthis.

The crew abandoned ship after being unable to bring fires on the vessel under control. One mariner was severely wounded.

CENTCOM said the Verbena is a Palauan-flagged, Ukrainian-owned and Polish-operated bulk cargo carrier that had docked in Malaysia and was on its way to Italy carrying wood.

The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, killed three sailors, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration.

A U.S.-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say.

## DOD to sideline Gaza pier, suspend aid deliveries

*The Washington Post*

The Pentagon will again sideline its floating pier off the Gaza coast, used haltingly to bring humanitarian aid to starving Palestinians, as U.S. military personnel attempt to relocate and shelter the structure from another blast of rough seas, American officials said Friday.

Commanders overseeing the operation intend to tow the pier to the Israeli port of Ashdod imminently, military officials with U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in the region, said in a statement. The impending order represents a more cautious approach to deal-

ing with adverse conditions that have dogged the mission from its outset, said two U.S. officials familiar with the operation, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing operations.

"The safety of our service members is a top priority and temporarily relocating the pier will prevent structural damage caused by the heightened sea state," the CENTCOM statement said. "The decision to temporarily relocate the pier is not made lightly but is necessary to ensure the temporary pier can continue to deliver aid in the future."

The pier will be re-anchored to the Gazan coastline "after the period of expected high seas," the statement added.

It was less than a week ago when U.S. troops resumed aid deliveries over the pier after powerful waves ripped it apart May 25, causing an estimated \$22 million in damage and sidelining the operation for days for repairs and reassembly.

On Sunday, The Associated Press reported that Israel's military said it would pause fighting throughout daytime hours along a route in southern Gaza to free up a backlog of humanitarian aid deliveries destined

for desperate Palestinians enduring a humanitarian crisis sparked by the war, now in its ninth month.

The "tactical pause" announced by the military applies to about 7.4 miles of road in the Rafah area. If it holds, the limited halt in fighting could help address some of the overwhelming needs of Palestinians that have surged even more in recent weeks with Israel's incursion into Rafah.

The army said the pause would begin at 8 a.m. and remain in effect until 7 p.m., and would take place every day until further notice.

# US Navy faces intense fight against Houthis

Associated Press

**ABOARD THE USS LABOON IN THE RED SEA** — The U.S. Navy prepared for decades to potentially fight the Soviet Union, then later Russia and China, on the world's waterways. But instead of a global power, the Navy finds itself locked in combat with a shadowy, Iran-backed rebel group based in Yemen.

The U.S.-led campaign against the Houthi rebels, overshadowed by the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, has turned into the most intense running sea battle the Navy has faced since World War II, its leaders and experts told The Associated Press.

The combat pits the Navy's mission to keep international waterways open against a group whose former arsenal of assault rifles and pickup trucks has grown into a seemingly inexhaustible supply of drones, missiles and other weaponry. Near-daily attacks by the Houthis since November have seen more than 50 vessels clearly targeted, while shipping volume has dropped in the vital Red Sea corridor that leads to the Suez Canal and into the Mediterranean.

The Houthis have said the attacks are aimed at stopping the war in Gaza and supporting the Palestinians, though it comes as they try to strengthen their position in Yemen. All signs suggest the warfare will intensify — putting U.S. sailors, their allies and commercial vessels at more risk.

"I don't think people really understand just kind of how deadly serious it is what we're doing and how under threat the ships continue to be," Cmdr. Eric Blomberg with the USS Laboon told the AP on a visit to his warship on the Red Sea.

"We only have to get it wrong once," he said. "The Houthis

just have to get one through."

## Seconds to act

The pace of the fire can be seen on the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, where the paint around the hatches of its missile pods has been burned away from repeated launches.

Its sailors sometimes have seconds to confirm a launch by the Houthis, confer with other ships and open fire on an incoming missile barrage that can move near or beyond the speed of sound.

"It is every single day, every single watch, and some of our ships have been out here for seven-plus months doing that," said Capt. David Wroe, the commodore overseeing the guided missile destroyers.

One round of fire on Jan. 9 saw the Laboon, other vessels and F/A-18s from the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower shoot down 18 drones, two anti-ship cruise missiles and a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis.

Nearly every day — aside from a slowdown during the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan — the Houthis launch missiles, drones or some other type of attack in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait that connects the waterways and separates Africa from the Arabian Peninsula.

"This is the most sustained combat that the U.S. Navy has seen since World War II — easily, no question," said Bryan Clark, a former Navy submariner and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. "We're sort of on the verge of the Houthis being able to mount the kinds of attacks that the U.S. can't stop every time, and then we will start to see substantial damage. ... If you let it fester, the Houthis are going to get to be a much more capable, competent, experi-

enced force."

## Dangers at sea, in air

While the Eisenhower appears to largely stay at a distance, destroyers like the Laboon spend six out of seven days near or off Yemen — the "weapons engagement zone," in Navy speak.

