

## Israel warns of response to Iran strikes

*Associated Press*

TEL AVIV, Israel — Iran fired a new wave of missile attacks at Israel early Monday, killing at least eight people, while Israel warned hundreds of thousands of people in the middle of Tehran to evacuate ahead of new strikes.

The warning came on the fourth day of the conflict, when the Israeli military claimed it had achieved air superiority above the Iranian capital and could fly over the city without facing major threats. The military has issued similar evacuation warnings for civilians in parts of Gaza and Lebanon ahead of strikes.

The warning affected up to 330,000 people in a part of central Tehran that includes the country's state TV and police headquarters, as well as three large hospitals, including one owned by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

"At this time, we can say that we have achieved full aerial su-

periority over Tehran's skies," said Israeli military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin. The military said it had destroyed more than 120 surface-to-surface missile launchers in central Iran, a third of Iran's total.

Israeli military officials also said fighter jets had struck 10 command centers in Tehran belonging to Iran's Quds Force, an elite arm of its Revolutionary Guard that conducts military and intelligence operations outside Iran.

The Israeli strikes "amount to a deep and comprehensive blow to the Iranian threat," Defrin said.

Iran's state-run news agency reported that state-run television abruptly stopped a live broadcast after an Israeli strike.

During the broadcast, an Iranian state television reporter said the studio was filling with dust after "the sound of aggression against the homeland." Suddenly, an explosion occurred, cutting the screen be-

hind her as she hurried off camera. The broadcast quickly switched to prerecorded programs.

Iran, meanwhile, announced it had launched some 100 missiles and vowed further retaliation for sweeping attacks on its military and nuclear infrastructure that have killed at least 224 people in the country since Friday.

One missile fell near the American consulate in Tel Aviv, with its blast waves causing minor damage, U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee said on X. He added that no American personnel were injured.

So far, 24 people have been killed in Israel and more than 500 injured, Israeli officials said, after Iran launched more than 370 missiles and hundreds of drones.

The latest conflict began when Israel launched an assault on Iran's top military leaders, uranium enrichment sites and nuclear scientists that it said

was necessary to prevent its longtime adversary from getting any closer to building an atomic weapon.

Iran maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful, and the U.S. and others have assessed that Tehran has not pursued a nuclear weapon since 2003. But the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly warned that the country has enough enriched uranium to make several nuclear bombs if it chooses to do so.

Iran has retaliated by firing waves of ballistic missiles at Israel. The back-and-forth has raised concerns about all-out war between the countries and propelled the region, already on edge, into even greater upheaval.

Powerful explosions, likely from Israel's defense systems intercepting Iranian missiles, rocked Tel Aviv shortly before dawn Monday, sending plumes of black smoke into the sky over the coastal city.

## USS Nimitz strike group deploys to the Middle East

**BY CAITLYN BURCHETT**

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The USS Nimitz strike group is deploying to the Middle East amid ongoing strikes between Israel and Iran that threaten to develop into a broader conflict, a U.S. defense official confirmed Monday.

The aircraft carrier and its strike group left Bremerton, Wash., in March for the Indo-Pacific region for what is expected to be the ship's final deployment. Now, the Nimitz and the warships sailing with it will join the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in the Middle East, the defense official said.

The Nimitz was making its way through the Singapore Strait early Monday, according to a ship spotter in the area who observed the carrier. The strait is a waterway that connects the South China Sea to the area of responsibility for U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East.

The Nimitz strike group includes destroyers USS Curtis Wilbur, USS Gridley, USS Wayne E. Meyer and USS Leah Sutcliffe Higbee. Assigned to the strike group is a nine-squadron air wing that consists of Growler and Super Hornet

fighter jets and combat helicopters.

The Nimitz group is sailing to the region as Israel and Iran exchange strikes, initiated by Israel's attempt to destroy Iran's ability to build nuclear weapons. Hundreds have been killed or injured in the back and forth strikes, The Associated Press reported Friday.

U.S. air defense systems and a Navy destroyer have helped Israel shoot down incoming ballistic missiles. Last week, the Navy ordered the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner, which can defend against ballistic missiles, to move from the western

Mediterranean Sea closer to Israel and has directed a second destroyer to begin moving toward the region, The Associated Press reported.

U.S. military installations in the region have been put on alert and families of U.S. military personnel were authorized to leave bases in the Middle East. Commercial flights across the Middle East were diverted or canceled after Iraq and Jordan shut down their airspaces on Friday. Some of the military dependents who chose to leave Bahrain were flown to bases in Italy before getting on commercial flights to the United States.

# Military families leave Bahrain for Naples

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — Dozens of military families who have left military installations in the Middle East have arrived at a Navy base in Italy, as the war between Israel and Iran continues and concerns linger of potential attacks on U.S. personnel and facilities.

Many of those dependents have arrived at Naval Support Activity Naples from Bahrain on military flights that began Thursday and continued over the weekend.

The families are staying temporarily in Naples before flying to their end destination, said Tiffany Myrick-Woodley, director of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at NSA Naples.

