

US, Iran announce ceasefire agreement

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Iran agreed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and talk further about the future of Tehran's nuclear program, a breakthrough that comes after months of fighting that destabilized the Middle East and disrupted global markets.

Both countries announced the deal, which is set to be signed Friday in Geneva. It includes a 60-day ceasefire and the lifting of the U.S. blockade on Iranian ports, officials said.

The agreement is aimed at ending a conflict that killed 13 U.S. service members and brought missile and drone attacks to U.S. bases, energy facilities and other critical infrastructure across the Persian Gulf.

President Donald Trump said in a Truth Social post that the strait would be reopened by Friday to allow for the clearing of mines. The waterway is a crucial sea lane for global petroleum transport.

"The deal with the Islamic Re-

public of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all!" he said. "Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!"

The war prompted one of the largest U.S. military buildups in the Middle East in years. It's unclear what comes next regarding the Pentagon's presence in the region.

Various American bases sustained extensive damage from Iranian drones and missiles over the course of nearly four months.

Iranian state media reported that the memorandum of understanding was reached Sunday evening following "difficult and intensive negotiations."

The text of the reported deal has not been released. In recent months, Trump has repeatedly expressed optimism that an agreement was close, only for hostilities to resume.

But reports suggest that the deal will leave several major issues unresolved, including the future of Iran's nuclear program and the lifting of U.S. sanctions.

Under the agreement, the two countries will have 60 days to negotiate a final resolution on nuclear issues. Trump told *The New York Times* that he would be willing to restart military attacks if the talks fail.

Trump has insisted that Iran must never be able to obtain a nuclear weapon. At various points throughout the war, he has suggested the U.S. could retrieve the "nuclear dust" left behind after last year's bombing of Iranian nuclear facilities.

Trump said he was in no rush to remove the fuel from the underground sites, saying the U.S. would over time help Iran to "down-blend" the enriched material, the newspaper reported.

Because the agreement leaves key questions about Iran's nuclear program unresolved, some U.S. lawmakers expressed skepticism.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a close Trump ally, said he was "somewhat concerned" that Iran's interpretation of the agreement appeared to differ from that of U.S. negotiators.

"I will be watching closely the ensuing negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear program and other matters," Graham said on X, noting that "under our law, any nuclear deal with Iran will be sent to Congress for review and a vote."

Under the previous Iran nuclear deal signed by former President Barack Obama, Tehran committed to limiting its uranium enrichment levels and capping its stockpiles in exchange for the lifting of U.S. sanctions.

After Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and reimposed economic sanctions, Iran began increasing its uranium enrichment.

According to Iranian state media, the agreement stipulates that all war and military operations are set to cease immediately.

Despite the unanswered questions, news of the deal was welcomed by world leaders, who are eager to see traffic in the Strait of Hormuz return to pre-war levels.

Hegseth says more strikes possible in Latin America

Miami Herald

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Sunday that the United States is prepared to carry out additional military operations across Latin America similar to the recent strike in Venezuela that killed Tren de Aragua leader Héctor Rusthenford Guerrero Flores, known as "Niño Guerrero," signaling a potentially broader campaign against cartels and transnational criminal groups in the hemisphere.

Speaking on CBS's "Face the Nation," Hegseth said the Venezuelan interim government had

invited U.S. military forces onto its territory to help eliminate the founder of the Venezuelan-born criminal organization, marking one of the clearest acknowledgments yet of direct U.S. military involvement inside Venezuela.

"They invited our military in because they have a foreign terrorist organization on their soil in Tren de Aragua," Hegseth said. "The founder and leader — we were able to identify where he was and kill him, just like we would kill al-Qaida or ISIS."

When asked whether Ameri-

cans should expect similar operations in countries such as Ecuador and Guatemala, where Washington has expanded security cooperation, Hegseth offered an unequivocal answer.

"Yes, they should," he said.

Hegseth said the operations would be conducted under a new regional security framework called the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition (A3C), which seeks to coordinate U.S. military and intelligence capabilities with partner governments across Central and South America to target cartel and

gang leadership.

"It's called the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition, A3C, and we're forming it with partner governments all around Central and South America to go after, defeat and destroy foreign terrorist organizations [and] drug cartels," Hegseth said.

The remarks suggest the Trump administration increasingly sees transnational criminal groups not as traditional law-enforcement targets but as terrorist threats warranting military action.

Navy sea drones seeing expanded role

By GARY WARNER

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy's use of unmanned sea surface drones has been on the rise even before one of the vessels helped rescue the crew of a downed U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopter last Tuesday off the coast of Oman.

Capt. Tim Hawkins, a U.S. Central Command spokesman, said the 24-foot Corsair drone was part of Task Force 59, the leading team for fielding unmanned vessels within the Navy.

"The Task Force began fielding these drones in theater in late March," Hawkins said.

The Navy has also announced that a Seahawk unmanned surface vessel would be part of the upcoming deployment of USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group. The move comes after a successful 2023 deployment of the Seahawk on autonomous mis-

sions in the Pacific.

The choice of which kind of sea surface drone to send with crewed ships is expanding through the Navy's new marketplace for medium-sized unmanned ships.

Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, said integrating sea drones into deployed forces could enable longer-range surveillance and intelligence.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle has highlighted the role of unmanned vessels — on the surface, below the sea and in the air — as giving the Navy more options for "tailored forces" to respond to operational demands.

Instead of sending a carrier strike force to respond to a flash point, Navy leaders could mix and match responses to a pre-selected menu of options.

That flexibility could help the Navy avoid long deployments.

Unmanned vessels are a

force multiplier at a time when crewed ships and the number of sailors are stretched thin. Autonomous vessels that can carry cargo and perform resupply and refueling operations can take the place of a crewed ship, which can be assigned other duties or other locations.

The Navy is attempting to accelerate the selection process by instituting a marketplace approach to the design and potential purchase of certain unmanned vessels.

Last month, the Navy named seven companies that will submit design prototypes for a Medium Unmanned Surface Vessel.

Unlike other procurement programs, companies pay for and build the prototype to a set of basic standards: a vessel that can carry up to 25 metric tons at 25 knots in moderately rough seas for at least 2,500 nautical miles.

Every entrant that meets the

requirements will receive \$15 million and be eligible for a production contract. The Navy could choose all or none of the vessels.

Having a slew of one-off designs in the past would have been seen as a confusing collection of mismatched pieces. But Clark said a variety of responses to the specifications could yield new ideas and uses for the vessels, rather than trying to shape competing designs into a single prototype.

"The Navy needs MUSVs with different characteristics depending on the mission," Clark said.

What might have been seen as confusion under earlier procurement systems has a flip side in a variety of choices.

The use of drones in missions such as the rescue of the downed helicopter crew also underlines an important upside of unmanned vessels — they do not put crew members in harm's way.

Stateside Navy galleys try new approaches to meals

By JONATHAN BAEZ

Stars and Stripes

Sailors who skip the base galley aren't just passing up a meal, they're leaving money on the table, and the Navy wants to change that, according to Navy Installations Command.

The command on May 27 announced the Navy Food Service Transformation initiative, aiming to improve the daily lives of sailors and maximize the service's ability to field a battle-ready force, according to a news release that day.

The initiative starts with programs to motivate sailors to eat more often at galleys at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Wash., and Naval Construction Battal-

ion Center Gulfport, Miss.

At Kitsap, the program aims to increase sailors' use of their meal entitlement from 30% to 50% within the pilot's 16-month run, base spokesman Christopher Stanis said by email Thursday. The program officially launched on June 3 with a ceremony attended by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle and will run until September 2027.

During that time, Kitsap sailors may use their meal entitlements at the Warrior Eatery and other Morale, Welfare and Recreation-branded restaurants on base.

Early results have already surpassed expectations, Stanis

said.

Foot traffic and sales have increased daily since the soft opening, with the Warrior Eatery's cook-to-order stations, specifically Better Burgers and Uptown Pizzas and Calzones, emerging as the clear favorites, he said.

Sailor feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, according to Kitsap base officials. Many sailors said they are making a point to try something different every day.

At Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, the approach is to improve sailors' experience at the galley, according to the release.

Gulfport is home to the Navy

Shore Enterprise's newest galley, designed to accommodate rotating food stations offering diverse cuisines and made-to-order fare, Destiny Sibert, spokeswoman for Naval Installations Command, told Stars and Stripes by email Thursday.

In March, Gulfport sailors sampled potential menu items and provided feedback through surveys and comment cards, directly shaping the final menu, according to a May 29 post on the Defense Visual Information Distribution System.

The Navy plans to evaluate the pilots' performance based on increased use of sailor meal entitlements and overall satisfaction ratings.

Navy to reevaluate religious shaving waivers

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

Active-duty and reserve sailors who are permitted to forgo shaving on religious grounds must soon tell their commands they will reapply for the grooming standards waiver, the Navy said last week.

They will also have to undergo a reevaluation of their shaving waivers, which includes explaining their religious beliefs, practices and commitment to those beliefs to a chaplain, according to a Navy administrative message published Wednesday. They will also have to detail how those beliefs are “burdened” by the service’s grooming requirements.

Sailors with existing or pending waivers have 10 business days to let their commands know they will file an updated request, according to the message. It wasn’t clear in the message how soon that request needed to be submitted.

But the reevaluation process for sailors with approved waivers is expected to be completed within 30 days of filing the up-

dated request, the Navy said.

“Commanding officers must objectively weigh the fundamental value of accommodating religious practices against the compelling, life-or-death interest of maintaining an absolute protective posture and ensuring the operational viability of our Fleet,” the message said.

It added that already approved religious accommodations related to grooming standards for facial hair must be reevaluated “using standardized procedures that ensure consistent, lawful and equitable outcomes.”

The message also outlined policies and procedures for religious exceptions to the Navy’s facial hair grooming standards, which generally require that sailors be clean-shaven but allow mustaches and sideburns that meet specific criteria.

Wednesday’s policy rollout follows a similar announcement by the Army last month, both of which fall in line with a broader Pentagon crackdown on grooming standards.

