

Truman returns home after intense 8 months

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

NORFOLK, Va. — “The ship is coming!” a disembodied voice shouted from a cheering crowd as the USS Harry S. Truman approached the pier.

Thousands of flag-waving, sign-carrying loved ones welcomed the aircraft carrier and its sailors home Sunday following a brutal eight-month deployment that was marred by conflict and mishaps.

A banner of the combat action ribbon was stretched across the island of the carrier, and on the right side of the ship’s flank, large gashes jutted out from a collision — both evidence of what the Truman and its crew had been through.

“These sailors stepped up day in and day out. They did not cower. They did not fall back. They just kept fighting and fighting,” said Capt. Christopher Hill, the commanding officer of the Truman.

The Truman conducted 50 days of continuous strikes, including the launch of Tomahawk

land attack missiles and precision airstrikes, meant to degrade Houthi capabilities and disrupt threats to commercial shipping. All in all, Hill said the Truman fired more than 1.1 million pounds of ordnance against enemy targets. Of that, 125,000 pounds were launched against Islamic State terrorists in northeast Somalia in what the Navy has called the largest airstrike in history launched from an aircraft carrier.

“We didn’t just deploy. We delivered,” said Rear Adm. Sean Bailey, commander of the strike group. “We were ready to confront any adversary with top-notch warfighting lethality and readiness, and I could not be more proud of what we achieved.”

While leadership characterized the Truman’s deployment based on its successes, the strike group was also plagued with mishaps, including the loss of three fighter jets that cost about \$67 million each. The carrier also collided with a cargo ship, and the commanding officer was fired.

Leadership declined Sunday to discuss the costly incidents, citing ongoing investigations.

“The main takeaway is: We learn lessons. We are a learning organization, not only within the strike group, but within the Navy writ large,” Bailey said. “Everything we did — the unique set of circumstances in the environment — helps inform the future. It will help empower our successes, not only in similar operations, but certainly in the future fight.”

After the Truman was moored, sailors flocked to the right side of the flight deck in hopes of spotting their loved ones. Some sailors, donning their dress whites, jumped and waved at the cheering crowds on the pier.

On the pier, Brian Walker intently looked up at the flight deck — he clenched a bouquet of pink roses for Candice Walker, his wife and an administrative officer on the Truman. His daughter, 11-year-old Brianna, toted a homemade sign. This was the family’s third deployment, but it was by far the longest and most diffi-

cult, Walker said.

“I just want to hold her, kiss her,” Walker said, tears welling up in his eyes. “It has been so long.”

The twice-extended deployment separated the sailors from their loved ones for 251 days. They spent birthdays, holidays and major milestones apart.

Around noon, thousands of sailors began spilling out. Loved ones erupted with cheers, laughter and tears — running to embrace their sailors. The wait was over.

Thomas Whiteley, 10, bounced with excitement while waiting for his father, Jacob Whiteley.

“Finally, my dad is home, and we can be happy,” Thomas said.

The homecoming concludes 24,000 nautical miles sailed across Europe and the Middle East. Components of the Truman strike group were welcomed in the days prior to homeports and bases across the East Coast. The last to return, cruiser USS Gettysburg, will be welcomed home to Naval Station Norfolk, Va., in the coming days.

Navy set to field anti-ship Tomahawk on destroyers

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy will start fielding an anti-ship version of its Tomahawk cruise missile on destroyers by late September in what the service’s readiness boss sees as a “game-changer” against a numerically superior Chinese fleet.

Fleet Forces Command Adm. Daryl Caudle said an anti-ship version of the U.S.’s best known non-nuclear missile, which is currently used for land attack, will greatly increase the service’s lethality.

“The more fungible you make

a weapon the more utility it has for different circumstances,” he said.

The Tomahawk made its battlefield debut in the early hours of the 1991 Persian Gulf War in Iraq and was deployed earlier this year to attack Houthi targets in Yemen.

Fielding a new seaborne version of it would add to a growing U.S. arsenal of ship-attack weapons such as the new Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile, complementing submarine-launched torpedoes in the event of conflict in Asia.

Building it for submarine and destroyer launch will “make it a very high-utility weapon,” Caudle said in an interview at Bloomberg’s headquarters in New York.

The Navy plans to start fielding the new missiles on destroyers by Sept. 30 and make them available for submarine deployments between April and June next year once they complete testing, said Chip Whipkey, Tomahawk deputy program manager. The service is looking to purchase as many as 1,302 Maritime Strike Tomahawks from RTX Corp.

The schedule for outfitting the new maritime strike missile on destroyers fits roughly within the Pentagon’s plan to field thousands of drones in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China. That’s known as the Replicator program, which the military aims to deploy on a large scale in August.

In addition to ship-killing Tomahawk, the Navy’s growing arsenal uses artificial intelligence algorithms on its submarine sonar systems today “to help distinguish man-made noise sources from biological sources” such as fish, Caudle said.

Storied USMC unit bids farewell to Harrier

By LYDIA GORDON
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps' oldest flying squadron recently took another step toward the service's retirement of a venerable vertical takeoff aircraft to make way for its successor.