Sea combat in the Mideast remains risky, something the Navy knows well. In 1987, an Iraqi fighter jet fired missiles that struck the USS Stark, a frigate on patrol in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war, killing 37 sailors and nearly sinking the vessel.

There's also the USS Cole, targeted in 2000 by boat-borne al-Qaida suicide bombers during a refueling stop in Yemen's port city of Aden, which killed 17 on board. AP journalists saw the Cole patrolling the Red Sea with the Laboon on Wednesday, the same day the Houthis launched a drone-boat attack against a commercial ship there that disabled the vessel.

That commercial ship was abandoned Friday and left adrift and unlit in the Red Sea, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said.

Rear Adm. Marc Miguez, the Navy's commander for its Carrier Strike Group Two, which includes the Eisenhower and supporting ships, said the Navy had taken out one underwater bomb-carrying drone launched by the Houthis as well during the campaign.

"We currently have pretty high confidence that not only is Iran providing financial support, but they're providing intelligence support," Miguez said. "We know for a fact the Houthis have also gotten training to target maritime shipping and target U.S. warships."

Asked if the Navy believed Iran picks targets for the Houth-

is, Miguez would only say there was "collaboration" between Tehran and the rebels. He also noted Iran continues to arm the Houthis, despite U.N. sanctions blocking weapons transfers.

Iran's mission to the United Nations told the AP that Tehran "is adept at thwarting the U.S. strategy in a way that not only strengthens (the Houthis) but also ensures compliance with the pertinent resolutions."

The risk isn't just on the water. The U.S.-led campaign has carried out numerous airstrikes targeting Houthi positions inside Yemen, including what the U.S. military has described as radar stations, launch sites, arsenals and other locations. One round of U.S. and British strikes on May 30 killed at least 16 people, the deadliest attack acknowledged by the rebels.

The Eisenhower's air crews have dropped over 350 bombs and fired 50 missiles at targets in the campaign, said Capt. Marvin Scott, who oversees all the air group's aircraft. Meanwhile, the Houthis have apparently shot down multiple MQ-9 Reaper drones with surface-to-air missile systems.

## Stalemated war

Officers have acknowledged some grumbling among their crew, wondering why the Navy doesn't strike harder against the Houthis. The White House hasn't discussed the Houthi campaign at the same level as negotiations over the Israel-Hamas war.

While the U.S. and European partners patrol the waterways, Saudi Arabia has largely remained quiet, seeking a peace deal with the Houthis. Reports suggest some Mideast nations have asked the U.S. not to launch attacks on the Houthis from their soil, making the Eisenhower's presence even more critical.

# Hollywood A-listers help Biden raise \$30M

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Some of Hollywood's brightest stars headlined a fundraiser for President Joe Biden that took in a record \$30 million-plus for a Democratic candidate, according to his campaign, in hopes of energizing would-be supporters for a White House contest they said may rank among the most consequential in U.S. history.

George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Barbra Streisand were among those who took the stage at the 7,100-seat Peacock Theater in Los Angeles on Saturday night. Late-night host Jimmy Kimmel interviewed Biden and former President Barack Obama, who both stressed the need to defeat former President Donald Trump in a race that's expected to be exceedingly close.

During more than half an hour of discussion, Kimmel asked if the country was suffering from amnesia about the presumptive

Republican nominee, to which Biden responded, "all we gotta do is remember what it was like" when Trump was in the White House.

Luminaries from the entertainment world have increasingly lined up to help Biden's campaign, and just how important the event was to his reelection bid could be seen in the Democratic president's decision to fly through the night across nine time zones, from the G7 summit in southern Italy to Southern California, to attend.

He also missed a summit in Switzerland about ways to end Russia's war in Ukraine, instead dispatching Vice President Kamala Harris who made a whirlwind trip of her own to represent the United States there, a stark reminder of the delicate balance between geopolitics and Biden's bid to win a second term.

Further laying bare the political implications were police in

riot gear outside the theater, ready for protests from pro-Palestinian activists angry about his administration's handling of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

The event featured singing by Jack Black and Sheryl Lee Ralph.

Kimmel quickly pivoted to serious topics, saying that "so much is at stake in this election" and listing women's rights, health care and noting that "even the ballot is on the ballot" in a reference to the Biden administration's calls to expand voting rights.

Kimmel asked the president what he was most proud of accomplishing, and Biden said he thought the administration's approach to the economy "is working."

"We have the strongest economy in the world today," Biden said, adding "we try to give ordinary people an even chance."

Trump spent Saturday campaigning in Detroit and criticized Biden's handling of the economy

and inflation. The president was fundraising "with out-of-touch elitist Hollywood celebrities," Trump campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said.

But Biden told the crowd in California that "we passed every major piece of legislation we attempted to get done." And Obama expressed admiration for sweeping legislation on major initiatives that the administration of his former vice president has overseen.

Biden held an early lead in the campaign money race against Trump, but the former president has gained ground since he formally locked up the Republican nomination.