In a September memo, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth banned permanent medical shaving exemptions such as those for service members who have a painful skin condition called pseudofolliculitis barbae, or razor bumps.

The memo also ended most of the same exemptions based on religious grounds, saying service members who had been granted such waivers would face individual review and be required to document the sincerity of their beliefs.

It’s unclear how many Navy sailors may be affected by the shaving waiver reevaluation.

Last year, the service granted 313 religious accommodations, which in addition to facial hair could include head coverings, dietary needs, clothing, immunizations or other religious requirements. Nine other accommodation requests that same year were rejected, according to the Navy.

As of early February, 22 religious waivers had been granted and none rejected this year.

Once approved, the accommodations are enduring, meaning they follow the sailor from command to command with limited exceptions such as a change in circumstance in the interest of the government, according to the Navy.

It’s also uncertain how the policy change will affect at least two legal challenges to Navy grooming standards related to religious accommodations.

One of those cases involves the religious accommodation request of a Sikh Marine related to his post-recruit training service, including restrictions on where he could deploy while maintaining an unshaven beard.

In a June 4 federal court filing, attorneys representing Lance Cpl. Jaskirat Singh along with those for the U.S. military said they needed more time to review upcoming Navy policy updates related to religious accommodations and any impacts on the Marine before proceeding with negotiations.

Trump marks 80 with knockout UFC fights

Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump celebrated his 80th birthday by watching a sport that’s more brutal and bloody than politics.

Trump brought TKO Group Holdings Inc.’s Ultimate Fighting Championship to the South Lawn of the White House on Sunday evening. The event helps jumpstart Trump’s celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States, complete with a commemorative gold coin bearing his likeness, a huge fair on the National Mall and, in August, an IndyCar race through the streets of Washington, D.C.

The fights kicked off just before 8:30 pm in Washington, with Trump and UFC President Dana White walking through the White House to the arena. The

event was delayed slightly due to worries over inclement weather, with lightning strikes and thunder in the nation’s capital.

Meta Platforms Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Paramount Skydance Corp. CEO David Ellison, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and members of Trump’s family were present at the event. Joe Rogan, a podcast host popular with young men who supported Trump during the 2024 election, provided commentary throughout the matches.

Military servicemembers were also in the audience at the White House, while the coverage also cut to shots of watch parties at various military bases, including in Okinawa, Japan.

Medal of Honor recipients and first responders escorted fighters into the arena on the South Lawn.

Audience members sang “Happy Birthday” to Trump during the proceedings.

The event, framed by a nearly 100-foot-tall “Claw” arena built to hold its seven cage matches, has drawn plenty of criticism. A lawsuit filed by the Public Integrity Project called it a “volcano of corruption.”

The spectacle was Trump’s idea, according to White, a longtime ally of the president, who has long enjoyed the league’s fights. The UFC’s young, male fan base was a key demographic backing Trump’s 2024 election victory.

His administration has em-

braced the company, with the State Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation signing partnership deals.

The White House said UFC is covering the entire cost of the event and has handled all the sponsorship discussions.

UFC spent over \$60 million to stage Sunday’s fight, and more than seven federal agencies “have allocated significant resources and manpower” to putting it on, according to filings in the court case, which sought unsuccessfully to stop the event.

In addition to the caged “Octagon” where the fights took place, the Claw held 4,300 seats. As many as 120,000 more spectators were expected at the Ellipse nearby, where free tickets were distributed by lottery.

Trump ties spy powers to voter ID bill

Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump said he is opposed to having Congress renew now-expired spy powers for U.S. intelligence agencies unless lawmakers also pass a controversial voter identification bill.

Trump's fresh demand adds another barrier to efforts to renew powers under the Foreign Surveillance Intelligence Act, which grants U.S. intelligence agencies the ability to surveil foreign nationals' communications. The powers expired Friday after Democrats refused to support an extension, citing Trump's decision to name Bill Pulte, his housing chief and a staunch loyalist, as acting director of national intelligence.

The so-called Save America Act has been widely condemned

by Democrats, who warn it will restrict voters' rights.

"I'm against FISA if it doesn't come with The Save America Act (Full version!) firmly attached to it," Trump wrote in a social media post Sunday.

Trump has tried to pressure Congress into adding the Save America Act—which among other things would require voters to show more identification on Election Days—onto other must-pass bills, including the Department of Homeland Security funding measure that was passed last week. So far, however, he has been unable to win sufficient backing from Republicans to abolish the 60-vote threshold most legislation must cross to pass in the Senate.

Before his Sunday post, Trump

had repeatedly urged Congress to renew the FISA Section 702 authorities.

Democrats have refused to support an extension as long as Pulte, who currently leads the Federal Housing Financing Agency, could potentially take over as national intelligence director, arguing that he cannot be trusted to be nonpartisan in the sensitive role given his previous actions to open mortgage fraud investigations into Trump's critics.

"It doesn't matter what else they do. Pulte's gotta be gone," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told reporters Thursday.

Trump nominated Jay Clayton, the current U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New

York, to be the permanent successor of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, after Senate Majority Leader John Thune and other Republicans urged him to find a more qualified nominee. Pulte is slated to take over on June 19.