Marine Attack Squadron 231 bid farewell Thursday to the AV-8B Harrier II with a final flight, the service said in a statement the same day.

Known as the "Ace of Spades," the Cherry Point, N.C.-based squadron is slated to deactivate in September and will reactivate in 2026 as a fighter attack squadron operating

the F-35 Lightning II.

That will leave Marine Attack Squadron 223, also based at the air station in North Carolina, as the last one in the Corps flying the Harrier until it deactivates in 2026.

Two members of that squadron, Capt. Joshua Corbett and Sven Jorgensen, became the last two Marines trained on the aircraft and last spring received the 7509 military occupational specialty reserved for Harrier-qualified pilots.

The Harrier II, a light attack vertical takeoff aircraft, has been a mainstay of the squadron for four decades. It is one of

three jets in the military due to be replaced by fifth-generation aircraft, the other two being the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the F/A 18 Hornet.

A definitive timeline for the Ace of Spades to become fully operational with the F-35B Lightning II has not yet been released, 1st Lt. Duncan Stoner, a 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing spokesperson, said Friday.

With a legacy spanning more than a century, the squadron has been at the forefront of Marine Corps aviation modernization, notably becoming the first to operate the original Hawker-Siddeley AV-8A Harrier in

1973, according to its official history.

The squadron supported operations including Desert Storm and Desert Shield, its official history page says.

Most recently, the squadron contributed to Operation Prosperity Guardian, a Red Sea-based effort to deter Houthi attacks, which began in late 2023, according to a statement issued Thursday.

With the arrival of the F-35s, the squadron will be "more capable of responding to any crisis," squadron commander Lt. Col. Paul Truog said during a ceremony Thursday.

Sicily's Mount Etna erupts in fiery show of smoke, ash

Associated Press

MILAN — Sicily's Mount Etna put on a fiery show Monday, sending a cloud of smoke and ash miles into the air, but officials said the activity posed no danger to the population.

The level of alert due to the volcanic activity was raised at the Catania airport, but no immediate interruptions were reported.

An official update declared

that the ash cloud emission had ended by the afternoon.

Italy's INGV National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology said the spectacle on Europe's most active volcano was caused when part of the southeast crater collapsed, resulting in hot lava flows. It was the 14th eruptive phase in recent months.

The area of danger was confined to the summit of Etna,

which was closed to tourists as a precaution, according to Stefano Branca, an INGV official in Catania.

Sicily's president, Renato Schifani, said lava flows emitted in the eruption had not passed the natural containment area, "and posed no danger to the population."

The event was captured in video and photos that went viral on social media.

Tremors from the eruption were widely felt in the towns and villages on Mount Etna's flanks, Italian media reported.

Video showed tourists running along a path on the flank of the vast volcano with smoke billowing some distance away in the background.

Excursions are popular on Etna, which is nearly 11,000 feet high, with a surface area of about 460 square miles.

Army major goes to trial on rape, sexual assault charges

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The court-martial for an Army major charged with raping or sexually assaulting more than a dozen women in the Washington, D.C., region between 2019 and 2023 is set to begin this week at Fort Meade.

Maj. Jonathan Batt faces charges for more than 63 accusations, including 10 specifications of rape and 15 of sexual assault against 17 women, accord-

ing to the Army's Office of Special Trial, which prosecutes sexual cases in the service. He also faces aggravated assault, battery, abusive sexual contact and obstruction of justice charges in the case.

Batt has pleaded not guilty to all the charges and specifications brought against him, his civilian attorney Nathan Freeburg said.

The Army initially charged Batt in October, when the ser-

vice charged him with 76 violations of the military law — known as the Uniform Code of Military Justice. He was originally charged with violating 20 women, but several of the charges were dropped as the case proceeded in court.

Newly released charging sheets show the Army accused Batt of carrying out a range of sexual and aggravated assaults on women mostly in Arlington, Va., and Washington. Some of

the women accused Batt of choking them with his hands, a pillowcase, rope and his own shirt until they were unconscious before he raped them.

Rape charges carry a potential life sentence, according to the UCMJ.

The victims are almost all civilians, according to Josh Connolly, the senior vice president for Protect Our Defenders, a human rights group focused on ending military sexual assault.

Attack suspect charged with hate crime

Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — A man accused of using a makeshift flamethrower and an incendiary device to attack a group in Boulder, Colo., that had gathered to bring attention to Israeli hostages in Gaza, has been charged with a federal hate crime, according to court documents filed Monday.

The suspect, Mohammed Sabry Soliman, 45, told police he planned it for a year and specifically targeted what he described as the “Zionist group,” the FBI said. Eight people were injured in the attack, some with burns, as a group was concluding their weekly demonstration to raise visibility for the hostages who remain in Gaza. Witnesses reported the man yelled “Free Palestine” during the attack.

An FBI affidavit says Soliman confessed to the attack after being taken into custody Sunday

and told the police he would do it again. The affidavit was released in support of a federal hate crime charged filed by the Justice Department on Monday.

Court records show Soliman was scheduled to appear in state court in Boulder at 1:30 p.m.