Trump's campaign and the Republican National Committee announced they raised a whopping \$141 million in May, padded by tens of millions of dollars in contributions that flowed in after Trump's guilty verdict in his criminal hush money trial.

## Maine police kill armed man after fires, standoff

Associated Press

AUBURN, Maine — A Maine State Police tactical team fatally shot a man on a rooftop early Saturday after an hours-long standoff in which authorities said he opened fire at officers, two homes burned down and a person who fought with him apparently died.

Police issued a shelter-in-place order, evacuated homes and closed a section of the street in Auburn, triggering memories of the mass shooting in neighboring Lewiston less than eight months ago, when a gunman killed 18 people and injured 13 others in the deadliest shooting in Maine's history.

"It's been an intense and tragic morning here in Auburn," said Timothy Cougle, the city's deputy chief of police, "especially in light of the events that took place this past October."

Fire investigators later Satur-

day said human remains were found in the charred wreckage of the home and had yet to be identified.

Police said Leein Hinkley, 43, had been released on bail days earlier on a probation violation. He tried to break into a home just before 1 a.m. Saturday, and got into a fight with a man inside. A woman called 911 and fled through a window when she heard gunshots. Auburn police officers found the woman hiding down the street about 10 minutes later, and she identified the person who broke in as Hinkley.

Col. William Ross of the Maine State Police said a tactical team located Hinkley on the rooftop with a handgun just after 5:30 a.m., and two troopers shot and killed him moments later. Ross did not provide details about what happened during the standoff.

## Man opens fire at Detroit area splash pad, injuring 9

Associated Press

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — Nine people were injured, including two young children and their mother, after a shooter opened fire at a splash pad in a Detroit suburb where families gathered to escape the summer heat Saturday. Police tracked the shooter to a home, where the man apparently shot himself to death, authorities said.

An 8-year-old boy was shot in the head and in critical condition Saturday night, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said during a news conference. The boy's mother also was in critical condition after being wounded in the abdomen and leg, and his 4-year-old brother was in stable condition with a leg wound.

The other six victims, all 30 or older, were in stable condition, Bouchard said.

Oakland County Sheriff's spokesperson Stephen Huber said the shooter was 42-year-old Michael William Nash of Shelby Township. Sheriff Mike Bouchard said the gunman had no prior criminal history but apparently suffered privately from what the sheriff called "mental health challenges."

The shooting happened just after 5 p.m. at a city park featuring a recreation area with a nonslip surface where people can turn on sprays and fountains of water to play in. Bouchard said the attack appeared to be random, with the shooter driving up to the park, walking to the splash pad and firing as many as 28 times, stopping multiple times to reload.

At least one witness reported that the shooter appeared to use two handguns during the attack, the sheriff said.



# Regions across US brace for extreme weather

Associated Press

After days of intense flooding in Florida, that state and many others are bracing for an intense heat wave, while the Pacific Northwest will experience unseasonably cold weather and there is a potential for late-season snow in the Rocky Mountains early next week.

The chaotic weather map includes the possibility of severe thunderstorms developing in between hot and cold fronts. Forecasters said the colliding fronts could lead to areas of flash flooding between eastern Nebraska and northern Wisconsin on Saturday night, as well as strong storms across parts of eastern Montana into North and South Dakota.

Meanwhile a plume of tropical

moisture will reach the central Gulf Coast during the next couple of days, with heavy rain expected to start Monday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

"They're all related," said David Roth, a forecaster with the National Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Md. "This heat that's going to be building over the Midwest and the Northeast is because we have an unusually amplified weather pattern for June."

A trough of low pressure in the Northwest brought scattered thunderstorms and hail to Seattle and other cities in western Washington in the afternoon, and frost warnings prompted gardeners in northern Idaho to cover delicate plants for the weekend.

In Phoenix, temperatures reached 111 degrees Fahrenheit by 5 p.m. and were predicted to climb a few degrees higher. Lee Franklin, a spokesperson for the Phoenix Public Library, said more than 5,000 visitors had sought respite at library cooling centers so far, including a new, 24-hour one at the Burton Barr Library.

Forecasters said the threat of heavy rains in Florida continues to dissipate, but some thunderstorms could cause local flooding given the already saturated soil. Some areas between Miami and Fort Lauderdale were left underwater in recent days as storms dumped up to 20 inches in southern parts of the state.

While most of the country bakes, parts of Montana have

been placed under winter storm watches with a potential for wet snow lasting into Monday night.

Heavy rain and sporadic thunderstorms were expected in western Washington into Saturday evening. In Edmonds, where an outdoor art festival was underway, the National Weather Service warned in the early afternoon that a stronger thunderstorm was headed in.

Hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts in the state's Cascade Mountains and Montana's Rocky Mountains were also likely to see snow at lower elevations than normal. The National Weather Service issued a winter weather watch for north-central Idaho and western Montana from Sunday through Tuesday.

