

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Marines mark Memorial Day at Belleau

By MICHAEL ABRAMS

*Stars and Stripes*

BELLEAU, France — As the U.S. Marines marched off the field Sunday, the French who had gathered at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery for the Memorial Day ceremony broke out in applause.

The clapping continued as they marched along the straight lane that leads to the cemetery gates.

The ceremony, observed by a standing-room-only crowd, took place on a grassy knoll beneath the chapel, flanked by the cemetery's 2,289 graves.

The event also marked the centennial of the Battle of Belleau Wood, where Marines and Army troops fought a bloody battle against German forces.

Now, 100 years later, former foes have become allies, something that was stressed by the ceremony's three main speakers — French Maj. Gen. Vincent Guionie, German army Lt. Gen. Carsten Jacobsen and Marine Corps commandant Gen. Robert B. Neller.

The ceremony also featured military bands from all three countries and poetry readings by students from a local high school.

The generals and other dignitaries laid wreaths at the steps of the chapel, and the 6th Marine firing detail fired a salute before a bugler, dressed in a World War I-era uniform, played taps.

Following the ceremony, led by the Marine band playing the Marine hymn, Marines and locals walked down to the Belleau Chateau for a reception.

Once there, the Marines had a drink of water from the Bulldog fountain, a ritual for all Marines who visit what was once the Belleau battlefield.

## WWI battle a turning point for US

*Associated Press*

BELLEAU, France — It was the spring of 1918, and the German army was making a final push toward Paris. The only thing in its way was a contingent of Allied troops, including untested U.S. forces near the Marne River in northern France.

Among them was U.S. Army 1st Lt. Gordon Kaemmerling, a precocious and athletic Harvard graduate who had jumped at the opportunity to help the United States leave its shell of isolationism and join the war.

On June 6, 1918, the U.S. forces attacked, storming across the open fields near Belleau Wood. