

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy to re-establish 2nd Fleet

### Pentagon sees need to counter Russian activity in Atlantic

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy announced Friday that it will re-establish its 2nd Fleet to oversee assets and operations along the nation's East Coast and in the northern Atlantic Ocean as it seeks to counter increased Russian naval activity in the region.

The move is part of a revamped Pentagon National Defense Strategy that places competition with near-peer military adversaries, including Russia and China, above the threat of terrorism, Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, said Friday.

"The security environment continues to grow more challenging and complex," he said in Norfolk, Va. "That's why today, we're standing up [2nd] Fleet to address these changes, particularly in the North Atlantic."

The unit will be responsible for operations and administrative duties for ships,

aircraft and other Navy forces assigned for duty along the East Coast and throughout the northern Atlantic, according to a Navy statement. The fleet also will plan overseas operations throughout the area and will provide forces to respond to contingencies.

In 2011, 2nd Fleet was absorbed into Fleet Forces Command, a decision described by the service at the time as a cost-saving measure. It will report to Fleet Forces Command.

It was not immediately clear when the new fleet will be officially established, who will command it or how large it will be. A Navy spokesman declined to comment, saying decisions were still being made.

The U.S. Naval Institute, citing a memorandum signed this week by Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer, reported 2nd Fleet would be re-established July 1 and based in Norfolk.

When it was disbanded, 2nd Fleet was

commanded by a three-star admiral.

With the Atlantic relatively free from military tensions at the time it was shut down, 2nd Fleet was primarily focused on supporting humanitarian missions and aiding counter-narcotics missions with 4th Fleet, assigned to U.S. Southern Command.

But U.S. warships have increasingly been called upon for missions in support of NATO allies in the Atlantic since Russia seized Ukraine's Crimea region in 2014. Since then, Russia has increased the tempo of its naval operations in Atlantic waters, including increased deployments of submarines and occasional tense confrontations, such as incidents in which Russian aircraft have buzzed American warships.

Re-establishing 2nd Fleet will allow the unit's senior leadership to focus much of their efforts on countering those Russian moves, a Navy official said.

## Guard deployment to border could cost \$182 million

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The deployment of about 2,000 National Guard troops to aid Customs and Border Protection along the U.S.-Mexico border is expected to cost about \$182 million, a Pentagon spokeswoman said.

The money would fund the troops through the end of September, Pentagon chief spokeswoman Dana White told reporters Thursday. The 2,000 troops are roughly half the number that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis authorized to deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border to assist law enforcement with security, she said. President Donald Trump has long railed against the state of the nation's

southern border, describing it as porous and allowing undocumented immigrants and drugs to flow into the United States.

Customs and Border Protection has only formally requested about 2,000 National Guardsmen, thus far, White said. However, she indicated negotiations for deploying more troops were ongoing.

The \$182 million would be funded primarily through National Guard operations and maintenance budgets, typically used among Guard units to cover the cost of training, and from military personnel accounts.

White said the Pentagon had "no concern" that using money meant to fund Guard units

training would hurt their combat readiness.

National Guard members began deploying to the border last month after Mattis' authorized the operation. They operate under the control of the governors of the border states.

So far, more than 1,000 troops have deployed to border areas in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and California. Their mission is to aid the Department of Homeland Security, primarily by providing capabilities such as aviation, surveillance, engineering, communications and logistical operations.

Mattis told lawmakers last month that the troops would not be authorized to make arrests.

"These forces will not in-

volve themselves with the migrants themselves or have any law enforcement duties," he told the House Armed Services Committee on April 12.

Trump ordered Mattis to approve the deployments last month after growing frustrated with inaction on his promised border wall, a major theme during his campaign that he has said he intends to see through.

Trump is the third consecutive president to send National Guard troops to the border. George W. Bush deployed about 6,400 Guardsmen to the border from 2006 to 2008. In 2010, Barack Obama sent about 1,200 troops to the border.

# VP's White House doctor abruptly resigns

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — A White House doctor who raised concerns about Dr. Ronny Jackson, the president's former physician and scuttled nominee to run the Department of Veterans Affairs, has resigned.

Jennifer Pena, the vice president's lead doctor, left her position on Friday, according to a White House spokeswoman.

"The Vice President's Office was informed today by the White House Medical Unit of the resignation," Alyssa Farah, the vice president's spokeswoman, said in a statement. "Physicians

assigned to the Vice President report to the White House Medical Unit and thus any resignation would go entirely through the medical unit, not the vice president's office."

Pena did not respond to requests for comment.

Pena clashed repeatedly with Jackson, whose nomination to run VA was abandoned amid allegations of liberally prescribing drugs, drinking on the job and creating a hostile workforce, according to a senior White House official.

CNN reported Tuesday that the vice president's doctor had raised concerns inside the White

House that Jackson may have violated patient privacy protections for Mike Pence's wife and sought to intimidate the doctor during confrontations over the episode.

CNN did not name the doctor in the report, saying anonymity was requested as a condition of getting the memos.

A person familiar with the concerns said Pena is the doctor who delineated those concerns.

Jackson, a Navy rear admiral and former combat physician who served in Iraq, came under scrutiny after the office of Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., released a list of allegations about him from

more than 20 unnamed current and former work colleagues.