The Relief Society and other volunteer organizations are greeting them at the base's air terminal and briefing them on available services, such as lodging, transportation and other help they may need, she said. The Relief Society is offering \$300 grants to help with expenses, and free

merchandise from its thrift store for evacuating families, Myrick-Woodley said. She noted that some families had stopped by to pick up toys for their children.

"It's 24 to 48 hours that they are here, but if they have to stay longer for one reason or another, they know what resources are available to them to make them a little bit comfortable," she said.

It wasn't clear Monday how many more flights were expected to arrive in Naples and how long the operation would continue. Base officials directed Stars and Stripes' queries to U.S. Central Command, which said to contact the Pentagon.

The Pentagon said further questions should be addressed to the White House, which had not responded as of early Monday. On Friday, Defense Department officials pointed to a statement from Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on his official X account the same day saying the U.S. had taken steps to protect its forces.

Last week, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth authorized the vol-

untary departure of military families in the Middle East, The Associated Press reported Thursday.

Under the authorization, military dependents can fly anywhere in the U.S. at government expense for up to six months, according to guidance issued by Naval Support Activity Bahrain officials. In 2023, about 1,200 military dependents were on the base.

The island is less than 100 miles across the Persian Gulf from Iran. It is home to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet.

On Sunday, NSA Bahrain officials announced that only mission critical personnel should report for work at the base, while directing all personnel to restrict their movements to essential tasks.

That announcement came as Kataib Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militant group operating in Iraq, said it would resume attacks on U.S. troops in the region if America intervened in the conflict, Reuters reported the same day. Meanwhile, U.S. forces in Iraq shot down three drones headed toward a base northwest

of Baghdad housing American military personnel, AP reported Saturday.

In Naples, volunteers worked over the weekend and into Monday to distribute water, snacks and other items to families. Diapers, wipes, coloring books, crayons and phone chargers also were needed. The NSA Naples community response was so great that the USO stopped accepting donations Saturday so items could be distributed, according to a post on the group's official Facebook page the same day.

That outpouring of support and assistance was meaningful to Sabrina Ryals Cicchi, a Bahrain military family member.

"From a Bahrain family with pets ... you guys have been amazing," Ryals Cicchi said in a comment on the USO Naples Facebook page. "We so appreciate everything, and the process was seamless landing (in Naples) to (the) hotel."

*Stars and Stripes* reporters Lara Korte in Germany and Shannon Renfroe in Bahrain contributed to this report.

## Veteran groups to support bill aiding trauma survivors

By LINDA F. HERSEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The nation's leading veterans service organizations urged Congress to adopt a bill that would give survivors of military sexual assault and sexual harassment greater access to health care services and benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America and Disabled American Veterans were among the advocacy groups Thursday demanding swift passage on the Service Members and Veterans Empowerment Act introduced in April in the House

and Senate. Sexual assaults and sexual harassment are an under-reported "scourge" in the armed services, Kristina Keenan, VFW's national legislative service director, said at a news conference.

The Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office also states sexual assault in the military occurs more often than it is reported to authorities. The legislation would ease the VA disability claims process and expand health care for veterans who developed medical conditions connected to military sexual trauma, also known as MST, according to veterans

groups and lawmakers. The bill also would extend health care services and benefits to veterans who have experienced online sexual harassment and bullying from "deep fakes, [Artificial Intelligence] threats and the rapid spread of harmful online content," veterans groups said.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee — and the bill's sponsor in the Senate — was the only lawmaker to speak during a 30-minute news conference. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is the only Republican senator to co-sponsor the bill so far.

A companion bill in the House was introduced in April by Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, with several Democratic members of Congress signing up to support it. Veterans advocates said the bill's passage is critical to ensuring survivors of military sexual trauma get the assistance that they need.

One in three female veterans report having experienced military sexual trauma during their service, according to the VA. The rate is one in 50 for male veterans.

Veterans filing VA claims connected to military sexual trauma might be eligible for mental health care and disability compensation.

# Suspect in shooting of lawmakers charged

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The man suspected of killing a Minnesota lawmaker and wounding another crawled to officers in order to surrender Sunday after they found him in the woods near his home, bringing an end to a massive search that put the state on edge.

Vance Boelter was arrested and charged with two counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder.

Boelter is accused of posing as a police officer and fatally shooting former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, in their home early Saturday in the northern Minneapolis suburbs.

Authorities say he also shot Sen. John Hoffman, a Democrat, and his wife, Yvette. They were injured at their residence about 9 miles away.

“One man’s unthinkable actions have altered the state of Minnesota,” Democratic Gov. Tim Walz said at a news conference after Boelter’s arrest.

The search for Boelter was the “largest manhunt in the state’s history,” Brooklyn Park Police Chief Mark Bruley said. It began when Brooklyn Park officers went to check on Hortman’s home and saw her husband gunned down before the shooter fled.

Authorities on Sunday spotted a vehicle Boelter had been using abandoned in rural Sibley County, where he lived, and a police officer reported that he believed he saw Boelter running into the woods, Bruley said. Police called in 20 different tactical teams, divvying up the area and searching for him.

During the search, police said they confirmed someone was in the woods and searched for hours, using a helicopter and officers on foot, until they found Boelter. He gave himself up to

police, crawling out to officers in the woods before he was handcuffed and taken into custody in a field, authorities said.