The burst of violence at the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall, a four-block area in downtown Boulder, unfolded against the backdrop of a war between Israel and Hamas that continues to inflame global tensions and has contributed to a spike in antisemitic violence in the United States. The attack happened on the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, which is marked with the reading of the Torah and barely a week after a man who also yelled “Free Palestine” was charged with fatally shooting two Israeli embassy staffers outside of a Jewish museum in Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu issued a statement Monday saying he, his wife and the entire nation of Israel were praying for the full recovery of the people wounded in the “vicious terror attack” in Colorado.

“Sadly, attacks like this are becoming too common across the country,” said Mark Michalek, the special agent in charge of the FBI’s Denver field office, which encompasses Boulder.

In New York, the police department said it upped its presence at religious sites throughout the city for Shavuot.

The eight victims who were wounded range in age from 52 to 88 and the injuries spanned from serious to minor, officials said.

The attack occurred as people with a volunteer group called Run For Their Lives was concluding their weekly demonstration to raise visibility for the hostages who remain in Gaza.

Video from the scene shows a witness shouting, “He’s right there. He’s throwing Molotov cocktails,” as a police officer with his gun drawn advances on a bare-chested suspect who is holding containers in each hand.

Alex Osante of San Diego said he was having lunch on a restaurant patio across the pedestrian mall when he heard the crash of a bottle breaking on the ground and a “boom” sound followed by people yelling and screaming.

After the initial attack, Osante said the suspect went behind some bushes and then reemerged and threw a Molotov cocktail but apparently accidentally caught himself on fire as he threw it. The man then took off his shirt and what appeared to be a bulletproof vest before the police arrived. The man dropped to the ground and was arrested without any apparent resistance in the video that Osante filmed.

Trump gets GOP, investor pushback on national debt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump faces the challenge of convincing Republican senators, global investors, voters and even Elon Musk that he won’t bury the federal government in debt with his multitrillion-dollar tax breaks package.

The response so far from financial markets has been skeptical as Trump seems unable to trim deficits as promised.

“All of this rhetoric about cutting trillions of dollars of spending has come to nothing — and the tax bill codifies that,” said Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a right-leaning think tank. “There is a level of concern about the competence of Congress and this administration and that makes adding a whole bunch of money to the deficit riskier.”

The White House has viciously lashed out at anyone who has voiced concern about the debt snowballing under Trump, even though it did exactly that in his first term after his 2017 tax cuts.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt opened her briefing Thursday by saying she wanted “to debunk some false claims” about his tax cuts.

Leavitt said the “blatantly wrong claim that the ‘One, Big, Beautiful Bill’ increases the deficit is based on the Congressional Budget Office and other scorekeepers who use shoddy assumptions and have historically been terrible at forecasting across Democrat and Republican administrations alike.”

House Speaker Mike Johnson piled onto Congress’ number crunchers on Sunday, telling NBC’s “Meet the Press,” “The CBO sometimes gets projections correct, but they’re always

off, every single time, when they project economic growth. They always underestimate the growth that will be brought about by tax cuts and reduction in regulations.”

But Trump himself has suggested that the lack of sufficient spending cuts to offset his tax reductions came out of the need to hold the Republican congressional coalition together.

“We have to get a lot of votes,” Trump said last week. “We can’t be cutting.”

That has left the administration betting on the hope that economic growth can do the trick, a belief that few outside of Trump’s orbit think is viable.

Most economists consider the nonpartisan CBO to be the foundational standard for assessing policies, though it does not produce cost estimates for actions taken by the executive branch such as Trump’s unilateral tar-

iffs.

The tax and spending cuts that passed the House last month would add more than \$5 trillion to the national debt in the coming decade if all of them are allowed to continue, according to the Committee for a Responsible Financial Budget, a fiscal watchdog group.

To make the bill’s price tag appear lower, various parts of the legislation are set to expire. This same tactic was used with Trump’s 2017 tax cuts and it set up this year’s dilemma, in which many of the tax cuts in that earlier package will sunset next year unless Congress renews them.

But the debt is a much bigger problem now than it was eight years ago. Investors are demanding the government pay a higher premium to keep borrowing as the total debt has crossed \$36.1 trillion.

No breakthroughs at Ukraine-Russia talks

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Delegations from Russia and Ukraine met Monday in Turkey for their second round of direct peace talks in just over two weeks, but the discussion lasted only slightly more than an hour and produced no major progress toward ending the 3-year-old war, officials said.

The talks unfolded a day after a string of stunning long-range attacks by both sides, with Ukraine launching a devastating drone assault on Russian air bases and Russia hurling its largest drone attack of the war against Ukraine.

At the negotiating table, Russia presented a memorandum setting out the Kremlin's terms for ending hostilities, the Ukrainian delegation said.

Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, who led the Ukrainian delegation, told reporters that Kyiv officials would need a week to review the document and decide on a response. Ukraine proposed further talks on a date between June 20 and June 30, he said.

After the talks, Russian state news agencies Tass and RIA Novosti published the text of the Russian memorandum, which suggested that Ukraine withdraw its forces from the four regions that Russia annexed in September 2022 but never fully captured as a condition for a ceasefire.