President Donald Trump has decried the allegations as "not true" and has attacked Tester, who is up for re-election in November.

Some of the allegations, including that Jackson crashed a government car after drinking, have been called into doubt by the Secret Service and the White House.

Officials announced last week that Jackson would not return as Trump's personal physician but would continue to work within the White House Medical Unit.

## NASA launches spacecraft to Mars

*Associated Press*

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A robotic geologist armed with a hammer and quake monitor rocketed toward Mars on Saturday, aiming to explore the red planet's mysterious insides.

In a twist, NASA launched the Mars InSight lander from California rather than Florida's Cape Canaveral. It was the first interplanetary mission to depart from the West Coast, drawing pre-dawn crowds to Vandenberg Air Force Base and rocket watchers down the California coast into Baja.

The spacecraft will take more than six months to get to Mars and start its unprecedented geologic excavations, traveling 300 million miles to get there.

InSight will dig deeper into Mars than ever before — nearly 16 feet — to take the planet's temperature. It will also attempt to make the first measurements of marsquakes using a high-tech seismometer.

Also aboard the Atlas V rocket: a pair of mini satellites, or CubeSats, meant to trail InSight all the way to Mars in a first-of-its-kind technology demonstration. The \$1 billion mission involves scientists from the U.S., France, Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

"I can't describe to you in words how very excited I am ... to go off to Mars," said project manager Tom Hoffman from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "It's going to be awesome."

NASA hasn't put a spacecraft down on Mars since the Curiosity rover in 2012. The U.S. is the only country to successfully land and operate a spacecraft at Mars. Only about 40 percent of all missions to Mars from all countries have proven successful.

If all goes well, the three-legged InSight will descend by parachute and engine firings onto a flat equatorial region of Mars — believed to be free of big, potentially dangerous rocks — on Nov. 26. Once down, it will stay put, using a mechanical arm to place the science instruments on the surface.

"This mission will probe the interior of another terrestrial planet, giving us an idea of the size of the core, the mantle, the crust and our ability then to compare that with the Earth," said NASA's chief scientist Jim Green.

InSight's principal scientist, Bruce Banerdt of JPL, said Mars is ideal for learning how the rocky planets of our solar

system formed 4.5 billion years ago. Unlike our active Earth, Mars hasn't been transformed by plate tectonics and other processes, he noted.

Over the course of two Earth years — or one Martian year — scientists expect InSight's three main experiments to provide a true 3-D image of Mars.

The lander is equipped with a seismometer for measuring marsquakes, a self-hammering probe for burrowing beneath the surface, and a radio system for tracking the spacecraft's position and planet's wobbly rotation, thereby revealing the size and composition of Mars' core.

It was so foggy at Vandenberg that spectators there could hear and feel the roar and rumble of the rocket but couldn't see it. It was a marvelous sight, though, farther south. The rocket's bright orange flame was visible for some time as it arced upward across the dark sky west of greater Los Angeles.

Not even two weeks on the job, NASA's new administrator, Jim Bridenstine, observed the launch on monitors at space agency headquarters in Washington.

"I can't think of a better way to start my day!" Bridenstine said via Twitter. "We're going to Mars!"

## 10 SEALs kicked out of service over drugs

*The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The Navy is kicking out 11 members of a Virginia Beach, Va.-based special warfare unit for drug use, including 10 SEALs, a spokesman said Friday.

They tested positive for drugs in March and April, according to Senior Chief Jayme Pastoric, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Group Two.

The servicemembers affected are 10 SEALs and one member of their support personnel.

"The Navy as well as NSW uphold a zero tolerance policy for the use of illicit drugs and as such these individuals will be held accountable for their actions," Pastoric said in an email to The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, Va.

Pastoric said members diagnosed as drug-dependent are offered treatment prior to their administrative separation.



# Trump to NRA: Elect GOP to save gun rights

Associated Press

DALLAS — Months after the horror of the Parkland school shootings in Florida, President Donald Trump stood before cheering members of the National Rifle Association on Friday and implored them to elect more Republicans to defend gun rights.

Trump claimed that Democrats want to “outlaw guns” and said if the nation takes that drastic step, it might as well ban all vans and trucks because they are the new weapons for “maniac terrorists.”

“We will never give up our freedom. We will live free, and we will die free,” Trump said, as he sought to rally pro-gun voters for the 2018 congressional elections. “We’ve got to do great in ’18.”

Activists energized by shoot-

ings at schools, churches and elsewhere are also focused on the elections.

In the aftermath of the February school shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, which left 17 dead and many more wounded, Trump had temporarily strayed from gun rights dogma.

During a televised meeting with lawmakers in late February, he wagged his finger at a Republican senator and scolded him for being “afraid of the NRA,” declaring he would stand up to the group and finally get results in quelling gun violence. But he later backpedaled.

He was clearly back in the fold at the NRA’s annual convention, pledging that Americans’ Second Amendment right to bear arms will “never ever be under siege as long as I am your president.”

Trump’s speech in Dallas was his fourth consecutive appearance at the NRA’s annual convention. His gun comments were woven into a campaign-style speech that touched on the Russia probe, the 2016 campaign, his efforts in North Korea and Iran, and his fight against illegal immigration.