Boelter gave up after being surrounded by police on the ground and in the air, said Drew Evans, superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Jail records show Boelter was booked into the Hennepin County Jail early Monday and included two mug shots.

Drew Evans, superintendent of the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said the violence likely would’ve continued had Brooklyn Park officers not checked on Hortman’s home, causing Boelter to flee.

The Hoffmans were attacked first at their home in Champlin early Saturday. A criminal complaint unsealed after Boelter’s arrest indicated their adult daughter called 911 to say a masked person had come to the door and shot her parents.

After police in nearby Brooklyn Park learned that a lawmaker had been shot, they sent patrol officers to check on the Hortmans’ home.

Brooklyn Park police officers arrived just in time to see Boelter shoot Mark Hortman through the open door of the home and exchanged gunfire with Boelter, who fled into the home before escaping, the complaint said. Melissa Hortman was found dead inside, according to the document.

Authorities said Boelter posed as a police officer, even allegedly altering a vehicle to make it look like a police car.

Authorities did not give a motive for the shootings as they announced Boelter’s arrest.

A list of about 70 names was found in writings recovered from the fake police vehicle at the crime scene, said two law enforcement officials.

# Protester fatally shot at ‘No Kings’ rally in Utah

Associated Press

A man who was believed to be part of a peacekeeping team for the “No Kings” protest in Salt Lake City shot at a person who was brandishing a rifle at demonstrators, striking the rifleman and a bystander who later died at the hospital, authorities said Sunday.

Police took the alleged rifleman, Arturo Gamboa, 24, into custody Saturday evening on a murder charge, Salt Lake City Police Chief Brian Redd said at a Sunday news conference. The bystander was Arthur Folas Ah Loo, 39, a fashion designer from Samoa.

The shooter and another person in a neon vest allegedly saw Gamboa separate from the crowd of marchers in down-

town Salt Lake City, move behind a wall and withdraw a rifle around 8 p.m., Redd said.

When the two men in vests confronted Gamboa with their handguns drawn, witnesses said Gamboa raised his rifle into a firing position and ran toward the crowd, said Redd.

That’s when one of the men dressed in the vests shot three rounds, hitting Gamboa and Ah Loo, said Redd. Gamboa, who police said didn’t have a criminal history, was wounded and treated before being booked into jail.

Detectives don’t yet know why Gamboa pulled out a rifle or ran from the peacekeepers, but they accused him of creating the dangerous situation that led to Ah Loo’s death.

# Trump orders ICE to focus on Democratic-run cities

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Sunday directed federal immigration officials to prioritize deportations from Democratic-run cities, a move that comes after large protests erupted in Los Angeles and other major cities against the Trump administration’s immigration policies.

Trump in a social media posting called on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials “to do all in their power to achieve the very important goal of delivering the single largest Mass Deportation Program in History.”

He added that to reach that ultimate goal, immigration officials “must expand efforts to detain and deport Illegal Aliens in America’s largest Cities, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, where Millions upon Millions of Illegal Aliens reside.”

Trump’s declaration comes

after weeks of increased enforcement and after Stephen Miller, White House deputy chief of staff and main architect of Trump’s immigration policies, said ICE officers would target at least 3,000 arrests a day, up from about 650 a day during the first five months of Trump’s second term.

At the same time, the Trump administration has directed immigration officers to pause arrests and operations at farms, restaurants and hotels, after Trump expressed alarm about the impact aggressive enforcement is having on those industries, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Trump made the call for stepped up enforcement in Democratic-controlled cities on social media as he was making his way to the Group of Seven economic summit in Alberta, Canada.



# Order allows challenge of NY abortion rule

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a New York court to take a new look at whether some religious organizations should be excluded from a state regulation requiring health insurance plans to cover abortions.

The justices acted after the court unanimously ruled earlier in June that Wisconsin discriminated against a Catholic charity by forcing it to pay state unemployment taxes.

The New York case poses a similar issue because the state exempts religious employers if their purpose is to spread religious values and they primarily employ and serve people of their faith. But religious groups that serve and employ people regardless of their beliefs don't qualify for the exemption.

The Roman Catholic Diocese

of Albany and other church groups challenged the rule.

It's the second time the nation's highest court has sent the case back to New York courts. Last year, the New York Court of Appeals upheld the regulation after taking into account the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling in 2021 in favor of a Catholic foster care agency in Philadelphia that refused to work with same-sex couples because of its religious opposition to same-sex marriage.

In another case, the court said Monday it will hear from a faith-based pregnancy center in New Jersey challenging a state investigation into whether it misled people into thinking its services included referrals for abortion.

The justices agreed to consider an appeal from First Choice Women's Resource Centers, which wants to block a 2023 sub-

poena from Democratic New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin seeking information about donors, advertisements and medical personnel. It has not yet been served.

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case nearly three years after overturning abortion as a nationwide right. Since then, most Republican-controlled states have started enforcing new bans or restrictions, and most Democrat-dominated ones have sought to protect abortion access.

Attorneys for First Choice Women's Resource Centers had described the organization as a "faith-based, pro-life pregnancy center." Pregnancy centers generally try to steer women facing an unwanted pregnancy away from choosing an abortion.