As an alternate way of reaching a truce, the memorandum presses Ukraine to halt its mobilization efforts and freeze Western arms deliveries, conditions

were suggested earlier by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The document also suggests that Ukraine stop any redeployment of forces and ban any military presence of third countries on its soil as conditions for halting hostilities.

The Russian document further proposes that Ukraine end martial law and hold elections, after which the two countries could sign a comprehensive peace treaty that would see Ukraine declare its neutral status, abandon its bid to join NATO, set limits on the size of its armed forces and recognize Russian as the country's official language on par with Ukrainian.

Ukraine and the West have previously rejected all those demands from Moscow.

In other steps, the delegations

agreed to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action and set up a commission to exchange seriously wounded troops.

U.S.-led efforts to push the two sides into accepting a ceasefire have so far failed. Ukraine accepted the proposed truce, but the Kremlin effectively rejected it. Recent comments by senior officials in both countries indicate they remain far apart on the key conditions for stopping the war.

The previous talks on May 16 in the same Turkish city were the first direct peace negotiations since the early weeks of Moscow's 2022 invasion. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the fact that the two sides met again Monday was an achievement in itself amid the fierce fighting.

Conservative wins Poland's presidential runoff election

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Conservative Karol Nawrocki won Poland's weekend presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count on Monday. Nawrocki won 50.89% of votes in a very tight race against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, who received 49.11%.

The race had Poland on edge since a first round of voting two weeks earlier, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.

An early exit poll released Sunday evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture a couple of hours later.

The outcome suggests that Poland can be expected to take a more populist and nationalist path under its new president, who was backed by President Donald Trump.

Trzaskowski conceded defeat

and congratulated Nawrocki on Monday, thanking all those who voted for him.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among the leaders offering their congratulations to Nawrocki on Monday morning, an acknowledgment of Poland's key role as a neighbor, ally and hub for Western weapons sent to Kyiv.

He called Poland "a pillar of regional and European security," and said, "by reinforcing one another on our continent, we give greater strength to Europe in global competition and bring the achievement of real and lasting peace closer. I look forward to continued fruitful cooperation with Poland and with President Nawrocki personally."

Most day-to-day power in the Polish political system rests with a prime minister chosen by the parliament. However, the president's role is not merely ceremonial.

China blasts US for chip and student visas threats

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China blasted the U.S. on Monday over moves it alleged harmed Chinese interests, including issuing AI chip export control guidelines, stopping the sale of chip design software to China, and planning to revoke Chinese student visas.

"These practices seriously violate the consensus" reached during trade discussions in Geneva last month, the Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

That referred to a China-U.S. joint statement in which the United States and China agreed to slash their massive recent tariffs, restarting stalled trade between the world's two biggest economies.

But last month's de-escalation in President Donald Trump's trade wars did nothing to resolve underlying differences between Beijing and Washington and Monday's statement showed how easily such agree-

ments can lead to further turbulence.

The deal lasts 90 days, creating time for U.S. and Chinese negotiators to reach a more substantive agreement. But the pause also leaves tariffs higher than before Trump started ramping them up last month. And businesses and investors must contend with uncertainty about whether the truce will last.

Trump stirred further controversy Friday, saying he will no longer be nice with China on trade, declaring in a social media post that the country had broken an agreement with the United States.

The Trump administration also stepped up the clash with China in other ways last week, announcing that it would start revoking visas for Chinese students studying in the U.S.

U.S. campuses host more than 275,000 students from China.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Authorities probe death after burnt body found

GA STONE MOUNTAIN — The man whose burned body was found near the top of Stone Mountain outside Atlanta died by suicide, authorities said Sunday.

The body was found near the top of the mountain Saturday morning after a hiker who discovered it called 911, Stone Mountain Park Police spokesperson John Bankhead said.

Police determined the man died by suicide after his parents found a note with details about how and where he planned to kill himself. Police also obtained his driver's license and determined he was a white male in his late 20s.

His death is being investigated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Millions of bees abuzz after truck overturns

WA BELLINGHAM — There was a buzz in the air Friday in northwestern Washington state as about 250 million honeybees escaped a commercial truck that overturned.

The truck hauling an estimated 70,000 pounds of honeybee hives rolled over around 4 a.m. close to the Canadian border near Lynden, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office said in social media posts.

It appears the driver did not navigate a tight turn well enough, causing the trailer to roll into a ditch, county emergency management spokesperson Amy Cloud said in an email. The driver was uninjured,

Cloud said.

Deputies, county public works employees and several bee experts responded to the scene. The box hives later came off the truck, and local beekeepers swarmed to help recover, restore and reset the hives, according to the sheriff's office.

1 dead, 11 others injured in house party shooting

NC HICKORY — Gunfire erupted around a house party in western North Carolina early Sunday and one person was killed and 11 others were hurt, some with gunshot wounds and others with injuries from fleeing the shooting in a usually quiet residential neighborhood, sheriff's deputies said.