In strikingly personal criticism of members of Congress, he decried what he said were terribly weak immigration laws, declaring, “We have laws that were written by people that truly could not love our country.”

While the president veered wildly off topic at times — speaking about entertainer Kanye West’s recent support and former Secretary of State John Kerry’s bicycle accident three years ago — he repeatedly returned to the message of the day: his support

for the Second Amendment.

Trump has enjoyed strong backing from the NRA, which spent about \$30 million in support of his presidential campaign. He was introduced by Vice President Mike Pence, who pointed to his own support for gun rights and accused the news media of failing to tell “the whole story” that “firearms in the hands of law-abiding citizens” make communities safer.

One of the Parkland student survivors, David Hogg, criticized Trump’s appearance in advance.

“It’s kind of hypocritical of him to go there after saying so many politicians bow to the NRA and are owned by them,” Hogg said. “It proves that his heart and his wallet are in the same place.”

## Judge poses pointed questions about Manafort charges at hearing

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A federal judge on Friday asked pointed questions about special counsel Robert Mueller’s authority to bring charges against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and suggested prosecutors’ true motive is getting Manafort to “sing” against the president.

Manafort’s lawyers argued at a hearing in Alexandria that the tax and bank fraud charges are far afield from Mueller’s mandate to investigate Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether any coordination with Trump associates occurred.

“I don’t see what relationship this indictment has with what the special counsel is investigating,” U.S. Senior Judge T.S. Ellis III, a Reagan appointee, told government lawyers at Friday’s hearing.

The Virginia indictment alleges Manafort hid tens of millions of dollars he earned advising pro-Russia politi-

cians in Ukraine from the IRS, money earned from 2006 through 2015. The indictment accuses Manafort of fraudulently obtaining millions in loans from financial institutions later, after his Ukrainian work dwindled. Prosecutors say that part of the conspiracy stretched from 2015 through January 2017, including the months while he was working on the Trump campaign.

Under questioning from Ellis, government lawyers admitted Manafort had been under investigation for years in the Eastern District of Virginia before Mueller was appointed special counsel. And Ellis said it was implausible to think the charges against Manafort, which primarily concern his business dealings and tax returns from about 2005 through 2015, could have a real connection to President Donald Trump’s campaign.

Ellis suggested the real reason Mueller is pursuing Manafort is to pressure him to

“sing” against Trump, though he also noted such a strategy is a “time-honored practice” for prosecutors and not necessarily illegal. Ellis went on to say defense lawyers are naturally concerned defendants in that situation will not only sing but “compose” — meaning they’ll make up facts.

At the hearing, government lawyer Michael Dreeben responded to Ellis that the special counsel’s mandate is broad, and Manafort fits within that jurisdiction because of his connections to both Trump and Ukrainian and Russian officials.

“We needed to understand and explore those relationships and follow the money where it led,” Dreeben said.

Dreeben also argued that the Justice Department has broad discretion to set its own rules for what should be designated to the special counsel’s jurisdiction, and that a judge has no role trying to regulate it.

## Stormy Daniels returns to Long Island strip club

Associated Press

NEW YORK — “The Storm Rolls Back In” — and we’re not talking about the weather.

That’s how a Long Island strip club advertised Stormy Daniels’ return this weekend to the venue where the porn actress first appeared in February.

Since then, Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, has taken center stage in the nation’s tumultuous political life. She says she had a sexual encounter with Donald Trump before he became president. And Trump’s personal attorney, Michael Cohen, paid her \$130,000 to keep silent before the 2016 election.

Employees at the Gossip club in the hamlet of Melville told The Associated Press that she had two performances on Friday and two more coming up on Saturday.

The woman whose face appears daily on television arrived in an SUV, flanked by bodyguards as she walked in briskly.

# Big Island jolted by lava, earthquakes, gas

Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii — Sputtering lava, strong earthquakes and toxic gas jolted the southern part of the Big Island of Hawaii as magma shifted underneath a restless Kilauea volcano.

The trifecta of natural threats forced stressed-out residents to evacuate and prompted the closure of parks and college campuses on Friday.

Multiple new vents, from which lava is spurting out of the ground, formed in the same residential neighborhood where molten rock first emerged Thursday. At midday, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck — the biggest of hundreds of quakes last week and the largest to strike the state in 43 years. Residents were warned to watch out for dangerous levels of sulfuric gas.

Hawaiian Volcano Observa-

tory spokeswoman Janet Babb said the earthquakes reflected the volcano adjusting to the shifting magma.

"The magma moving down the rift zones, it causes stress on the south flank of the volcano," Babb said. "We're just getting a series of earthquakes."

She said scientists were studying whether the quakes would affect the eruption.

The lava lake at Kilauea's summit crater dropped significantly, suggesting the magma was moving eastward toward Puna, a mostly rural district of forests, papaya farms and lava fields left by past eruptions.

Officials ordered more than 1,700 people out of Big Island communities near the lava, warning of the dangers of spattering hot rock and high levels of sulfuric gas that could threaten the elderly and people with

breathing problems. Two homes have burned.

Julie Woolsey evacuated her home late Thursday as a volcanic vent, or an opening in the Earth's surface where lava emerges, sprouted up on her street in the Leilani Estates neighborhood.