The group challenged the subpoena in federal court, but a

judge found that the case wasn't yet far enough along to weigh in. An appeals court agreed.

First Choice Women's Resource Centers appealed to the Supreme Court, saying the push for donor information had chilled its First Amendment rights.

"State attorneys general on both sides of the political aisle have been accused of misusing this authority to issue demands against their ideological and political opponents," its lawyers wrote. "Even if these accusations turn out to be false, it is important that a federal forum exists for suits challenging those investigative demands."

Meanwhile, Platkin has sought to enforce the subpoena in state court, but the judge there has so far refused the state's push to require the group to turn over documents and told the two sides to negotiate instead.

## White farmer sues US, claiming discrimination

*Associated Press*

MADISON, Wis. — A Wisconsin dairy farmer alleged in a federal lawsuit filed Monday that the Trump administration is illegally denying financial assistance to white farmers by continuing programs that favor minorities.

The conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed the lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture in federal court in Wisconsin on behalf of white dairy farmer Adam Faust.

Faust was among several farmers who successfully sued the Biden administration in 2021 for race discrimination in the USDA's Farmer Loan Forgiveness Plan. The new lawsuit alleges the government has continued to implement diversity, equity and inclusion programs that were instituted under former President Joe Biden. The Wisconsin Institute wrote to the USDA in April warning of legal action, and six Repu-

blican Wisconsin congressmen called on the USDA to investigate and end the programs.

"The USDA should honor the President's promise to the American people to end racial discrimination in the federal government," Faust said in a written statement. "After being ignored by a federal agency that's meant to support agriculture, I hope my lawsuit brings answers, accountability, and results from USDA."

An administration spokesperson did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The lawsuit contends that Faust is one of 2 million white male American farmers who are subject to discriminatory race-based policies at the USDA. It names three programs and policies it says put white men at a disadvantage and violate the Constitution's guarantee of equal treatment by discriminating based on race and sex.

## Fatal shootings seen near food distribution in Gaza

*Associated Press*

DEIR AL-B, Gaza Strip — At least 34 Palestinians were killed Monday in new shootings in areas of Israeli- and U.S.-supported food distribution centers in the south of the Gaza Strip, the local Health Ministry said.

The toll was the deadliest yet in the near-daily shootings that have taken place as thousands of Palestinians move through Israeli military-controlled areas to reach the food centers run by the private contractor Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Two witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire early Monday in an attempt to control the crowds.

There was no immediate comment by the Israeli military. It has said in previous instances that troops fired warning shots at suspects nearing their positions.

Gaza's Health Ministry said most of the dead were trying to reach the GHF center near the

southern city of Rafah, though a few were on the roads to a newly opened hub on the outskirts of the nearby city of Khan Younis.

Two Palestinians trying to get food at the Rafah site, Heba Jouda and Mohammed Abed, told The Associated Press that Israeli forces fired on the crowds at around 4 a.m. at the Flag Roundabout. The traffic circle, hundreds of yards from the GHF center, has repeatedly been the scene of shootings. The military has designated specific routes to access the food centers, and GHF has warned aid-seekers that leaving the roads is dangerous, but many do in an attempt to get to the food first.

U.N. agencies and major aid groups, which have delivered humanitarian aid across Gaza since the start of the 20-month Israel-Hamas war, have rejected the GHF system, saying it can't meet the territory's needs and allows Israel to use aid as a weapon.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Weather Service issues state's 1st heat advisory

**AK** ANCHORAGE — For the first time ever, parts of Alaska will be under a heat advisory — but you can put an asterisk at the end of that term.

It's not the first instance of unusually high temperatures in what many consider the nation's coldest state, but the National Weather Service only recently allowed for heat advisories to be issued there. Information on similarly warm weather conditions previously came in the form of "special weather statements." Using the heat advisory label could help people better understand the weather's severity and potential danger, something a nondescript "special weather statement" didn't convey.

The first advisory was for Sunday in Fairbanks, where temperatures were expected to top 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Fairbanks has been warmer in the past, but this is unusual for June, officials said.

## Afghan pleads guilty to planning election attack

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — An Afghan man in Oklahoma accused of planning an Election Day 2024 attack in the U.S. on behalf of Islamic State pleaded guilty Friday to terrorism-related charges in federal court.

Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, pleaded guilty to two offenses: conspiring and providing support to ISIS, and attempting to receive firearms to commit a federal crime of terrorism.

Tawhedi was living in Oklahoma City last year when he ac-

quired two AK-47-style rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition to target large crowds, according to court documents. Authorities said he had conspired with multiple people, including his brother-in-law, Abdullah Haji Zada, for several months to plot out the attack.

Zada, who was 17 at the time, was charged as an adult and pleaded guilty in April.

At the time of his arrest on Oct. 7, Tawhedi was on parole while his immigration status was pending, according to the Justice Department. His parole status has since been revoked.

## Judge blocks plan to allow ICE agents in jail

**NY** NEW YORK — A judge blocked New York City's mayor from letting federal immigration authorities reopen an office at the city's main jail, in part because of concerns the mayor invited them back in as part of a deal with the Trump administration to end his corruption case.

New York Judge Mary Rosado's decision Friday is a setback for Democratic Mayor Eric Adams, who issued an executive order permitting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other federal agencies to maintain office space at the Rikers Island jail complex. City lawmakers filed a lawsuit in April accusing Adams of entering into a "corrupt quid pro quo bargain" with the Trump administration in exchange for the U.S. Justice Department dropping criminal charges against him.

Rosado temporarily blocked the executive order in April. In granting a preliminary injunction, she said city council mem-

bers have "shown a likelihood of success in demonstrating, at minimum, the appearance of a quid pro quo whereby Mayor Adams publicly agreed to bring Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") back to Rikers Island in exchange for dismissal of his criminal charges."

Adams has repeatedly denied making a deal with the administration over the criminal case.

## Long-serving legislator sentenced for corruption

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — The stunning downward spiral of Michael Madigan's political career ended Friday with a 7½-year prison sentence and a \$2.5 million fine for the former Illinois House speaker and the longest-serving legislative leader in U.S. history after he was convicted of trading legislation for the enrichment of his friends and allies.

U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey sentenced the 83-year-old in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

Nicknamed the "Velvet Hammer" for his quiet but hard-nosed style, Madigan was convicted in February on 10 of 23 counts in a remarkable corruption trial that lasted four months. The case churned through 60 witnesses and mountains of documents, photographs and taped conversations.

Federal prosecutors sought a 12½-year prison term. Madigan's attorneys wanted five years' probation, saying he is a good man who tried to do right by taxpayers and needs to be home to care for his ailing wife.

But Blakey noted that federal sentencing guidelines allowed for a term of 105 years based on

findings in evidence — notably that Madigan committed perjury when he took the stand in his own defense. Blakey was particularly piqued over what he called "a nauseating display of perjury and evasion."

## Galapagos tortoise turns 135, has 1st Father's Day

**FL** MIAMI — A South Florida zoo's oldest resident celebrated his 135th birthday and his first Father's Day on Sunday.

Goliath, a 517-pound Galapagos tortoise at Zoo Miami, became a father for the first time this month, zoo officials said.

"Goliath is my hero, and I am sure he will soon be an inspiration to many others!" Zoo Miami spokesman Ron Magill said in a statement. "He is living proof that where there is a will, there is a way and to never give up!"

One egg out of a clutch of eight laid on Jan. 27 successfully hatched on June 4, officials said. Besides being Goliath's first offspring, it's also the first time one of the endangered reptiles has hatched at Zoo Miami. The animals' numbers were drastically reduced before the 20th century by human exploitation and the introduction of invasive species to the Galapagos Islands. Modern threats include climate change and habitat loss.

According to Goliath's official record, he hatched on the island of Santa Cruz in the Galapagos on June 15, between 1885 and 1890. In 1981, Goliath moved to Zoo Miami, where he has bred with several different females but has never sired an offspring. The new hatchling's mother, Sweet Pea, is estimated to be between 85 and 100 years old.

— From wire reports

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# Spaun wins US Open for 1st major victory

Associated Press

OAKMONT, Pa. — J.J. Spaun endured the toughest test in golf on the toughest course in America in the worst kind of conditions. And then he turned this miserable, wet Sunday at Oakmont into a finish as memorable as any in the U.S. Open.

The champion not many expected delivered two shots no one will forget.

First came Spaun's driver on the 314-yard 17th hole onto the green for a two-putt birdie that gave him the lead. Then, needing two putts from 65 feet on the 18th to win, he finished his storybook Open by holing the longest putt all week at Oakmont for birdie and a 2-over 72.

For all the mess Oakmont became in a series of downpours, for all the bad breaks and bad lies and bad shots that cost so many contenders, Spaun overcame a start that would have ended hopes of more seasoned players and weathered the pressure to claim his greatest prize.

"I never thought I would be here holding this trophy," said Spaun, who finished last year at No. 119 in the world and moved up to No. 8 with his U.S. Open victory. "I always had aspirations and dreams. I never knew what my ceiling was. I'm just trying to be the best golfer I can be.

"I'm happy to display that here at Oakmont."

Spaun finished at 1-under 279, the sole survivor to par, and won by two shots over Robert MacIntyre of Scotland, who watched the finish from a scoring room and could only applaud the stunning conclusion.

Five players shared the lead with an hour to go. Four players were still tied as the U.S. Open made its way to the final four holes that frustrated Sam Burns and Tyrrell Hatton, and crushed the hopes of Adam Scott and Carlos Ortiz.

The last man standing was Spaun, the 34-year-old Califor-

nian with an eerie resemblance to the late Pittsburgh Steelers great Franco Harris.

Never mind that Spaun lacked the pedigree of so many players groomed in elite competition, that he had only one PGA Tour title until Sunday, was playing in only his second U.S. Open and had never cracked the top 20 in his previous eight majors.

The ending was magical. The road leading to Spaun's U.S. Open title was hard work and resiliency, especially Sunday. One shot behind to start the final round, he had five bogeys in six holes, including a shot that hit the pin on No. 2 and caromed 35 yards back into the fairway, turning birdie into a bogey.

"It felt like as bad as things were going, I just still tried to just commit to every shot. I tried to just continue to dig deep. I've been doing it my whole life," Spaun said. "I think that's been the biggest difference this year has been being able to do that. Fortunately, I dug very deep on the back nine, and things went my way, and here we are with the trophy."