Authorities said at least 80 shots were fired in the shooting that began at about 12:45 a.m. People reported running, ducking for cover and scrambling to their cars for safety. Hours later Sunday, law enforcement had made no arrests and was seeking tips from the public in the case.

A statement from the Catawba County Sheriff's Office said a 58-year-old man, Shawn Patrick Hood, of Lenoir, was killed, the oldest of the victims who ranged in age from as young as 16. It said seven of the injured remained hospitalized late Sunday. One of the victims was previously reported in critical condition.

Authorities believe there was more than one shooter, a sheriff's spokesperson said.

Dozens ill in salmonella outbreak from cucumbers

FL DELRAY BEACH — Nearly four dozen people in 18 states have been

sickened in an expanding outbreak of salmonella food poisoning tied to recalled cucumbers sent to restaurants, hospitals, cruise ships and grocery stores, including Target stores, federal health officials said Friday.

At least 16 people have been hospitalized after eating cucumbers produced by Florida-based Bedner Growers and distributed by Fresh Start Produce Sales, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. The cucumbers were sold from April 29 through May 19.

The outbreak includes reports of illness from people aboard six different cruise ships that departed from U.S. ports between late March and mid-April, the CDC said. The true number of sick people is likely much higher and the outbreak could affect additional states, officials said.

Several companies have issued recalls for whole cucumbers and cucumbers used in a range of sandwiches, salsas and other foods linked to the outbreak.

Suit fighting near-total abortion ban withdrawn

KY LOUISVILLE — Attorneys for a woman who sued Kentucky seeking to restore the right to an abortion have dropped their challenge to the state's near-total ban on the procedure.

The attorneys filed a motion Friday to voluntarily dismiss the lawsuit, but did not give a reason for seeking to drop the case. The lawsuit had been filed last year in state court in Louisville on behalf of a woman who was seven weeks pregnant at

the time and identified only by the pseudonym Mary Poe to protect her privacy.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, which had represented the woman, said in a statement it would not give additional details about the dismissal.

"People have the right to control their own bodies without government interference, and we will never stop fighting to restore abortion access in Kentucky," said Amber Duke, executive director of the ACLU of Kentucky. "We are strategizing our next steps in this fight."

Responding police officer killed in shooting

CA BALDWIN PARK — An officer was killed and another wounded while responding to a report of a man shooting rounds with a rifle and a wounded and unresponsive man lying on the sidewalk in a city east of Los Angeles, authorities said Sunday.

When the officers arrived to the scene Saturday night, they were "met by gunfire," and at least one officer returned fire, Los Angeles Sheriff Robert Luna said.

An adult male suspect was wounded but has been taken into custody, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department said. The man, who has not been identified, was taken to a hospital and was in stable condition Sunday, the department said in a statement.

Officials on Sunday identified the slain officer as Samuel Riveiros. The man found wounded on the sidewalk was taken to a hospital where he died.

— From wire reports

STARS  AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Unseeded Boisson stuns Pegula in French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — Lois Boisson had never played at the French Open, let alone in the biggest arena at Roland-Garros.

That didn't faze the French wild card.

Boisson, ranked 361st, threw her head back and roared after beating No. 3 Jessica Pegula 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Court Philippe-Chatrier in Monday's fourth-round play.

Boisson is by far the lowest-ranked woman to beat someone ranked in the top five at the French Open in 40 years. The lowest previously in that span was No. 179 Aniko Kapros, who eliminated No. 5 Justine Henin in the first round in 2002.

Quite some victory considering Pegula, of the United States, was also the U.S. Open runner-up last year. Understandably, Boisson was nervous as she served for the match and saved three break points.

After Pegula missed an easy-looking winner at the net and clutched her head in her hands, Boisson had her first match point, the biggest point of her career.

Pegula returned a strong serve to the back of the court where Boisson unleashed a brilliant forehand winner down the line.

She then raised her arms and realized the enormity of her win.

"Thank you to all of you," Boisson told the crowd in her post-match interview. "Playing on this court with such an atmosphere was really incredible."

Boisson made the notoriously hard-to-please crowd laugh when she added: "I'm really happy on here. I can stay a long time if you like."

The crowd broke into chants of "Lois, Lois" and she waved back to them.

Despite Boisson's lack of rank, it's not the first time she has been in the news. Last month, British player Harriet Dart apologized to Boisson after asking the chair umpire to tell her to put some deodorant on.

Now Boisson is the only French player left at Roland-Garros. But she feels comfortable on clay, having played on it regularly since taking up tennis when she was eight years old.

Asked what her ambitions were for the rest of the tournament — she plays sixth-seeded Mirra Andreeva on Wednesday in the quarterfinals — she replied, "I hope to win, right?"

In other women's fourth-round play, second-seeded Coco Gauff, the 2023 U.S. Open champion, won against No. 20 Ekaterina

na Alexandrova 6-0, 7-5.

Over on Court Suzanne-Lenglen, the 18-year-old Andreeva, who reached the semifinals at Roland-Garros last year for her best performance at a major, won against No. 17 Daria Kasatkina 7-5, 6-3. She playfully threw her wristband at Andreeva when they came to the net and Andreeva joked she would keep it.