Lava was about 1,000 yards from her home, which Woolsey built on a lot purchased for \$35,000 11 years ago after living on Maui became too expensive.

"We knew we were building on an active volcano," she said, but added that she thought the danger from lava was a remote possibility. She said she thought it was remote even days ago when she began packing and preparing to evacuate.

"You can't really predict what Pele is going to do," Woolsey said, referring to the Hawaiian volcano goddess. "It's hard to

keep up. We're hoping our house doesn't burn down."

She let her chickens loose, loaded her dogs into her truck and evacuated with her daughter and grandson. She's staying at a cabin with her daughter's in-laws.

Local authorities held a community meeting with residents from lava-affected areas Friday night at Pahoa High School.

State Sen. Russell Ruderman said he's experienced many earthquakes, but the magnitude 5.4 temblor that hit first "scared the heck out of me." Merchandise fell off the shelves in a natural food store he owns.

When the larger quake followed, he said, he felt strong shaking in Hilo, the island's largest city that is roughly 45 minutes from the rural Puna area. "We're all rattled right now," he said.

## CIA nominee to stand against brutal detentions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the CIA has told senators privately that she would stand firm against any effort to restart the brutal detention and interrogation program the spy agency ran after 9/11, administration officials said Friday.

In comments meant to soften the public profile of Gina Haspel before her confirmation hearing on Wednesday, two administration officials said she was not the "architect" of the program but a "line officer" who never interrogated any terrorism suspects. The officials, who are familiar with her meetings on Capitol Hill, were not authorized to discuss her private conversations with the senators and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

It's unclear if Haspel's pledge will be enough to sway Democrats who say the acting CIA director should be disqualified because she was the chief of base at a covert detention site in Thailand where two terrorism

suspects were subjected to waterboarding — a technique that simulates drowning.

Haspel's vow to fight any attempt to resurrect the program puts her in the same camp as Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who has advised Trump that he doesn't think torture is an effective interrogation tactic. But it's at odds with Trump, who spoke in the campaign about toughening the U.S. approach to fighting extremists and vowed to authorize waterboarding and a "hell of a lot worse."

Democrats, including Sen. Ron Wyden, of Oregon, continue to ask the administration to declassify more detail about Haspel's involvement in the program, which stained America's reputation abroad.

"Nominees make all kinds of promises when they're trying to get confirmed," Wyden said. "The Senate and the public need to know what kind of person is making those assurances, or else they're just words."

## Source: Trump weighs candidate to head VA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is considering the head of a veterans' medical association as it reviews potential candidates to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A White House official said Dr. Samuel Spagnolo, the president of the National Association of Veterans Affairs Physicians and Dentists, plans to meet with White House staff this week about the VA vacancy. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to describe internal deliberations.

President Donald Trump is seeking a nominee to lead the VA after White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson withdrew his nomination for the post.

White House officials last week met with former Florida Rep. Jeff Miller, a Republican who once led the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Ron Nichol, a senior adviser to The Boston Consulting Group who helped organize the pres-

ident's transition.

Acting VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, a former Pentagon undersecretary for personnel and readiness, is also under consideration for the post.

Trump may meet with potential contenders for VA secretary this week, the official said.

Spagnolo is a George Washington University Medical School professor who has had several academic and administrative appointments to the VA since 1972. According to his biography, Spagnolo served as the medical chest consultant to President Ronald Reagan following the president's attempted assassination in 1981.

The White House has been searching for the right person to lead the massive federal agency, with 360,000 employees serving 9 million veterans. Trump chose Jackson for the post in March after firing former Obama administration official David Shulkin following an ethics scandal.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Store sued over no-Spanish policy

**CA** SAN DIEGO — Federal officials said an Albertsons grocery store in San Diego subjected Hispanic employees to harassment and a hostile work environment by implementing a no-Spanish-language policy.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit Thursday alleging store managers publicly reprimanded Hispanic employees caught speaking Spanish.

The suit claims the store barred workers from speaking Spanish around non-Spanish speakers even during breaks or when talking to Spanish-speaking customers.

The EEOC claims no action was taken despite employee complaints, causing some workers to transfer to other stores.

## Arrows removed from deer shot in face, body

**OR** PORTLAND — Oregon State Police said authorities have removed arrows from two deer, one of which was shot through its face.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Thursday that the deer in the Shady Cove area were shot illegally. Authorities began receiving calls about the deer last week.

The adult doe and a yearling doe, shot through the head and body, have been released in good health.

A reward for information leading to the arrest or citation of those responsible for the shooting has been bumped to \$2,600.

Steve Niemela, a Rogue District wildlife biologist, said the deer have a very good chance of survival.

## Police recruit, officer help man flee fire

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Authorities said a Pittsburgh police recruit with just five weeks of training and his training officer helped rescue an 87-year-old man from a burning city home.

Steve McGouldrick and the recruit, Devon Koontz, were on patrol when they heard someone screaming about 6:35 p.m. Tuesday and soon spotted the fire.

The officers entered the smoke-filled home through separate doors and soon found the man who was shouting. The man told them he couldn't find his elderly father, but Koontz and the man's son soon found him in a front hallway and got him outside.