It was calamity for so many others.

Burns had a two-shot lead going to the 11th tee, made a double bogey from a divot in the first cut on No. 11 and from a lie in the fairway on No. 15 so wet he thought he deserved relief. With water spraying up from the turf on his practice swing, he called one rules official, then another, asking for a drop from the waterlogged lie. No luck.

So Burns swung away and the ball duck-hooked to the left. He barely advanced the next shot from the saturated greenside rough. By the end of it, he was 3 over, two shots out of the lead, and the tournament was becoming a contest between Spaun and MacIntyre. Burns shot 78.

"It's a tough golf course, and I didn't have my best stuff, and clearly it showed," Burns said. "Ultimately, it felt like the wa-

ter just kind of got in the way, and I went left. It is what it is."

Scott, trying to become the first player to go more than 11 years between major titles, was tied for the lead with five holes to play. One of the best drivers could no longer find the fairway. He played them in 5 over and shot 79.

"I missed the fairway. I hadn't done that all week really. Then I did, and I paid the price and lost a lot of shots out there," Scott said.

Ortiz and Hatton also slashed away in slushy lies, all making mistakes that cost them a chance to survive this beast of day.

The rain that put Oakmont on the edge of being unplayable might have saved Spaun.

He was four shots behind and facing the tough ninth hole. And then came a rain delay of 1 hour, 37 minutes.

"The weather delay changed the whole vibe of the day," Spaun said.

Remarkably, he made only one bogey the rest of the way.

But oh, that finish.

MacIntyre, the 28-year-old from Oban toughened by the Scottish game of Shinty, became the new target. He also struggled at the start and fell nine shots behind at one point. But he birdied the 17th and split the fairway on the 18th for a key par, a 68 and the clubhouse lead.

Three groups later, Spaun delivered what looked like the winner on the 17th, a powerful fade that rolled onto the green like a putt and settled 18 feet behind the cup.

On the final putt, he was helped by Viktor Hovland being on the same line and going first. Spaun rapped it through the soaked turf, walked to the left to watch it break right toward the hole and watched it drop as thousands of rain-soaked spectators erupted.

Spaun raised both arms and tossed his putter, jumping into

the arms of caddie Mark Carrens.

The celebration carried into those who lost the battle.

Hatton was talking with reporters, bemoaning a bad break on the 17th ended his chances of winning. He watched Spaun's putt and it brightened his mood.

"Unbelievable. What a putt to win. That's incredible," he said. "I'm sad about how I finished, but I'm very happy for J.J. To win a major in that fashion is amazing."

Hovland, who shot 73 to finish third, saw it all — the putt at the end, the bogeys at the start.

"After his start, it just looked like he was out of it immediately," Hovland said. "Everyone came back to the pack. I wasn't expecting that really. I thought I had to shoot maybe 3-under par today to have a good chance, but obviously the conditions got really, really tough, and this golf course is just a beast."

Hatton (72) and Ortiz (73), both part of LIV Golf and in serious contention at a major for the first time, tied for fourth along with Cameron Young (70). The consolation for Ortiz was getting into the Masters next year.

Scottie Scheffler, 10 shots behind early in the final round, was somehow still part of the conversation on the back nine. But he missed far too many birdie chances, even three-putting from 12 feet on the 11th hole. The world's No. 1 player finished with a 70 to tie for seventh with Jon Rahm (67) and Burns, his best friend who will feel the sting.

Scheffler had a double bogey by missing the green into a bad lie on the slope of a bunker. He missed a pair of 6-foot birdie putts to seize control. And he made a mess of the 15th for another double bogey.

Through it all, Spaun emerged as a U.S. Open champion hardly anyone saw coming — not at the start of the year, not at the start of the round.



# Red Sox send slugger Devers to Giants

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox traded slugger Rafael Devers to the San Francisco Giants on Sunday in a deal that could shake up pennant races on both coasts.

San Francisco sent right-hander Jordan Hicks, lefty Kyle Harrison, outfield prospect James Tibbs III and minor league righty Jose Bello to Boston for the 28-year-old designated hitter, who had bristled at his demotion from third base this year.

The Giants are two games back of NL West-leading Los Angeles after losing 5-4 to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday night.

Harrison was on his way to the bullpen to warm up for Sunday's start when he was called back to the clubhouse and informed of the trade. Reliever Sean Hjelle was told about 30 minutes before first pitch that he would start.

"Yeah, it was a lot, and it was late, but you know what? This is

something we really needed," San Francisco manager Bob Melvin said.

"To get a guy like Devers ... there's a lot you have to give up for him, but this fits us perfectly. It's a power left-handed bat, a guy that can go the other way and hit for power in our ballpark. I mean, it's tailor-made for us, so kudos to the front office to swinging this."

A three-time All-Star who signed a 10-year, \$313.5 million contract with the Red Sox in 2023, Devers is batting .272 with 15 homers and 58 RBIs in 73 games, including a solo shot in Boston's 2-0 victory over the New York Yankees on Sunday that completed a three-game sweep.