No. 7 Madison Keys advanced on Court Suzanne-Lenglen after beating Hailey Baptiste 6-3, 7-5 in an all-American contest.

In men's fourth-round action, Novak Djokovic earned his 100th career French Open victory, a mark surpassed among men only by Rafael Nadal, by overwhelming Cam Norrie 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Djokovic hasn't ceded a set on his way to the quarterfinals this year at Roland-Garros, where he has won three of his 24 Grand Slam titles.

The 38-year-old Serbian had a pair of three-match losing streaks this season but seems to be in top form lately, including collecting his 100th title at the Geneva Open the week before play began in Paris. Next up for Djokovic is a matchup against No. 3 seed Alexander Zverev on Wednesday for a berth in the semifinals.

The 15th-seeded Frances Tia-

foe made his way into the quarterfinals for the first time with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (4) victory over Daniel Altmaier of Germany on Sunday night, joining 12th-seeded Tommy Paul to put a pair of American men in the round of eight.

It's the first time the country placed more than one man in the quarterfinals in Paris since 1996, when Jim Courier and Pete Sampras did it. Zero men from the U.S. had made it this far since Andre Agassi in 2003.

The key for Tiafoe? "Playing hard-court tennis on a clay court," he said.

And Tiafoe has done it without dropping a set.

Quite a turnaround for a guy whose big-strike tennis long suffered on the slow red clay. Tiafoe began his French Open career with a 0-6 record before getting his first win in 2022 and one more last year.

"On clay, I get a little more passive than on other surfaces, because the court doesn't help me play as fast as I would like," said Tiafoe, twice a semifinalist on the hard courts of the U.S. Open, where speedy shots are rewarded and the loud crowds and bright lights tend to bring out his best. "Patience is a thing I struggle with."

Vols, Sooners reach Women's College World Series semis

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Laura Mealer's RBI single in the ninth inning gave Tennessee a 5-4 win over UCLA on Sunday that lifted the Volunteers into the Women's College World Series semifinals and eliminated the Bruins.

UCLA's Megan Grant hit a two-run blast with two outs in the top of the seventh inning that appeared to tie the score at 4-all. There was an umpire review to determine whether Grant touched home plate.

Tennessee coach Karen Weekly said Tennessee noticed that Grant's teammates touched her and helped her back to home plate. Weekly believed that was illegal, which she thought would have turned

Grant's homer into the third out, so the Volunteers notified the umpires.

After a nearly 15-minute delay, the home run ruling was upheld. The NCAA pool report after the game said assisting a runner is not reviewable. The report also said had it been reviewable, a warning would have been issued on a first offense.

Even after giving up the homer, Tennessee's Karlyn Pickens recovered and went the distance for the win. The first-team National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American gave up four earned runs on 11 hits and struck out seven.

Oklahoma 4, Oregon 1: Cydney Sanders hit two home runs and four-time defending national champion Oklahoma beat Oregon

to reach the WCWS semifinals and eliminate the Ducks.

Sanders' two-run homer in the third put the Sooners up 3-1, and her solo shot in the fifth made it 4-1. Isabela Emerling hit a solo home run and Ella Parker and Kasidi Pickering each had two hits for Oklahoma.

Dezianna Patmon's homer provided the only run for Oregon, which won the Big Ten regular-season championship in its first year in the league.

Oklahoma will play Texas Tech in the semifinals Monday for the right to play in the best-of-three championship series. The Sooners will need to beat the Red Raiders twice to advance in the double-elimination format.

Blaney earns first Cup win of the year

Associated Press

LEBANON, Tenn. — Ryan Blaney and Team Penske have been fast with Blaney's No. 12 Ford Mustang this year only to have races slip away when it mattered most.

Not Sunday night.

Blaney ran away down the stretch for his first Cup Series victory of the year Sunday night at Nashville Superspeedway, then he celebrated with a burnout in front of the roaring fans after what he called a rough year.

"I'm ready to go celebrate," Blaney said.

The 2023 Cup champ had been racing well with five top-five finishes over the first half of this season. Blaney finally got to victory lane for his 14th career victory and first since Martinsville in November after leading a race-high 139 laps.

"I never gave up hope that's

for sure," Blaney said. "We've had great speed all year. It just hasn't really been the best year for us as far as good fortune. But (No.) 12 boys are awesome. They stick with it no matter how it goes."

Blaney became the ninth different winner this season and the fifth driver to win in as many races at Nashville. He also gave Team Penske a second straight Cup win at Nashville's 1.33-mile concrete track.

Blaney, who started 15th, quickly drove his way to the front as he won the second stage. He easily held off Carson Hocevar by 2.83 seconds. Hocevar matched his career-best finish at Atlanta in February after complaining during the race that his No. 77 Chevrolet was undriveable.

"Either I'm really dramatic or they're really good on adjustments," Hocevar said. "Prob-

bly a little bit of both, but, yeah, proud of this group proud of this car. A place that is really, really difficult to pass, we're able to go 26th to second."