Koontz and the 87-year-old man were treated for smoke inhalation.

## 2 students held after school hit lists found

**NC** FRANKLIN — Authorities in North Carolina said two students are in custody after school administrators found multiple "hit lists" with names of students, a principal and community members, and deputies found a cache of weapons at one student's home.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office told local news outlets the lists were created by two sophomores at Franklin High School and were discovered Tuesday. Schools Superintendent Chris Baldwin said the students intended to do harm, leading the sheriff's office to conduct an investigation.

Among the names on the list was Franklin High Principal Barry Woody.

## Woman finds strange fish during weekly jog

**NJ** OCEAN GATE — A New Jersey woman going for her weekly jog said she was shocked to discover a 6-foot-long sea creature she said looked like a crocodile.

NJ.com reported Stephanie Hall estimated the dead fish she found washed ashore Wednesday to be nearly 6 feet long. Pictures of the fish indicate it is a sturgeon, which the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration reports can grow up to 14 feet in length and can weigh over 400 pounds.

## Boy, father attacked by bobcat showing no fear

**ME** STOW — Wardens in Maine said they are searching for a bobcat that attacked a 17-year-old boy and his father.

The Plowden family first encountered the animal Wednesday night in their backyard in Stow. Carolyn Plowden told the Sun-Journal that the large cat showed no fear and was acting strangely by walking all around the yard and rolling around.

Her husband, John, and son, Justin, went outside to confirm the animal was not a protected lynx when the bobcat suddenly lunged and bit Justin Plowden's face.

The cat clawed the boy's back and also clawed the father's arm. It ran off when a neighbor shot at it.

## Bakery that opened in 1902 is closing

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City bakery that first opened its doors in 1902 said it is closing this summer amid a changing business

landscape.

Glaser's Bake Shop, which has been operated by the Glaser family for three generations, said it will close July 1. WABC-TV reported the bakery is best known for its black-and-white cookie, a staple of New York City dining.

Throughout its existence, the bakery withstood the test of time — remaining cash-only and retaining the original flooring and window display.

Owner Herb Glaser said he's ready for retirement, as working at a bakery means long hours and hard work.

## Barn blaze kills thousands of turkeys

**MN** FRAZEE — A barn fire killed as many as 8,000 turkeys on a northern Minnesota farm near Frazee.

WDAY-TV reported that the blaze at New Life Farms of Perham began about 7 a.m. Thursday and quickly engulfed the building.

Firefighters worked to save nearby barns that also were full of birds.

The cause of the fire wasn't determined immediately. The state fire marshal's office will investigate.

## New baby orca seen in canal with its family

**WA** HOOD CANAL — There's a new baby orca whale hanging out in the Hood Canal area of Washington state.

A whale-watching group, Puget Sound Express, said it spotted Monday a healthy, newborn calf with the whale pod known as the T65As.

The family of six is led by a mother whale who has had five orca calves since she was born in 1986.

From wire reports

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# Pujols becomes 32nd to get 3,000 hits

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Los Angeles Angels slugger Albert Pujols got his 3,000th hit, reaching the mark with a broken-bat single Friday night against Seattle and becoming the 32nd player in major league history to join the exclusive club.

Pujols dumped the single into shallow right field in the fifth inning against Mike Leake. It came on Pujols' sixth attempt after getting to 2,999 a day earlier.

Pujols received a standing ovation from the crowd at Safeco Field and was given the baseball and first base as a memento. His teammates all greeted him on the field before action resumed. The Angels won the game 5-0, and Pujols collected hit No. 3,001 in the ninth inning with a two-run single.

"I was really excited, but at the same time you still have a game you need to play and you still need to focus to win that game," Pujols said. "That's what I told those guys. Let's go win that game so it can taste a little better with a win."

The 38-year-old Pujols nearly got the mark in the first inning, but his hard liner was right at shortstop Jean Segura. Pujols walked on a 3-2 pitch leading off the fourth

inning after fouling off four two-strike pitches.

Pujols joined Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez as the only players in baseball history with 3,000 hits and 600 homers. He's the first player to reach the mark since Adrian Beltre last year against Baltimore.

"I'm aware of the legacy and the people that I tie and am on the same page right now," Pujols said. "But at the end of the day it's about winning a championship. Nothing would be more special than in September and October and playing in the playoffs and bringing a championship back to the city of Anaheim."

Pujols reached the precipice of the milestone earlier this week in Anaheim, getting two hits against Baltimore on Wednesday night — including his 620th career homer — before getting No. 2,999 on a second-inning double Thursday night.

He then came to the plate three times with the chance to hit the mark in front of his standing home crowd. But Pujols couldn't quite do it, eventually flying out to right and deflating his eager home fans in the eighth inning of the Angels' 12-3 win.

"Trust me I wanted to do it last night. But it didn't happen last night. It just hap-

pened tonight," Pujols said.

Pujols became the second Dominican player to reach 3,000 hits by joining Beltre. With Suzuki stepping away this week for the remainder of the 2018 season, Beltre is the only active player with more hits than Pujols.

And it may be a while before another player joins the club. The next closest player to 3,000 is Miguel Cabrera, who is more than 300 hits away. After Cabrera is Robinson Cano, nearly 600 hits away from the mark.