But his relationship with the team began to deteriorate when the team signed Gold Glove third baseman Alex Bregman during spring training and asked Devers to move to DH; he balked before agreeing to the switch. When first baseman Triston Casas sustained a sea-

son-ending knee injury, the Red Sox approached Devers about playing the field and he declined, saying the front office "should do their jobs" and look for another player.

"Everybody around the league, I think, was paying attention to that. When any team is having some kind of drama like that, with a player like Devers — he basically was the face of the franchise," Giants shortstop Willy Adames said in an on-field interview during the ESPN broadcast.

Buster Posey, a seven-time All-Star who took over as San Francisco's president of baseball operations in September, said he reached out to Boston chief baseball officer Craig Breslow about two weeks ago. Trade talks picked up over the past few days.

Posey and Melvin declined to address what position Devers would play with the Giants — "That's a conversation for myself, Bob and (general manager) Zack (Minasian) to have with

him," Posey said — but they are convinced his bat will have a significant impact on a lineup that has produced only 16 homers from the left side this season.

"We're excited about adding one of the best hitters in all of major league baseball to our lineup," Posey said. "We're obviously taking on a lot of dollars, but there's a belief that adding a guy like this puts us in a good position to keep winning ballgames, get into the playoffs and try to win a World Series, which is our ultimate goal."

The Red Sox have won five out of six against the rival Yankees over the last two weekends to improve to 37-36, but they are still fourth in the AL East, 6½ games behind division-leading New York.

"It's tough losing (Harrison and Hicks) ... but we're getting a guy back who changes the lineup, who's probably a top-10 hitter in baseball every year," San Francisco pitcher Logan Webb said.

## US men rout Trinidad in Gold Cup, snap losing streak

*Associated Press*

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The United States hopes a blowout win over the world's 100th-ranked team can start to lessen the pessimism created by the Americans' longest losing streak since 2007.

Malik Tillman scored twice and Diego Luna had a pair of assists in a 5-0 rout of Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday in the Americans' CONCACAF Gold Cup opener.

"Really important I think to cut a little bit this — I don't say negativity, but, yes ... but it's really important now to start the competition with a good feeling," U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino said.

Victory in the Group D opener ended a four-game losing streak

and came after days of controversy over Christian Pulisic's desire to rest during the Gold Cup and Pochettino not including the star in a pair of pre-tournament friendlies the attacker offered to play in.

Tillman scored in the 16th and 41st minutes for his first two international goals, both following giveaways by Alvin Jones, and Patrick Agyemang scored his fourth international goal in the 44th when Luna's shot deflected off a foot.

"It was in our hands to show a reaction and I think we've done it today," Tillman said. "We played a good game and it was nice to bounce back, have a good start to the tournament."

Brenden Aaronson added his ninth goal in the 82nd and Haji

Wright his fifth just 1 minute, 13 seconds later for the 16th-ranked Americans, who drew just 12,610 to PayPal Park.

"Malik is a talented player. It's obvious that everyone can see," Pochettino said. "October, November, when we met for the first time I think it was difficult to create this relationship that the player need(s) and the coach need(s) to trust and to trust each other. ... I think now after a few weeks together I really start to understand him and he starts to understand us. And he's very special, a very special talent and a very special kid."

Luna, a 21-year-old who impressed Pochettino during his debut in January when he insisted he stay on the field with a broken nose, was playing not far

from where he grew up and said he had gotten tickets for about 30 family and friends.

"Just an honor, right, to be able to dream about this day," he said. "(To) start off a tournament like this back in my home city is awesome."

Luna ran onto Jones' back pass, dribbled down the left flank and crossed to Tillman for the second goal, then shot from just inside the penalty area for the goal that glanced off Tillman for a 3-0 lead.

"His performance was really good. He showed his character," Pochettino said.

The Americans play invited guest Saudi Arabia on Thursday at Austin, Texas, then close group play on June 22 against Haiti at Arlington, Texas.

# Red Sox complete sweep of Yankees

Associated Press

BOSTON — Brayan Bello struck out eight over seven innings, Rafael Devers homered and the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees 2-0 on Sunday for a three-game sweep that extended their winning streak to five.

Trevor Story added an RBI single for Boston, which has won five straight over New York since losing their first meeting this year. The Red Sox's winning streak matched their season high.

Bello (3-1) gave up three hits, walked three and tossed a career-high 114 pitches. Garrett Whitlock escaped an eighth-inning jam and got the five outs for his first save.

The AL East-leading Yankees went 0 for 5 with runners in scoring position and were swept in a series for the first time this year, getting shut out for the third time. New York's four runs matched its fewest in a three-game series at Fenway Park, from June 20-22, 1916, and from Sept. 28-30, 1922.

Yankees slugger Aaron Judge went 1 for 12 in the series with a solo homer and nine strikeouts, dropping his major league-leading average to .378. He has struck out three or more times in three straight games for the third time in his big league career.

**Reds 8, Tigers 4:** Elly De La Cruz homered, scored three times and drove in three runs as visiting Cincinnati rallied to beat Detroit.

With the Tigers leading 4-2, TJ Friedl led off the eighth with a grounder to the mound, but Brant Hurter misplayed it into a two-base error. Detroit closer Will Vest (5-1) came in, but Matt McLain singled, putting runners on the corners, and De La Cruz followed with an RBI single.