Clayton is scheduled to testify before the Senate this week as part of his confirmation process. Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate's intelligence committee, told CBS's "Face the Nation" he hopes that Clayton would be confirmed by the end of the week.

Trump and other Republicans spent last week criticizing Democrats for opposing legislation on the extension of FISA Section 702, arguing that Pulte was only in the post on an interim basis.

Feds subpoena state agencies for their SNAP participant data

The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture subpoenaed the California Department of Social Services on June 4 for SNAP participant data as a part of the federal agency's latest efforts to root out fraud in government spending.

USDA is requiring California, and three other states, to turn over records with personal information related to individuals' eligibility for the food assistance program, known as CalFresh in California, according to a June USDA Office of Inspector General news release. CalFresh offers low-income state residents aid through monthly allocations of food stamps to purchase items at grocery stores and markets.

"These states have refused to provide data responsive to USDA OIG's initial requests for over a year allowing potential fraud to continue unchecked," the federal agency's news release said.

The SNAP subpoena is one of

President Donald Trump's administration's latest efforts to weed out fraud, waste and abuse in government programs, particularly in Democratic states. The Trump administration has been focused on ensuring that federal assistance initiatives do not support undocumented immigrants and other people it refers to as criminals. Democratic states, including California, have fought back by filing lawsuits against federal agencies over certain policies and actions affecting governments programs such as SNAP.

California Department of Social Services spokesperson Jason Montiel did not respond to questions from The Sacramento Bee but sent a statement that said the agency received the subpoena and is reviewing it.

USDA issued the subpoenas concurrently to Michigan, Illinois and New York, the news release said, as a part of inspector general reviews in the top 10 states for SNAP spending.

Russia hits historic cathedral in Kyiv after Trump-Putin call

Bloomberg News

Ukraine said a historic UNESCO-protected Orthodox cathedral in Kyiv was hit in the latest Russian drone and missile strike early on Monday, hours after Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump held a phone call.

The barrage killed five people and injured more than 30 in Kyiv as it set apartment buildings in several parts of the city ablaze, according to local authorities and the Emergencies Ministry.

The strike damaged a cathedral in Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, a historic former monastery and a UNESCO World Heritage site perched on a high bank of River Dnipro just 1.2 miles from the Presidential Palace.

"Now we are dealing with Russian terrorists who have already outmatched ISIS in their crimes against cultural heritage," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on X Monday after the Russian

strike.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the site of the strike in Kyiv on Monday, climbing to the roof of the damaged dome, according to photos on his X account. The overnight barrage killed 11 people and injured 53 across the country, he said, urging for a "just response" to the Russian strike.

The latest wave of attacks come hours after the Russian and U.S. presidents held what the Kremlin described as a "friendly and frank" call on Trump's 80th birthday on Sunday. Trump also spoke separately with Zelenskyy, who said he had a "great conversation" with the U.S. president.

U.S.-brokered talks between Kyiv and Moscow on ending the war have been stalled with Trump focused on the conflict with Iran.

Zelenskyy, along with Trump, is expected to attend the Group of Seven summit in France that starts on Monday.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

FDA: Formula recalled after botulism outbreak

CT NEW HAVEN — A baby formula has been recalled after the product was linked to an outbreak of infant botulism that has sickened at least three children across the country, officials said.

New York-based Nara Organics voluntarily recalled the brand's Whole Milk Organic Powdered Infant Formula amid an investigation into the outbreak, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA said caregivers should immediately stop using the baby formula. The product was distributed nationally at Target and Nara.com between July 2025 and June 2026.

The FDA said health officials are investigating three "toxin type A infections" among infants who consumed the baby formula in California, Pennsylvania and Washington. Officials said the illnesses began between April and May.

The FDA said officials in two states have collected leftover infant formula for testing, and results are expected in the coming weeks.

In a statement, Nara Organics said customers can request refunds through its website or Target, depending on where they purchased the product.

All Ivies again requiring SAT, ACT for admissions

NY NEW YORK — Columbia University is reinstating an SAT or ACT requirement for undergraduate admissions, college officials announced Friday — only a few years after the Ivy League school formally adopted a pan-

demic-era policy of dropping the tests.

It's the latest elite university to do so as the political tides turn again on standardized testing.

The change will be effective as of the 2027-28 admissions cycle. Both undergraduate programs — Columbia College and Columbia Engineering — will remain test-optional for the upcoming admissions cycle, giving applicants more time to prepare for the tests.

Columbia admitted 2,581 out of 61,031 applicants this year to the Class of 2030, for a total acceptance rate of 4.2%, according to school admissions data.

With Friday's decision, Columbia has become the last Ivy League school to reinstate standardized testing. Last month, Yale University dropped its own test-flexible policy, making Columbia the final holdout.

Survey: LA among world's deadliest downtowns

CA LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles has one of the deadliest downtowns in the world, according to a new survey.

Out of 75 of the top cities around the world, LA ranked among the lowest for vibrancy in Gensler's 2026 City Pulse report released last week.