## Fire north of LA spreads, at least 1.2K evacuated

Associated Press

GORMAN, Calif. — Authorities evacuated at least 1,200 people Saturday as a wildfire in Los Angeles County spread over thousands of acres near a major highway and threatened nearby structures, officials said.

The blaze, named the Post Fire, burned more than 3,600 acres near the Interstate 5

freeway in Gorman, about 62 miles northwest of Los Angeles, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

California State Park Services evacuated 1,200 people from the Hungry Valley recreation area in Gorman and both Hungry Valley and the Pyramid Lake reservoir were closed as a result of the fire threat, the Los Angeles Coun-

ty Fire Department said in an 8 p.m. update.

The flames broke out around 1:45 p.m., authorities said.

The fire was moving southeast toward Pyramid Lake and crews were constructing perimeter fire lines while aircraft worked against limited visibility to stop the fire's progress, the fire department said.

## Washington's Makah Tribe could harpoon whales again

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The United States granted the Makah Indian Tribe in Washington state a long-sought waiver Thursday that helps clear the way for its first sanctioned whale hunts since 1999 and sets the stage for renewed clashes with animal rights activists.

The Makah, a tribe of 1,500 people on the northwestern tip of the Olympic Peninsula, is the only Native American tribe with a treaty that specifically mentions a right to hunt whales. But it has faced over two decades of court challenges, bureaucratic hearings and scientific review as it seeks to resume hunting for gray whales.

The decision by NOAA Fisheries grants a waiver under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which otherwise bars harming marine mammals. It lets the tribe to hunt up to 25 Eastern North Pacific gray whales over 10 years, with a limit of two to three per year. There are about 20,000 whales in that population.

The tribe celebrated the decision, but said it took far too long.

"Whaling remains central to the identity, culture, subsistence and spirituality of the Makah people, and we regard the Gray Whale as sacred," Makah Tribal Council Chairman Timothy J. Greene Sr. said in a written statement.

The hunts will be timed in an effort to avoid harming endangered Western North Pacific gray whales that sometimes visit the area — about 200 to 300 remain — as well as a group of about 200 gray whales that generally spend summer and fall feeding along the Northwest coast.

Nevertheless, some hurdles remain. The tribe must enter into a cooperative agreement with the agency under the Whaling Convention Act, and it must obtain a permit to hunt, a process that involves a monthlong public comment period.

Animal rights advocates, who have long opposed whaling, could also challenge NOAA's de-

cision in court. DJ Schubert, a senior wildlife biologist with the Washington, D.C.-based Animal Welfare Institute, said his organization would object to the issuance of the hunt permit, but likely wait until final approvals are given before deciding whether to sue.

He noted that while the Eastern North Pacific gray whale population appears healthy now, it has fluctuated wildly in recent years, and no one knows how the whales will fare as climate change continues to affect the Arctic. Scientists estimate that as much as 40% of the population died off from 2018 to last year before it began to recover.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### DeSantis appointees OK Disney development deal

**FL** ORLANDO — Gov. Ron DeSantis' appointees gave final approval to an agreement that buries the hatchet between Disney and the governing district for Walt Disney World, which the Florida governor took over after the company two years ago publicly opposed a state law critics dubbed "Don't Say Gay."

The five DeSantis-appointed board members to the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District last week unanimously voted to approve a 15-year development deal in which the district committed to making infrastructure improvements in exchange for Disney investing up to \$17 billion into Disney World over the next two decades.

Ultimately, Disney would be approved to build a fifth major theme park at Disney World and two more minor parks, such as water parks, if it desired. The company could raise the number of hotel rooms on its property from almost 40,000 rooms to more than 53,000 rooms and increase the amount of retail and restaurant space by more than 20%.

### Fetterman was speeding, 'at fault' for crash

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Sen. John Fetterman was "at fault" for a recent car crash in Maryland where he was found to have been speeding before ultimately rear-ending another vehicle last week, according to a Maryland State Police report.

The Pennsylvania Democrat and his wife, Gisele, were sent to

the hospital for evaluation after the crash, which occurred around 7:45 a.m. Sunday. Both vehicles — Fetterman's Chevrolet Traverse and a Pennsylvania woman's Chevrolet Impala — were towed after Fetterman allegedly passed the woman's car at a "high rate of speed, well over the posted speed limit."

Fetterman rear-ended her car just before the exit for I-68 in Hancock, Md., between Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The speed limit there is 70 mph.

### City's Denny Blaine Park to remain a nude beach

**WA** SEATTLE — Denny Blaine Park, which has been used as an unofficial nude beach for decades, especially by LGBTQ+ swimmers and sunbathers, will remain just that.

Seattle Parks and Recreation announced Monday it will not update the use guidelines for Denny Blaine Park.

The parks department had proposed to split the park into zones — nude and clothing-recommended — in May, after a plan to build a playground at the park was vetoed last year amid pushback.