Denny Hamlin finished third in his 700th career Cup Series race, matching the third-place finish by Jeff Gordon at Darlington in 2013 for the best finish in a driver's 700th race. Joey Logano, who won here last year, was fourth and William Byron was fifth.

Hamlin was hoping for one more caution that never came after seven cautions for 35 laps.

"Just couldn't run with the 12 (Blaney) there in the super long run," Hamlin said. "After 40 laps, I could maintain with him. But then after that, he just pulled away and stretched it on us."

There was a sprint to the finish under green forcing teams

and drivers to pick and choose when to pit. Blaney had led 107 laps when he went to the pits under green flag on lap 248. Hamlin took the lead before going to pit road on lap 256.

Crew chief Jonathan Hassler said they decided on Blaney's fifth and final pit stop trying to make sure he could get back out into the cleanest air possible.

"It was really nice just to finish off a race," Hassler said.

Brad Keselowski had the lead when he went to the pits on lap 269. Blaney took the lead for the final 31 laps.

Early night

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. didn't finish his first race this year. He was the first out when Hocevar tapped his No. 47 Chevrolet, spinning Stenhouse into the wall between Turns 3 and 4 for the second caution of the race on lap 106.

Scheffler joins Woods as only repeat Memorial winner

Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ohio — Scottie Scheffler never lost the lead and never gave anyone much of a chance down the stretch in another relentless performance to win the Memorial on Sunday for the second straight year. Scheffler closed with a 2-under 70 in conditions that felt like a dress rehearsal for the U.S. Open. He was the only player to break par all four days.

Scheffler, who won for the ninth straight time with a 54-hole lead, joined Tiger Woods as the only repeat winners of the Memorial. Woods won three in a row (1999-2001) among his five titles at Muirfield Village.

This wasn't Scheffler's best golf. He did have a birdie putt until the fifth hole and only hit four of the first 10 greens in regulation. Coming off a bogey from the rough on the 10th hole — his only bogey in the last 40

holes — his lead was one shot over Ben Griffin.

Scheffler had a birdie putt from just inside 15 feet on the par-5 11th. Griffin chipped to 4 feet for a birdie chance. Scheffler made, Griffin missed. Scheffler his the middle of the green on the next two holes. Griffin missed them and made bogey.

The lead was four shots.

"Only one bogey around this place is pretty good," Scheffler said. "I hit a lot of fairways. I definitely wasn't in the rough very much. I think I hit it in the rough off of 10, but outside of that, I don't think I was really in the rough at all. Around this place, that's going to be key."

He made it all sound so simple, even if it never feels that way.

"It's always a hard week," said Scheffler, who finished at 10-under 278. "We battled

really hard on the weekend. Overall it was a great week."

Griffin tried to make it interesting at the end with a 12-foot eagle on the par-5 15th (after Scheffler narrowly missed his 15-foot eagle try) and a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 16th (Scheffler's birdie putt was one turn from falling).

That pulled him to within two shots with two to play. Scheffler, however, doesn't make mistakes. Fairway and green on 17th, fairway and green on the 18th.

"I'm definitely proving further more that I belong at the top in this game," Griffin said. "I won twice the last five weeks and those feelings are fun on Sunday nights when you're signing a bunch of flags. I was prepared to do that today and ultimately just didn't execute how I wanted to to get it done."

Griffin made a 4-foot par on

the 18th for a 73 to finish alone in second, worth \$2.2 million, more than what he earned when he won at Colonial last week.

Sepp Straka (70) finished another shot back.

"You know Scottie's probably going to play a good round of golf. The guy's relentless. He loves competition, and he doesn't like giving up shots," Straka said. "But it's one of those courses where it can always happen, so you got to be prepared for it. I felt like I gave myself a lot of chances to kind of make a push."

Rickie Fowler had his first top 10 of the year at just the right time.

He made par on the 18th to tie for seventh, earning him a spot in the British Open. Fowler tied with Brandt Snedeker at 1-under 287, but gets the one Open exemption available based on a higher world ranking.

Raleigh hits 23rd HR in Seattle's win

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Just before Big Dumper put a thump into a soaring flyball, a smattering of “MVP! MVP!” chants broke out from behind home plate Sunday.

Given the way Cal Raleigh's season has started, perhaps the Mariners' catcher is wholly deserving of such high praise.

With a solo shot during Seattle's latest victory, 2-1 over the Minnesota Twins, Raleigh upped his total to a major league-leading 23 home runs.

“He's having an excellent season, not only offensively but also defensively,” said Randy Arozarena, who singled home the winning run in the ninth inning. “What he's doing right now, it's great because he's carrying our offense pretty much.”

The 28-year-old backstop from North Carolina with the funny nickname became the first catcher in major league history to reach 20 home runs before the end of May.

“He just continues to grow and mature in this game,” said Mariners manager Dan Wilson, a former catcher who was on that Seattle team in 1997. “And the pace that he's on right now with home runs — and he's not just hitting home runs, he's still just hitting the ball hard.”

“You add that to what he does behind the plate in a game like this — whew, he's a real special player and he's doing it all right now.”