Around 65% of those surveyed found downtown LA vibrant compared to more than 80% vibrancy scores for New York, Chicago, Sydney and Shanghai.

The urban planning and consulting company surveyed 35,000 city residents on how they ranked their city for a variety of statements. Los Angeles ranked 20th-lowest globally and 11th-lowest among 34 U.S. cities

in vibrancy.

Downtown Los Angeles needs more people to return to downtown to work, shop and eat if it wants to boost its scores, said Kelly Farrell, managing director of Gensler's LA office

"LA's kind of central problem is that businesses have left LA. We need them to bring the offices back in," she said. "Bring the people back in so they're staying after work and interacting with those businesses that are in the area."

The Los Angeles Office of Finance showed that the number of businesses reporting leaving downtown has increased greatly over the last two years.

Seaplane pilot rescued for 2nd time in 6 years

NY NEW YORK — A New York City pilot about to take off in his seaplane from the East River near the Throgs Neck Bridge had to abandon ship when a large wave smashed into the plane, which began sinking, officials said.

It was the second time in six years restaurateur Joe Oppedisano, 67, and passenger Jose Urena needed to be rescued from a smashed seaplane. In 2020, the former's previous single-engine seaplane crashed into a concrete pier near where his plane sank Saturday.

Oppedisano's girlfriend, Maggie O'Neil, 61, died in the earlier crash. He and Urena were critically injured.

On Saturday, the two men were able to walk away from the 9:20 a.m. incident with just minor injuries.

Oppedisano and Urena put on life preservers and jumped out of the plane before it became

fully submerged. Sailors from a nearby private boat raced over, scooped the pair up and lashed ropes onto the sinking plane to keep it afloat.

"We never got off the ground," Urena, 76, said. "(The wave) broke the window and we got out. Luckily there was a boat passing by and they called the Fire Department."

2 injured after helicopter crashes during takeoff

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Four people were taken to the hospital Saturday after a helicopter collided with a plane while taking off from North Perry Airport, officials say.

The Robinson R44 helicopter crashed about 11:20 a.m., according to the Federal Aviation Administration. The helicopter was preparing to lift off when it "rolled over," hitting a nearby parked plane, according to a spokesperson for the National Transportation Safety Board. The plane was empty, according to Arlene Satchell, a spokesperson for the airport.

Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue responded to the airport and took all four of the helicopter's occupants to Memorial Regional Hospital, according to Division Chief Jason Stepp.

Two of the occupants had non-life-threatening injuries, according to Satchell, while the other two chose to "accompany the injured."

The helicopter is associated with a tour operator at North Perry, Satchell said, and had just returned from a round-trip flight to Miami.

The FAA and NTSB are investigating.

— From wire reports

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Canes blank Knights to win Stanley Cup

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Carolina spent the first part of the Stanley Cup Final surviving, finding ways to overcome deficits and play a high-scoring game that didn't fit the Hurricanes' typical style.

But when it came down to doing what it takes to win the Cup, Carolina's defense put its stamp on this series, shutting down the Vegas Golden Knights and not letting up.

The Hurricanes held Vegas to five total goals in Games 4 and 5 and used a suffocating defense in a 3-0 shutout Sunday night in Game 6 to win their first championship in 20 years.

"That's a lot of years," said Carolina center Jordan Staal, who received the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. "It's amazing. This is something I've been going after ever since we got the first one. You want to win it again and again and again."

Brandon Bussi, whose entrance late in Game 3 helped turn around the series, had his first career playoff shutout in

stopping 22 shots. Jackson Blake had a goal and assist, and Taylor Hall scored just 3:47 into the game to set the tone. Nikolaj Ehlers added an empty-netter.

"Your mind wanders the last couple of days and wonder what it may be like out here (on ice after winning) and it's better than I could have expected," Hall said.

The Golden Knights struggled badly to muster any kind of offense in Game 6 and went 18:37 between shots on goal in the second and third periods. Playing in their third Cup Final, this is the first time they have been shut out.

This final game was what many observers expected the series to be like between the defensive-minded teams, but each side watched leads of two-plus goals disappear in the first three games.

Now, the Cup belongs to the Hurricanes, led by coach Rod Brind'Amour, who also captained them to their 2006 title.

This was the first game of the series that Vegas goalie Carter

Hart didn't allow four goals in a game. He finished with 20 saves.

Carolina began to assume control of the series after falling behind 4-0 in Game 3. The Hurricanes came back to force overtime, and though they lost, they outplayed the Golden Knights from there on out.

Reflecting the do-or-die situation for Vegas, it made several lineup changes with Brett Howden replacing the injured William Karlsson at second-line center. Mitch Marner could have moved there, but remained at right wing.

Original Golden Knight Reilly Smith made his Cup Final debut at third-line right wing, and Braeden Bowman made his playoff debut at fourth-line right wing. Kaedan Korczyk replaced Dylan Coghlan on the third defensive pairing.

Carolina got off to a fast start with a goal just 25 seconds into Game 1, only to lose 5-4 on a late goal from Tomas Hertl. And Vegas was on the verge of taking complete control as minutes

ticked down in Game 2 while holding a 2-0 lead and appearing as if it would take a two-game advantage back home.