Few sluggers in baseball history have been more versatile than Pujols, who joins Aaron as the only players with 600 doubles and 600 homers among their 3,000 hits. He is seventh on baseball's career homers list after hitting his 600th last season.

Pujols, who was raised in Santo Domingo before moving to New York and Missouri as a teenager, is the sixth foreign-born player to get 3,000 hits along with Suzuki, Rod Carew, Rafael Palmeiro and Roberto Clemente, who also had exactly 3,000 hits.

A three-time NL MVP with the St. Louis Cardinals, Pujols joined the Angels in 2012. Carew and Pujols are the only players to record their 3,000th hit with the Angels.

## MLB roundup

# Buehler, Dodgers combine for no-hitter

Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico — The Dodgers have the most no-hitters in the majors — and now the most in Mexico, too.

Walker Buehler and a trio of Los Angeles relievers combined for the franchise's 23rd no-hitter in a 4-0 victory over the San Diego Padres in the opener of a neutral-site series Friday night.

Mexico had waited since 1999 to host a regular-season major league game, and it got a historic one: the first no-hitter ever outside the U.S. or Canada and the 12th combined no-hitter in major league history.

**Astros 8, Diamondbacks 0:** Gerrit Cole struck out a career-high 16 in a one-hitter and visiting Houston routed Arizona.

Cole (3-1) topped the strikeout mark of 14 he set three weeks ago against Texas and

allowed only a one-out double to Chris Owings in the fifth inning of his second career complete game.

**Nationals 7, Phillies 3:** Bryce Harper hit two more homers from the leadoff spot and host Washington beat Philadelphia for its sixth straight win.

**Yankees 7, Indians 6:** Rookie Miguel Andujar flared an RBI single off Cody Allen with two outs in the ninth and New York, after blowing 5-0 and 6-5 leads, won for the 13th time in 14 games.

Gleyber Torres, 21, became the youngest Yankees player to hit a home run since John Ellis in 1969.

**Rockies 8, Mets 7:** Charlie Blackmon homered as visiting Colorado raced to a big early lead, and Antonio Marquez (2-3) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings with eight strikeouts and no walks.

**Red Sox 5, Rangers 1:** At Arlington, Texas, Mookie Betts hit his MLB-best 13th homer — his fifth in three games, and Rick Porcello (5-0) struck out eight in six innings, allowing one run and three hits.

**Cardinals 3, Cubs 2:** Miles Mikolas (4-0) allowed seven hits in seven shutout innings and Tommy Pham hit a three-run homer in the second off Jose Quintana (3-2) as host St. Louis won its third straight.

**Rays 6, Blue Jays 2:** Relief pitcher Ryan Yarbrough (2-1) made his case for a spot in host Tampa Bay's injury-depleted rotation by giving up just one hit in five scoreless.

**Twins 6, White Sox 4:** Eduardo Escobar hit two home runs and Brian Dozier broke out of a 3-for-42 slump with a triple in the first, homer leading off the third and single in the seventh. Logan Morrison homered in

his second straight game.

**Athletics 6, Orioles 4:** Jed Lowrie hit a tiebreaking two-out single in the sixth and Khris Davis launched an earlier three-run homer for host Oakland.

**Pirates 6, Brewers 4:** Starling Marte hit a two-run, inside-the-park homer, and rookie Nick Kingham (2-0) won his second straight big league start despite allowing four runs and six hits in 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings as visiting Pittsburgh stopped a four-game skid.

**Royals 4, Tigers 2:** Jorge Soler hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth inning to lift host Kansas City.

**Giants 9, Braves 4:** Jose Bautista doubled in his first at-bat of the season and Atlanta set a SunTrust Park attendance record with 41,807 on hand as 20-year-old Ronald Acuna Jr. went 0-for-4 in his home debut.



# Knights put Sharks on cusp of elimination

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — After a lackluster loss two nights earlier, the Vegas Golden Knights responded with an energetic performance in Game 5 to move one victory away from their second playoff series win, and a berth in the Western Conference final in their inaugural season.

Alex Tuch scored twice to lead Vegas to a 5-3 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Friday night, giving the Golden Knights a 3-2 series lead in their conference semifinal.

"We were physical, we were playing well, and it was a very good game by everyone," Tuch said. "Every game is a must-win, and at times in this series we kind of got away from that, especially Game 4 ... but I thought we came out tonight and we had 20 guys working really hard. It was a strong game by everyone."

James Neal, Erik Haula and Jonathan Marchessault also scored for Vegas. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 27 shots, making save after highlight save until things got interesting late in the third period.

With San Jose trailing 4-0, Kevin Labanc, Tomas Hertl and Boedker scored in a 6:09 span to pull the Sharks within one with 4:16 remaining. However, Marchessault's empty-netter with 21 seconds left sealed it for Vegas.

"Fleury played really well and we left him out to dry a little bit in the third, but I

thought we finished strong," Tuch added.

From a spectacular glove save on Mikel Boedker's point blank shot in the first period, to a pair of back-to-back saves before and after being knocked into the goal midway through the second period, or an incredible pad save on Tomas Hertl early in the third, Fleury was dialed in from the start.