The plan to split the park was also met with ire from community members, who said it caved to the requests of wealthy, contentious homeowners.

### Birth of white buffalo calf linked to Lakota prophecy

**MT** HELENA — The birth of a rare white buffalo in Yellowstone National Park fulfills a Lakota prophecy that portends better times, ac-

cording to members of the American Indian tribe who cautioned that it's also a signal that more must be done to protect the earth and its animals.

"The birth of this calf is both a blessing and warning. We must do more," said Chief Arvol Looking Horse, the spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota and the Nakota Oyate in South Dakota, and the 19th keeper of the sacred White Buffalo Calf Woman Pipe and Bundle.

Lakota legend says about 2,000 years ago — when nothing was good, food was running out and bison were disappearing — White Buffalo Calf Woman appeared, presented a bowl pipe and a bundle to a tribal member, taught them how to pray and said that the pipe could be used to bring buffalo to the area for food. As she left, she turned into a white buffalo calf.

"And some day when the times are hard again," Looking Horse said in relating the legend, "I shall return and stand upon the earth as a white buffalo calf, black nose, black eyes, black hooves."

A similar white buffalo calf was born in Wisconsin in 1994 and was named Miracle, he said.

### Boebert's ex pleads guilty following altercations

**CO** RIFLE — The ex-husband of U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert pleaded guilty to reckless endangerment after separate altercations with his ex-wife at a local restaurant and their son at home earlier this year, according to online court documents.

A January argument between the congresswoman and Jayson

Boebert at a restaurant that allegedly got out of control led to charges against Jayson Boebert for disorderly conduct, trespassing and obstruction of a peace officer, court documents show. Those charges were dismissed as part of a plea deal, according to the online records.

Days later, Jayson Boebert got into the physical fight with his son, leading to the reckless endangerment charge Jayson Boebert pleaded guilty to, court documents show.

Jayson Boebert will serve six months of unsupervised probation, according to court documents.

### Robbery suspect released from prison a day earlier

**CA** SANTA ANA — A man charged with taking three people hostage while robbing a Southern California bank last month had been released from prison a day earlier, federal prosecutors said.

The 53-year-old was indicted on robbery charges after investigators said he claimed to have a gun, jumped over the teller counter and began stuffing cash in his pockets at a BMO bank in Anaheim on May 8.

During the holdup, the man ordered the bank manager and two other employees into a storage room, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement. Another employee managed to call police, and the suspect was arrested at the scene.

After his arrest at the bank, the suspect was taken to hospital for a scan, where he tried to escape and fought with police officers, prosecutors said.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

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

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Ledecky earns trip to fourth Olympics

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Katie Ledecky is heading to her fourth Olympics, an accomplishment that seemed unimaginable when she was a 15-year-old kid in London.

These days, it wouldn't seem like a Summer Games without her.

As steady as ever, Ledecky cruised to victory in the 400-meter freestyle at the U.S. swimming trials on Saturday night.

She makes qualifying for the Olympics look so much easier than it is. Ledecky became just the ninth U.S. swimmer to qualify at least four times for the sport's grandest stage.

"I pride myself on that consistency," she said. "Sometimes it can be tough to feel you're not having a breakthrough. But being really consistent is something I'm really happy with. I've learned to really enjoy training and take advantage of the moment."

Cheered on by a crowd of

20,689 at the home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, Ledecky touched the wall in the temporary pool in 3 minutes, 58.35 seconds.

She improved on her time of 3:59.99 in the morning preliminaries and set herself up to make a run at another gold against a loaded field at the Paris Games.

The Australian "Terminator," Ariarne Titmus, is the defending Olympic champion and world-record holder in the 400 free. Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh is also expected to contend for the top spot on the podium.

In Tokyo, Ledecky settled for the silver behind Titmus — the first individual loss of the American's Olympic career.

She'll have her work cut out for her in Paris, as well.

Titmus is coming off an Australian trials where she broke the world record in the 200 free and barely missed knocking off her own mark in the 400 free, winning with a time of 3:55.44

— nearly 3 seconds faster than Ledecky's pace in Indianapolis.

"It's going to be a great field," Ledecky said. "I've always done a pretty solid job in the period between the trials and the games at being faster at the games. The goal is no different this time around. Hopefully, that will put me in a good position in the 400."

The 27-year-old Ledecky is set to swim four events at her nation's trials, all of them freestyle events ranging from 200 to 1,500 meters. She already has six individual gold medals — more than any female swimmer in Olympic history — and an overall haul of 10 medals that includes seven golds.

"I never thought I would make it there," Ledecky said, remembering her Olympic debut at the 2012 London Games. "I never dreamed of that as a young kid."

After winning a surprising gold in her only event, the 800 free, Ledecky was determined to reach ever greater heights.

"I wanted to get back to that level, prove that I wasn't just a one-hit wonder," she said. "But at the same time, I reminded myself that anything more than that is just like icing on the cake, the cherry on top."

That makes her appreciate a fourth trip to the Olympics even more.