Then, it all changed. The Canes showed a fight that not only brought it back into the series by rallying to win 4-3 in overtime on Seth Jarvis' one-timer, but would serve as its signature throughout the series.

That was especially true the following game when the Knights took a 4-0 lead into the third period and Carolina seemed to have no answers. Brind'Amour even appeared to wave the white flag by removing goalie Frederik Andersen and replacing him with Bussi.

Carolina got it done against a Vegas team that was on a heater after John Tortorella replaced Bruce Cassidy with eight games left in the regular season. It then went from third in the Pacific Division to first, knocked off Utah and Anaheim in six games apiece in the playoffs and shockingly swept Presidents' Trophy-winning Colorado to win the West.

North Carolina gains inside track to World Series finals

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Gavin Gallaher's two-run triple gave North Carolina the lead in the seventh inning to help send the Tar Heels to a 5-2 win over West Virginia in the College World Series on Sunday night.

The Tar Heels (52-12-1) opened a CWS with two straight wins for the first time in eight appearances since 2006 and need one more victory to reach the best-of-three finals next weekend. They're off until Wednesday, when they'll meet the winner of a Tuesday elimination game between the Mountaineers (46-16) and Troy.

North Carolina scored three unearned runs against Big 12 pitcher of the year Maxx Yehl (9-3) to break a 2-all tie in the sev-

enth with country music star and Tar Heels booster Eric Church cheering them on in a suite.

They had runners on first and second after West Virginia third baseman Tyrus Hall and second baseman Brodie Kresser couldn't come up with grounders. Gallaher lined a ball deep into the gap in right center for a 4-2 lead and he came home when Owen Hull grounded a ball up the middle for a single.

An inning earlier, UNC coach Scott Forbes called a team meeting in the dugout and, according to ESPN, told his players they needed to play looser and have more fun. The Tar Heels went three-up, three-down in the sixth, but the next inning Gallaher and his teammates were having a jolly time on a clear and cool eve-

ning at Charles Schwab Field.

The mood in North Carolina's dugout changed in the ninth. Walker McDuffie (9-3), who relieved starter Ryan Lynch in the fifth, gave up a walk and single to bring Ben Lumsden to the plate as the potential tying run with one out.

Caden Glauber, who pitched 2⅓ innings of shutout relief in a 6-2 win over Mississippi on Friday, came on and struck out Lumsden and Hall to earn his fifth save.

Troy 12, Mississippi 8: Jabe Boroff hit the tiebreaking double in a four-run seventh inning and Troy and its potent offense kept the program's first College World Series appearance going with a win over Mississippi in an elimination game Sunday.

The Trojans (39-31) erased a four-run deficit to post their 18th come-from-behind win of the season and advanced to another elimination game Tuesday against West Virginia (46-16), which lost 5-2 against North Carolina on Sunday night.

The Rebels (41-23) went two-games-and-out in their first trip to Charles Schwab Field since winning the national championship in 2022. Southeastern Conference teams had won 13 straight against non-SEC opponents in the CWS before Ole Miss lost to North Carolina and Troy.

The Trojans, who lost 7-5 to the Mountaineers on Friday, ramped up an offense that arrived in Omaha averaging 10.6 runs per game in the NCAA Tournament.

Hamlin wins third straight at Pocono

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — With every Denny Hamlin victory, speculation about his future grows and talks of retirement are questioned.

He signed a two-year extension with Joe Gibbs Racing that runs through 2027 and he insists it will be his last season. At 45, he's the oldest full-time Cup Series driver in the field, but he can't stop winning.

Hamlin won the NASCAR Cup Series race at Pocono Raceway on Sunday for his third consecutive victory and passed the late Kyle Busch for sole possession of ninth place on the all-time wins list.

Hamlin last week won his 63rd race in NASCAR's top series to tie his former Joe Gibbs Racing teammate on the all-time wins list. His eighth career victory at Pocono pushed him ahead of Busch for sole possession of ninth.

His recent success has renewed talk that Hamlin should

reconsider retirement when his deal with Gibbs expires.

"I think for Denny, he wants to leave on top, right? He doesn't want to leave where it was one year too long," said JGR co-owner Heather Gibbs. "At this rate, what he's producing out there, it's not something you would not consider. We want the best drivers in our cars. Our teams work to put the best cars on track.

"If it works out and he's still producing and he wants to, it's a huge commitment for him, he's got his own team that he kind of wants to run. It's hard when you dangle checkered flags in front of him, too. He so far has put a stop to such talk despite performing at the highest level of his long career."

Hamlin, who wasn't even sure he wanted to return to honor this two-year extension after losing the championship in last November's season finale and then the December death of his father in a house fire, under-

stands he's performing at a high level.

Sunday's win comes nearly 20 years to the date after his first career victory, which was at Pocono on June 11, 2006. He swept the races at the Pennsylvania track that year.

Hamlin said Pocono has become "like a second home for me."

"First win here, so special here. Pocono has mastered the fan experience from the crowd in the stands to the infield here," Hamlin said. "Just so happy for this whole Joe Gibbs Racing team. The pit crew is flawless right now. We got it all going."