But it wasn't until Marchessault's long-range wrist shot that the 14-year veteran goalie was able to exhale.

"I had a great view, I was right behind it, it was great, I was so happy to see it going in," Fleury said. "It doesn't matter when you get (wins) in a series, as long as you win. They're all big. Obviously, it was nice to be home and get that win."

Martin Jones allowed four goals on 31 shots before being pulled in the third. Aaron Dell came on and stopped all six shots he faced.

Game 6 is Sunday in San Jose.

After looking lethargic in a 4-0 loss in Game 4 on the Sharks' home ice, the Golden Knights came out refreshed and looking more like the team that won Game 1 by a 7-0 final. Vegas set the tone in the first period, outshooting the Sharks 15-7, outhitting them 26-14, and taking a 1-0 lead.

"The other night we played okay, but it wasn't good enough to win. You're not gonna win many games in the playoffs if you don't

play your best hockey," Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said. "Tonight we came out for 50 minutes and played our best hockey and really set the tone. We got into some penalty trouble at the end and gave them a chance to get back in the game."

Neal made sure the Golden Knights didn't head into the locker room empty-handed after a strong first period. Logan Couture blocked Shea Theodore's shot from the point, with the rebound going right to Neal, who drilled it past Jones to give Vegas the lead with 3 seconds left in the period.

"They came out hard and when you're kind of feeding them that transition game, they'll show you what they can do with it," San Jose center Joe Pavelski said. "When that score is within two or three, you're feelin' it. We knew we had to get in there and create a little bit more. We felt we had a chance for sure. The game got better at the end, so that needs to continue now."

**Notes:** A record 18,693 filled T-Mobile Arena for Game 5. ... Veteran D Luca Sbisa saw his first action since Feb. 27 for the Golden Knights, replacing Jon Merrill. ... Vegas F Oscar Lindberg made his playoff debut, taking Tomas Tatar's place on Cody Eakin's line, while Ryan Carpenter also returned to the Golden Knights' lineup, taking Tomas Nosek's spot on Pierre-Edouard Bellemare's line along with William Carrier.

## Lightning beat Bruins in OT, take 3-1 series lead

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Tampa Bay Lightning have a chance to get the last licks on the Boston Bruins at home.

Dan Girardi scored 3:18 into overtime to give Tampa Bay a 4-3 victory over Boston on Friday night in a game that featured more face-licking from Brad Marchand but left the Lightning with a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals as they return to Florida for a potential clincher in Game 5.

"It's going to be the hardest game of the series, and it always is," said Tampa Bay wing Ryan Callahan, who was swabbed by Marchand's tongue in the second period — the second straight opponent to complain about the tactic by the Bruins' forward.

"It's unfortunate that he

goes that low to do that, but doesn't take us off our game," Callahan said. "Hopefully, the league looks at it. I don't know if there is discipline for spitting in someone's face, but to me it's worse if not the same."

Tampa Bay jumped ahead 2-0 for the second straight game. But this time Boston answered with three straight goals, including a short-handed score by Patrice Bergeron — his second of the game — to break a third-period tie.

Steven Stamkos tied it 3-all with seven minutes left in regulation after Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy turned the puck over behind the Boston net after he appeared to be pulled down from behind. Girardi ended it when he got a stick on a pass from Alex Killorn that was deflected off Brian Gion-

ta's skate in the crease.

A two-time NHL goal-scoring champion, Stamkos had just one goal in the playoffs before adding an empty-netter in Game 3.

"It was like Stam said, 'I've had enough,'" Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "It was just a matter of time, but we needed him, and he was there for us."

Brayden Point and Nikita Kucherov also scored for the Lightning, and Andrei Vasilevski made 25 saves.

Tuukka Rask stopped 28 shots for the Bruins. Torey Krug, who was helped off the bench to the locker room in the third period and did not finish the game, had a pair of assists, as did Marchand.

But Marchand — whose nickname "Little Ball of Hate" even made its way to President

Barack Obama when the Bruins visited the White House after their 2011 Stanley Cup win — was the talk of the post-game more for his penchant for licking opponents.

Marchand went nose-to-nose with Callahan after a whistle with 1:21 left in the second, then leaned in and tried to lick Callahan's face. The Lightning forward pushed him away.

"He punched me four times in the face," Marchand said. "He just kept getting close. Nothing big."

The Toronto Maple Leafs also complained about the tactic during their first-round series with Boston. Told that Callahan compared licking to spitting and said it should be penalized accordingly, Marchand said, "That's cute. Good for him."

# Dominant Davis leads Pelicans past Warriors

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Rajon Rondo told Anthony Davis to “take a nap and think about 50” in the hours leading up to a play-off game New Orleans all but had to win to have any hope of staging a playoff upset against defending champion Golden State.

Davis didn’t quite score 50, but his dominance around and above the rim got the Pelicans back in the series.

Highlighted by dunks of the driving, put-back or alley-oop variety, Davis had 33 points to go with 18 rebounds and four steals, and the Pelicans defeated the Warriors 119-100 on Friday night to trim Golden State’s series lead to 2-1.

“He came out aggressive. He set the tone on both ends of the floor,” Rondo said. “He attacked the rim strong tonight.”

Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry added that he “felt real good” during a timeout when he heard Davis say, “We’re not losing this game.”

Davis’ determined play around the basket helped New Orleans outscore the Warriors 54-36 in the paint and outrebound Golden State 54-44.

“Our mindset is to go out there and play, do what we’re supposed to do, follow the game plan and whatever results happen, happen,” Davis said. “We followed the game plan to a tee.”

The Warriors have been known to erase large deficits in a hurry, but each time they tried to do so in Game 3, the Pelicans re-

sponded resoundingly. The Warriors never led by more than a single point and trailed by double digits for almost the entire second half, going down by 25 points in the third quarter and 26 in the fourth.

Golden State shot uncharacteristically poorly from outside, missing 22 of 31 three-point attempts and finishing at 38 percent shooting (35-for-92) overall.

“Most of it is attributed to the Pelicans. Their defense was great,” Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. “They were the aggressors. They brought the necessary force to the game on their home floor and these are the ebbs and flows of the playoffs.”

Jrue Holiday scored 21 for New Orleans and Ian Clark added 18 points against his former club. As in Game 2, Rondo once again had a heated exchange with Warriors forward Draymond Green. This time, Rondo backed it up with 21 assists.

“You can’t get assists without your teammates. They made shots tonight. Guys moved well without the ball,” Rondo said. “It starts with defense. We were able to get stops, get out in transition — create mismatches in transition.”

Klay Thompson scored 26 for Golden State, but missed 13 of 22 shots. Stephen Curry, in his second game back after a sprained knee sidelined him more than a month, missed 13 of 19 shots and finished with 19 points. Kevin Durant scored 22 points for the Warriors, but hit only two shots in the second half.

“I was rushing a little bit and just missed

shots,” Curry said. “I’m not going to get in my head about it. ... You can’t really dwell on anything.”

The Pelicans, meanwhile, made 14 of 31 threes, with Holiday, Clark, Nikola Mirotic and Solomon Hill each hitting three.

**Testy relationship:** Green and Rondo downplayed their after-the-whistle jawing.

“I get nothing out of trying to bait Rondo into anything. That does nothing for me,” Green said, insinuating that Rondo initiated their exchanges. “When have I went up to him and tried to bait him? ... I’ve baited a lot of guys, tried to bait a lot of guys, succeeded quite a bit. I ain’t trying to bait nobody.”

Rondo chalked up the testiness to “just how I am,” and complimented Green’s competitiveness.

“It’s kind of just natural for me to respond, not in a crazy way or anything, but just to let them know we’re not a pushover,” Rondo said. “He’s a great competitor. I love competing against him.”

## Tip-ins

**Warriors:** Green, who was soundly booed by Pelicans fans, had 11 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists.

**Pelicans:** Mirotic finished with 16 points and E’Twaun Moore scored 13. ... New Orleans outrebounded the Warriors 54 to 44 and finished with a 19-12 advantage in second-chance points. ... Got 32 points from reserves, led by Clark.

# Rockets blast Jazz, retake home-court advantage

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — When Houston’s offense gets going, the Rockets are nearly impossible to beat.

James Harden had 25 points and 12 assists to lead Houston to a 113-92 win over Utah in Game 3 of their Western Conference semifinals series on Friday night.

Eric Gordon added 25 points and Chris Paul had 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Rockets. Houston beat Utah in Salt Lake City for the third time this season to take a 2-1 series lead. Game 4 is on Sunday.

The Rockets attacked the Jazz everywhere en route to rolling up 70 points before half-time. When Utah drove Hous-

ton off the perimeter, it yielded repeated slashes to the rim for layups. When the Jazz dropped back in to shore up the interior, the Rockets came up with well-timed three-pointers to keep the heat on.

“We’re just not going to force anything,” Harden said. “Whatever they give us, we’re going to take and we’re going to have confidence in our guys and we’re going to make shots.”

Royce O’ Neale scored 17 points. Alec Burks chipped in 14 points while Rudy Gobert added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Jazz.

Utah never got on track on offense. The Jazz shot poorly over the first three quarters and committed 16 turnovers. Houston scored 19 points off

those miscues.

“I thought our defense was superb,” Rockets coach Mike D’Antoni said. “We were hitting shots all over the place. We just got a hold of it, kept the crowd out of it and kept them on their heels. You could see the guys feeding off good defense after good defense. When you do that and your energy is right, the shots start to go down and good things happen.”

Houston could not have scripted a much better start than what the Rockets produced on Friday night.

A listless first-half effort ultimately sealed Houston’s fate in Game 2. The Rockets avoided enduring another slow start by clamping down on defense and playing efficient offense.

Houston picked apart Utah’s defense practically from the opening tip. The Rockets opened the game by scoring baskets on six of their first seven possessions. Harden capped the flurry with his first basket to put Houston up 15-5.

It only grew worse for the Jazz from there. The Rockets led by as many as 22 in the first quarter, taking a 37-15 lead on back-to-back baskets from Harden and Gerald Green.

Houston made 16 of its 26 shots in the first quarter and totaled 39 points in the period.

“They were focused and determined to do what they wanted to do,” Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. “We just didn’t provide enough resistance in a lot of areas.”