A failed double-play attempt left the bases loaded, and Will Benson tied the game with a

sacrifice fly. Gavin Lux followed with an RBI single and the fourth run scored on a wild pitch. Vest left after the play with a possible injury.

**Dodgers 5, Giants 4:** Andy Pages hit a game-turning three-run home run in the fifth inning, Shohei Ohtani had three hits and scored two runs, and host Los Angeles beat San Francisco.

The Dodgers trailed 3-2 when Ohtani and Mookie Betts singled to open the fifth. Freddie Freeman grounded out and Teoscar Hernández struck out, before Pages drove a slider from Giants reliever Ryan Walker into the left-center field pavilion for his 13th homer and a 5-3 lead.

**Phillies 11, Blue Jays 4:** Nick Castellanos hit a grand slam, Zack Wheeler (7-2) pitched six strong innings and host Philadelphia completed a three-game sweep of Toronto with a victory.

Alec Bohm also went deep and Otto Kemp had four hits and two RBIs for the Phillies, who have won five of six.

**Orioles 11, Angels 2:** Gary Sánchez hit a seventh-inning grand slam, Ramón Urías and Jordan Westburg also homered, and host Baltimore completed a three-game sweep with a victory over Los Angeles.

Cade Povich earned his first victory since April 24 as the Orioles secured their third sweep of the season, all in their last five series. Baltimore (30-40) is within 10 games of .500 for the first time since it was 15-25.

**Rockies 10, Braves 1:** Ryan McMahon hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh and visiting Colorado overcame Grant Holmes' 15-strikeout performance to beat Atlanta and avoid a series sweep.

Braxton Fulford's single up the middle with one out in the sixth was the Rockies' first hit. Fulford added a three-run triple off Aaron Bummer in the eighth.

**Marlins 3, Nationals 1:** Eric Wagaman had two RBIs, Dane Meyers hit a solo home run and Nick Fortes had three hits as visiting Miami swept a three-game series from Washington.

Myers led off the second with a home run off starter MacKenzie Gore (3-6) that gave the Marlins a 2-1 lead and Wagaman added a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the seventh to make it 3-1.

**Brewers 3, Cardinals 2:** Christian Yelich homered and Trevor Megill escaped a jam in the ninth inning, sending host Milwaukee to a victory over St. Louis in the finale of a four-game series.

Drew Avans and Sal Frelick each drove in a run for the Brewers, who won for the fourth time in six games.

**Rays 9, Mets 0:** Shane Baz (6-3) combined with three relievers on a five-hitter, and visiting Tampa Bay beat New York to complete the first three-game series sweep of the Mets this season.

Jonathan Aranda's two-run double in the fifth off Max Kranick opened a 6-0 lead for the Rays, who outscored New York 24-9 in the series.

**Cubs 3, Pirates 2 (10):** Ian Happ hit a game-ending single in the 10th inning, and host Chicago edged Pittsburgh.

The Cubs used a double steal to put runners on second and third in the 10th. Jon Berti struck out swinging for the first out, but Happ followed with a liner to right, delighting the crowd of 40,162 at Wrigley Field.

**Athletics 3, Royals 2:** Nick Kurtz hit a solo ninth-inning homer to rally the visiting Athletics to a win and three-game sweep of Kansas City.

Kurtz hit Carlos Estévez's (2-2) fastball 411 feet to right-center for his sixth home run. It gave the A's their first sweep at Kauffman Stadium since September 2016.

**Astros 2, Twins 1 (10):** Victor

Caratini tied it with a sacrifice fly in the ninth and Mauricio Dubón hit a walk-off single in the 10th on Sunday to help host Houston beat Minnesota to sweep the three-game series.

Jake Meyers started at second base in the 10th and scored on Dubón's two-out single to left field.

**Rangers 2, White Sox 1:** Rookie right-hander Kumar Rocker pitched five scoreless innings with help from some pickle juice, Ezequiel Duran put host Texas in front for good with an RBI double and the Rangers finished a sweep of Chicago.

Rocker (2-4) twice got visits from the trainer with apparent cramping in his legs in the fifth, and quickly chugged three bottles of pickle juice along the way, while getting through the inning. The 25-year-old allowed four hits and a walk with six strikeouts.

**Mariners 6, Guardians 0:** J.P. Crawford hit a grand slam, Emerson Hancock (3-2) tossed seven scoreless innings and host Seattle beat Cleveland to complete a sweep.

After an RBI single by Miles Mastrobuoni with one out in the second inning gave the Mariners an early advantage, Crawford opened up the floodgates while the bases were still loaded. He turned on a hanging slider from Luis Ortiz (3-8) and cranked a home run to right field for the fourth grand slam of his major league career.

**Padres 8, Diamondbacks 2:** Nick Pivetta held Arizona to two hits in seven innings, Jake Cronenworth homered and Fernando Tatis Jr. had four hits as visiting San Diego won to snap a three-game losing streak.

Pivetta (7-2) retired the first 12 Diamondbacks before walking Josh Naylor on a full count to open the fifth. Eugenio Suárez followed with a 437-foot homer, his team-leading 21st, for Arizona's first hit. Pivetta struck out nine.