Despite 64 career victories, this marks the first time in his career that Hamlin has won three consecutive races.

The feat tied Richard Petty, who did it in 1966 and 1967, Bobby Allison in 1971 and Darrell Waltrip in 1981. Petty, Allison and Waltrip are all in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

He also took a job at NAS-

CAR, noting that it was technically his ninth victory at Pocono, but he was stripped of the victory in 2022 when NASCAR said he and Busch's car's failed post-race inspection.

"They aren't getting that checkered flag back," Hamlin said.

Tyler Reddick, who drives for the 23XI Racing team owned by Hamlin and Michael Jordan, finished second as Toyota took the top two spots. Hamlin is now 19 points behind Reddick in the Cup Series standings.

When Hamlin tied Busch for all-time wins last week, Hamlin celebrated with a special tribute to Busch. On Sunday, he collected the checkered flag and skipped any tributes to Busch, who died unexpectedly of sepsis at age 41 last month.

Toyota drivers have won 10 of 16 races this season, and JGR has accounted for five of them.

William Byron finished third in a Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports.

Hamilton earns first win with Ferrari; Antonelli breaks down

Associated Press

MONTMELO, Spain — Lewis Hamilton's wait for a Formula 1 race victory with Ferrari is over.

Yellow helmet still on, Hamilton pumped his fists and took a running leap into the arms of his fellow crimson-clad crew members after parking his Ferrari in the No. 1 spot on winner's row following his masterful race at the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix on Sunday.

It had been a throwback, vintage Hamilton win. A victory that showed the seven-time champion, whose last title came in 2020, may just be back to his best at age 41.

Hamilton thanked and thanked again his teammates, the engineers back in Italy, his family and his fans in an emotional celebration for the driver who once dominated the sport but hadn't won a race in nearly two years.

"I watched Ferrari have all this success when I was younger and wondered what it would be like to win in this car. I'm forever grateful and hopefully the first of many,"

Hamilton said from the winner's podium while thousands cheered.

His record-extending victory No. 106 may have also ignited a title fight with a Mercedes that looked untouchable following a rulebook overhaul this year and had won all six previous races.

"They are all special in their own way, but this one is something else," Hamilton said about the importance of a victory that ended a run of 40 races without a win, 30 of which had come since his move from Mercedes to Ferrari at the end of 2024. His last win had come at the Belgian GP in July of that year."

To sweeten the day for Ferrari, Hamilton was already cruising to victory when Kimi Antonelli, the F1 points leader, came to a stop on the track with just four laps to go when his Mercedes suffered an electrical shutdown.

That ended the young Italian's incredible run of five straight wins.

Antonelli still leads with 156 points after seven races, but Hamilton has closed the gap and has 115. George Russell guided his Mercedes to a second-place finish and now has

106 points.

It was Hamilton's seventh win at this track, a record at Montmelo, and his first here since 2021.

Pitstop strategy

Hamilton took advantage of fresher tires and a superior pitstop strategy by Ferrari to overtake the pole-sitting Russell.

Ferrari opted for a three-stop race to give Hamilton fresher tires on a track that is known to be hard on rubber, especially with track temperatures at 122 degrees Fahrenheit. The quicker wheels had him slip ahead of Russell, who, like Antonelli, was on a two-stop plan, when a bit of luck sealed it for Hamilton.

A stoppage by Fernando Alonso's Aston Martin brought out a virtual safety car, and Ferrari called in Hamilton for his final stop while his rivals couldn't push the pace, and he emerged in the lead with a fresh set of tires.

Seeing Hamilton slip away, Russell was left to protect his position from Antonelli.

Rockies rout A's, set team mark with 23 runs

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Willi Castro had seven RBIs, Hunter Goodman got five hits and the Colorado Rockies set a franchise record for runs Sunday in a 23-9 victory over the Athletics on a 101-degree afternoon at Las Vegas Ballpark.

Goodman and Castro each hit two of Colorado's six homers. Troy Johnston and TJ Rumfield also went deep for the last-place Rockies (27-45), who ended a three-game losing streak.

Castro finished with four hits, including a grand slam off Scott Barlow in the eighth inning. Goodman drove in four runs and Kyle Karros also had four hits as the Rockies piled up 24 in all — one shy of the team mark established against Houston on Sept. 25, 2011.

"You've just got to make contact and the ball's gonna go," Goodman said.

The A's ended their Las Vegas homestand with a 4-2 record, winning three-game series against Milwaukee and Colorado at the home of their Triple-A affiliate. The big league club plans to move to the city full time in 2028.

Tomoyuki Sugano (7-4) got the win despite giving up eight runs and nine hits in five innings. Eiberson Castellano tossed three scoreless innings to earn a save in his major league debut.

Giants 5, Cubs 1: Logan Webb and Caleb Kilian combined on a seven-hitter and host San Francisco beat Chicago to avoid a series sweep.

Matt Chapman homered and drove in two runs to help the Giants finish a 2-4 homestand. Jung Hoo Lee added two hits.

Webb (4-4) allowed seven hits in eight innings without a walk, matched his season high of seven strikeouts and pitched out of jams with runners in scoring position in three of the first five innings.