Then there's Aaron Shackell, a local favorite from suburban Carmel, who will be heading to the Olympics for the first time after winning the men's 400 freestyle.

Shackell touched in 3:45.46 to hold off Kieran Smith, the bronze medalist in this event at the Tokyo Olympics. Smith used a strong finishing kick to claim the runner-up spot in 3:45.76, which should be enough to get him back to the Summer Games.

The top two in each individual event are expected to make the powerhouse American team, which also bodes well for Paige Madden, the runner-up behind Ledecky in 4:02.08.

# DeChambeau takes three-stroke lead in US Open

Associated Press

PINEHURST, N.C. — Bryson DeChambeau ducked outside the ropes to a private area in the woods, flat on his back as trainers worked on hips that felt too tight. Moments later, he unleashed a swing that sent his drive 347 yards, leaving a wedge to set up birdie and another fist pump.

DeChambeau delivered power, birdies and endless entertainment Saturday in the U.S. Open. He turned Pinehurst No. 2 into a one-man show with a 3-under 67 and built a three-shot lead as he moved closer to another U.S. Open title.

"Just going to say it. Tomorrow it's the same quote I've said all week: Trying to have boring golf," DeChambeau said. "Mid-

dle of the greens, never moves."

There was little boring about his performance before a sun-baked and delirious gallery at Pinehurst that ended a sweltering day by chanting his name. He has always loved the attention from fans, even more when they love him back.

"Yeah, it was amazing. I can't thank them enough. It was a blessing," he said. "Man, they riled me up."

The feeling was clearly mutual.

At stake is a chance to capture a second U.S. Open title with a reimagined game — still powerful as ever — and a physique that isn't quite the "Incredible Bulk" he was at Winged Foot in 2020.

Still ahead is a final round

with Rory McIlroy (69), Patrick Cantlay (70) and Matthieu Pavon (69) three shots behind and all looking capable of giving him a run for the silver trophy.

"I love the test that Pinehurst is presenting, and you've got to focus and concentrate on every single shot out there," McIlroy said. "It's what a U.S. Open should be like. It's obviously great to be in the mix."

DeChambeau, a runner-up by one shot last month in the PGA Championship with another top 10 at the Masters in April, was at 7-under 203. He is the only player to post three straight rounds of 60s in a U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2.

Ludvig Aberg, the super Swede who started the third round with a one-shot lead, fell

victim to the slick, domed greens to make a triple bogey on the 13th hole that sent him to a 73 and left him five shots back along with Hideki Matsuyama (70).

DeChambeau said it was "two hips that are not fantastic" from his speed training that led him to ask for a trainer and get worked on in the woods after the 10th hole.

He went to the 11th, belted a 347-yard drive, hit wedge safely to the center of the green and made a putt from just outside 12 feet to become the first player to reach 7 under all week.

Pavon, a winner at Torrey Pines in his first year playing the PGA Tour, joined DeChambeau as the only players to avoid a round over par this week.



# McDavid, Skinner lead Oilers to rout Panthers

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Connor McDavid scored, “La Bamba” played in the Edmonton Oilers locker room and the Stanley Cup Final is heading back to Florida after a statement win.

McDavid scored his first goal of the series as part of a four-point performance, Stuart Skinner was spectacular in making 32 saves and the Oilers routed the Florida Panthers 8-1 in Game 4 on Saturday night, chasing Sergei Bobrovsky and avoiding a sweep. Game 5 is Tuesday in Sunrise.

“It’s just one win,” McDavid said. “That’s all it is, whether you score eight or you score one. It’s just one win. We’ve got to go to Florida and do a job and drag them back to Alberta.”

The Panthers’ party will have to wait after a complete meltdown from a team with many players who have never been this close to hoisting the Cup. Bobrovsky was part of that, getting pulled five minutes into the second period after allowing

five goals on 16 shots — more than he gave up in the first three games combined.

“It had nothing to do with ‘Bob,’” Panthers winger Matthew Tkachuk said. “It was more of a wake-up call to everybody. We know he’s going to come back better than ever.”

Whether it was a last-gasp effort in front of a jacked up home crowd hoping to see the start of a historic comeback or the breakthrough coach Kris Knoblauch has been foreshadowing, the Oilers from Skinner in net out were dominant in every facet of a game they needed to win to keep the NHL season going.

It started with Mattias Janmark scoring 3:11 in on a 2-on-1 rush with Connor Brown. Janmark staked Edmonton to a two-goal lead less than five minutes later, setting up Adam Henrique for his second career goal in the Cup Final 12 years after the game-winner for New Jersey that also prevented a sweep in the Final.

The odds remain long for the Oilers, given that the 1942 To-

ronto Maple Leafs are the only team to erase a 3-0 deficit at this stage of the playoffs and only four teams total have ever done it.