Arozarena grounded a base hit up the middle with one out to score Julio Rodriguez, who singled leading off the ninth. Rodriguez stole second and advanced to third on a throwing error by catcher Ryan Jeffers.

Luis Castillo pitched six shutout innings for Seattle, but the Twins tied it against closer Andrés Muñoz (2-0) in the ninth on Harrison Bader's sacrifice fly.

Yankees 7, Dodgers 3: Ryan Yarbrough limited baseball's best offense to four hits in six in-

nings, Ben Rice hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and visiting New York defeated Los Angeles to avoid getting swept for the first time this season.

The Dodgers outscored the Yankees 26-7 in winning the first two games of their World Series rematch. But right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto, the stalwart on a staff ravaged by injuries, labored from the start in front of 54,031, the largest crowd of the season at Dodger Stadium.

Yarbrough (3-0) allowed one run and struck out five in his fifth start of the year. He was a reliever for the Dodgers last season and received his World Series ring while in town.

Yamamoto (6-4) gave up a season-high seven hits while striking out two in 3½ innings, both season lows. The Japanese right-hander permitted four runs and walked three.

Red Sox 3, Braves 1: Trevor Story had a three-run double in the first inning and Garrett Crochet struck out 12 in seven innings of one-run ball, leading visiting Boston to a win over Atlanta.

Story went 2-for-3 and just missed a grand slam in the first when he hit a 1-0 pitch from Bryce Elder 413 feet off the top of the wall in center, driving in Boston's only runs.

Rangers 8, Cardinals 1: Josh Smith matched his career high of four RBIs with a two-run homer and two-run double, Jacob deGrom allowed two runs or fewer for the eighth straight start and host Texas beat St. Louis.

The Rangers (29-31) won two of three games against St. Louis and won a series for the first time since sweeping struggling Colorado at home May 12-14.

Orioles 3, White Sox 2: Charlie Morton pitched effectively into the seventh inning, and host Baltimore beat Adrian Houser and Chicago for its first series sweep of the season.

Ramón Urias had two hits and drove in a run for the last-place Orioles, who limited Chicago to five runs in the three games.

Mets 5, Rockies 3: Francisco Lindor once again homered in a victory and Clay Holmes threw a career-high seven innings as hosting New York completed a three-game sweep of the Rockies.

Pete Alonso hit a three-run shot and Juan Soto also went deep as the Mets won for the seventh time in eight games to finish a 7-2 homestand.

Giants 4, Marlins 2: Luis Matos hit a three-run home run and visiting San Francisco beat Miami.

After Wilmer Flores knocked in a run with a groundout in the second inning, Matos connected on a 2-0 changeup from Ryan Weathers (1-1) in the third that traveled 390 feet to left-center and gave the Giants a 4-0 lead.

Guardians 4, Angels 2: José Ramírez homered during a three-run fourth inning, Gavin Williams allowed only one hit in 6½ innings and host Cleveland defeated Los Angeles.

Ramírez extended Cleveland's lead to 2-0 when he connected on a slider from Angels starter Jack Kochanowicz (3-7) and put it into the stands in right-center for his team-leading 11th homer to lead off the fourth.

Blue Jays 8, Athletics 4: Addison Barger put Toronto ahead with a three-run homer in the eighth inning and the hosting Blue Jays rallied past the reeling Athletics to finish a four-game sweep.

Barger's drive to right field off Justin Serner (1-2) extended the Athletics' losing streak to six games.

Brewers 5, Phillies 2: Pinch-hitter Jake Bauers' go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning helped visiting Milwaukee beat Philadelphia to complete a three-game sweep and extend their winning streak to

seven.

Bauers batted for Eric Haase in Christian Yelich's spot in the lineup after Yelich left with a bruised right hand after being hit by a pitch in the first inning.

Cubs 7, Reds 3: Michael Busch homered and drove in three runs, helping Jameson Taillon and hosting Chicago beat Cincinnati.

Pete Crow-Armstrong had three hits, scored three times and swiped two bases as Chicago closed out a 5-1 homestand.

Tigers 1, Royals 0: Zach McKinsty hit a leadoff triple in the third inning and scored on Kris Bubic's wild pitch to lift visiting Detroit over Kansas City.

Riley Greene had two of Detroit's five hits as the Tigers bounced back from a 1-0 loss to Kansas City on Saturday that ended their five-game winning streak.

Astros 1, Rays 0: Hunter Brown allowed one hit in six innings to become the first eight-game winner in the majors, and host Houston edged Tampa Bay to split a four-game series.

Josh Hader earned his 15th save for the Astros, who scored an unearned run in the first.

Diamondbacks 3, Nationals 1: Eugenio Suárez homered to cap Arizona's three-run first inning in a home victory over Washington, but the Diamondbacks lost starting pitcher Corbin Burnes to an injury.

Burnes, who had three of his six strikeouts in the first inning, left with two outs in the fifth after throwing his 70th pitch.

Padres 6, Pirates 4: Manny Machado homered in the first inning and hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in a four-run seventh for host San Diego which rallied past Pittsburgh to take two of three games in their series.

Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run shot to tie Roberto Clemente for third place on Pittsburgh's career list with 240 homers.