Nationals 10, Mariners 1: Miles Mikolas (2-5) pitched sev-

en shutout innings in relief of an opener, and host Washington scored five runs in the fourth inning to pull away from Seattle.

Keibert Ruiz and James Wood homered for the Nationals. The Mariners have lost four of five and went 4-6 on their road trip that included stops in Detroit and Baltimore.

With the game tied at 1-1, Washington opened the fourth with five consecutive hits against Emerson Hancock (5-3). The key hits included Ruiz's go-ahead single to left, Daylen Lile's RBI double to right and Nasim Nuñez's two-run single against a drawn-in infield.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 3: Ben Rice hit a tiebreaking home run in the ninth inning, José Caballero added a three-run blast and visiting New York beat Toronto for its sixth win in seven games.

Paul Goldschmidt hit an infield single off Braydon Fisher (2-2) to begin the ninth and advanced on Fisher's throwing error. After Ryan McMahon ran for Goldschmidt, Rice drilled a 381-foot homer, his 19th.

Marlins 4, Pirates 2: Max Meyer (7-0) allowed one run and struck out nine in six innings, stranding nine runners in visiting Miami's victory over Paul Skenes and Pittsburgh.

Skenes (6-6), who fell to 0-4 in six starts since last winning May 12, gave up home runs to Heriberto Hernández and Joe Mack in the second inning. The Pirates ace struck out 10, including the side in the fourth and sixth, and gave up four hits with one walk in six innings.

Padres 5, Orioles 2: Rodolfo Durán homered and drove in three runs, Fernando Tatis Jr. had two RBIs and visiting San Diego beat Baltimore.

Walker Buehler (4-3) allowed one run in five innings for the Padres, who won consecutive games for the first time since May 22-23.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 3: Gabriel Moreno's go-ahead solo

home run in the eighth inning lifted visiting Arizona over Cincinnati to give manager Torey Lovullo his 700th win.

Diamondbacks right-hander Zac Gallen had four strikeouts in six innings to move past Brandon Webb into second place on the franchise list with 1,067. Juan Morillo (2-3) worked a scoreless seventh for the win and Paul Sewald pitched a hitless ninth to earn his 17th save.

Mets 8, Braves 1: A.J. Ewing finished a triple shy of the cycle and host New York beat Atlanta to hand the top team in the majors its second consecutive series loss.

Ewing had an unusual RBI double during a four-run first inning against Bryce Elder to help the last-place Mets (32-39) take two of three games from the Braves (46-25). Mike Yastrzemski's throw from left field following Ewing's double caromed off the pole holding up the netting behind the third base line.

Royals 4, Astros 0: Stephen Kolek (4-1) scattered five hits while pitching into the eighth inning, Maikel Garcia had three hits and three RBIs, and host Kansas City beat Houston in its series finale to snap a four-game losing streak.

Bobby Witt Jr. celebrated his 26th birthday with two singles, two stolen bases and two tidy plays in the field. First, he snagged a liner to rob the Astros' Joey Loperfido of a base hit, then Witt casually gloved his sharp grounder to start an inning-ending double play.

Twins 5, Cardinals 4: Ryan Kreidler's RBI double off the center-field wall in the eighth inning scored Luke Keaschall and completed host Minnesota's comeback in a win against St. Louis.

Kreidler had a pinch-hit single and scored the tying run in the seventh for the Twins, who took two of three games in the series. Victor Caratini hit a two-

run homer for Minnesota in the fourth.

White Sox 6, Dodgers 4: Colson Montgomery, Sam Antonacci and Chase Meidroth homered in host Chicago's six-run sixth inning and the White Sox held on to top Los Angeles.

Montgomery added a double and Andrew Benintendi finished with two hits as Chicago won its eighth straight series at home and took a set from the Dodgers for the first time since 2014. It was also the White Sox's fourth win in their last five overall.

Brewers 4, Phillies 0: Jackson Chourio and Blake Perkins homered, Kyle Harrison pitched three-hit ball for six innings and host Milwaukee tagged Philadelphia ace Cristopher Sánchez for all its runs.

Harrison (8-1) rebounded from his worst outing in what has been an otherwise solid season. The left-hander gave up eight runs, eight hits and three homers in 2½ innings in a June 8 start against the Athletics in Las Vegas after not allowing more than two runs in any of his first 11 outings.

Rays 8, Angels 3: Junior Caminero hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning, and visiting Tampa Bay avoided a series sweep with a victory over Los Angeles.

Victor Mesa Jr. added a two-run homer later in a five-run eighth for the Rays, who have won four of six despite losing the first two in their weekend visit to Angel Stadium. Ben Williams connected early for his second career homer.

Rangers 6, Red Sox 4: Wyatt Langford hit Connelly Early's first pitch over the Green Monster completely out of Fenway Park, and Kyle Higashioka launched a three-run homer to help visiting Texas avert a three-game sweep with a victory over Boston.

Justin Foscue had three hits and Brandon Nimmo added two doubles and two RBIs for the Rangers, who finished a 3-3 trip.