“Obviously that was a massive win, but we still know what the circumstances are,” said Dylan Holloway, who had two goals after not scoring since the second round. “We’re still down 3-1. The biggest thing for us is kind of just to forget that and use it, bottle it kind of, keep notice that we can do it but just move forward.”

But the belief will certainly be tangible after breaking out offensively and building a lead rather than holding on to protect it, a quality they had in spades through the first three rounds to win the Western Conference. Florida cutting its deficit to one on Vladimir Tarasenko’s goal midway through the first period did not cause Edmonton to fold, with Skinner making the most important save of the night on Carter Verhaeghe on a 2-on-1 chance and Holloway answering before intermission.

“He was great,” McDavid said of Skinner. “You talk about goaltending and needing timely saves. He made some really timely saves. That was as big a save as you’re going to get.”

The offense just kept coming. McDavid, the reigning and three-time NHL MVP beat Bobrovsky early in the second and minutes later set up Darnell Nurse for the defenseman’s first goal of the playoffs. That sent the goalie known as “Bob” to the bench amid derisive chants of “Sergei! Sergei!” as Anthony Stolarz came in for his postseason debut.

The Panthers, hours after family members arrived for a potential celebration more than 2,500 miles from home, took their frustrations out in a handful of post-whistle scrums. One of them gave the Oilers’ power play more target practice, and the unit that came into the final looking nearly automatic and started 0-for-12 made them pay with Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scoring on the 5-on-3 advantage.

# Irving, Mavs avert sweep, get another shot in Boston

Associated Press

DALLAS — Kyrie Irving’s personal 13-game losing streak against the Celtics is over.

Now it’s back to the parquet floor in Boston to face his former team again, the Dallas Mavericks still alive in the NBA Finals after avoiding a sweep with a 122-84 blowout in Game 4 on Friday night.

The first two road games in this series weren’t Irving’s best, the two in Dallas quite a bit better despite a Game 3 loss that left the Mavs with a deficit no NBA team has overcome to win a playoff series.

Combine that with much more of an impact from the role players around Irving and co-star Luka Dončić, and maybe the constant booing of Irving

from the jilted fans in Boston won’t ring quite as loudly in Game 5 on Monday night.

Plenty of green-clad Celtics fans were planning a celebration in Texas, but the loud cheers early when the game was close didn’t last long.

“You saw all those Celtics fans in there tonight. They travel in packs,” said Irving, who spent two seasons in Boston. “When we go to Boston, there’s going to be a bunch of them yelling a whole bunch of crazy stuff still, but I think we’ve been able to grow and face kind of this adversity head on.

“We’re figuring out each other in a crazy way during the highest stage of basketball,” Irving said. “So it’s a beautiful thing, but it also can be chaotic if

you don’t know how to stay poised through it.”

If the Mavericks are to become just the 12th of 157 teams to force a Game 6 after falling behind 3-0 — and get the title series back to Dallas — the supporting cast for Irving and Dončić will have to keep it up.

Dereck Lively II connected on a 3-pointer for the first time in his career — exactly seven months after the second of the two regular-season attempts from beyond the arc by the 7-foot-1 rookie center.

At one point in the second half, Lively had 12 rebounds, his final total, to 16 for Boston. No wonder Dallas outscored the Celtics 60-26 in the paint, where Lively scored the other eight of his 11 points.

Dante Exum hit two 3s and had another taken away when replay revealed he had stepped out of bounds. The buckets from deep were coming from so many Dallas players — 14 of 23, although those numbers were skewed a bit by the blowout — it didn’t matter that Dončić and Irving combined to go 1-for-14.

“It’s five people on the floor,” Dončić said. “So that’s huge for us. Everybody played with a lot of energy. That’s how we got to do it. We got to think the same way in Game 5 in Boston.”

Dončić scored 25 of his 29 points in the first half, while Irving had 10 of his 21 in the third quarter to help push a 26-point halftime lead to 38 before all starters were out of the game for good late in the third.

# Santander, O's rebound to beat Phils

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Anthony Santander homered twice and drove in four runs, and Grayson Rodriguez worked seven solid innings to lift the Baltimore Orioles to a 6-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday.

Rodriguez (8-2) allowed two runs for the Orioles, who rebounded after an 11-inning loss to Philadelphia in the series opener. Baltimore led 3-2 before Santander hit a two-run shot in the eighth. Gunnar Henderson added an RBI single later that inning.

Santander's solo homer came in the fourth, and he put the Orioles up 3-2 with a sixth-inning sacrifice fly.

"I don't know what's happened, but I feel great when it's hot," said Santander, who has a major league-high eight home runs this month. "I'm from Venezuela, so that weather is always in 90, 95. I wish it can be hot the whole year."

Edmundo Sosa hit a solo home run for the Phillies, who scored in each of the first two innings. Taijuan Walker (3-2) yielded three runs in 5½ innings.

Alec Bohm, who doubled home two runs in the 11th the previous night, opened the scoring by slicing an RBI double to the gap in right-center field. Sosa's homer made it 2-0.

Adley Rutschman hit a sacrifice fly in the third for the Orioles, and Santander's 16th homer of the season tied it at 2.

**Cubs 5, Cardinals 1:** Shota Imanaga pitched seven effective innings and Ian

Happ hit a three-run homer, helping host Chicago hold off St. Louis.

Imanaga (7-1) allowed one run and four hits in his second straight win. The Japanese left-hander struck out six and walked none while improving to 3-0 with a 1.31 ERA in his first seven starts at Wrigley Field. Chicago had lost three of four and 15 of 21. It was the team's first win in four games against rival St. Louis this season.

**Blue Jays 5, Guardians 0:** Six pitchers combined on an eight-hitter, George Springer scored twice and drove in a run and host Toronto beat Cleveland.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa had two hits and rookie Addison Barger had his first big league RBI for the Blue Jays, who are 26-3 when scoring five runs or more.

**Nationals 4, Marlins 0:** DJ Herz struck out 13 and allowed one hit in six innings for his first major league victory, combining on a four-hitter that led host Washington over Miami.

**Brewers 3, Reds 1:** Joey Ortiz hit a three-run homer, Bryse Wilson gave up three hits in 5½ innings and host Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

**Angels 4, Giants 3:** Luis Rengifo hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning, Logan O'Hoppe hit a two-run homer and visiting Los Angeles rallied to beat San Francisco.

**Braves 9, Rays 2:** Marcell Ozuna had three hits, including one of four Atlanta home runs, as its offensive resurgence continued in a rout of visiting Tampa Bay.

**Mets 5, Padres 1:** J.D. Martinez homered twice, Jose Quintana (2-5) ended a 10-start winless streak and host New York beat San Diego for its eighth win in 10 games.

**Tigers 13, Astros 5:** Riley Greene homered in each of the first two innings and set career highs with four hits and six RBIs as visiting Detroit raced to a huge lead and cruised to a win over Houston.

**Mariners 7, Rangers 5:** Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run homer, his second in three games, George Kirby allowed an unearned run over six innings and host Seattle held off Texas.

**Red Sox 8, Yankees 4:** Rafael Devers hit a two-run double and host Boston ended Carlos Rodón's seven-start winning streak by beating New York.

**Royals 7, Dodgers 2:** MJ Melendez hit a grand slam to conclude a 12-pitch at-bat, Seth Lugo became the AL's first 10-game winner and visiting Kansas City defeated Los Angeles as Yoshinobu Yamamoto's start was cut short after two innings due to triceps tightness.

**Rockies 16, Pirates 4:** Hunter Goodman had two homers and five RBIs in his first four-hit game, Ryan McMahon doubled twice and stole home, and host Colorado scored its most runs in nearly two years in a rout of Pittsburgh.

**White Sox 9, Diamondbacks 2:** Chicago scored its first run after what appeared to be an intentional balk and Lenyn Sosa hit a three-run homer as it picked up a rare road win with a victory over Arizona.

## Kentucky walks off NC State in College World Series

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Seven of the eight teams in the College World Series have hit at least 100 home runs this season. And then there's Kentucky.

Well, the Wildcats showed the long ball can be a big part of their offense, too.

Ryan Nicholson hit the tying home run in the ninth inning and Mitchell Daly connected for the game-winner in the bottom of the 10th, giving Kentucky a 5-4 victory over North Carolina State on Saturday in the third straight CWS game to end in walk-off fashion.

Kentucky (46-14), in its first CWS, set a program record for wins in a season and will play Monday night against Texas A&M (50-13). NC State will play Florida (34-29)

in an elimination game in the afternoon.

The Wolfpack (38-22) went to the bottom of the ninth with a one-run lead in their first game in Omaha since a COVID-19 outbreak on the team led the NCAA to removing them from the 2021 CWS after their third game.

But Nicholson sliced Jacob Dudan's 96-mph fastball just inside the left-field foul pole, and barely over the fence, for his 22nd home run to tie it 4-all.

The Wildcats got a runner to third after that but couldn't push him across. After Johnny Hummel (4-0) pitched a 1-2-3 top of the 10th, the stage was set for Daly.

**Texas A&M 3, Florida 2:** Jace LaViolette robbed Cade Kurland of a go-ahead home run in the ninth inning, Justin Lamkin and

two relievers struck out 16 and the Aggies held off the Gators in a weather-delayed opener that ended early Sunday.

Texas A&M scored its runs in the first three innings against Liam Peterson (3-5), the first freshman to start a CWS opener for Florida, and then relied on Lamkin, Chris Cortez (10-3) and Evan Aschenbeck to hold down the Gators' high-powered offense.

Florida had come from behind in four of its six NCAA Tournament wins and nearly did it again.

Down a run in the eighth, the Gators loaded the bases with two outs against Aschenbeck. The left-hander, named Stopper of the Year as the nation's top closer, got out of the inning when he got Dale Thomas to ground out to second base.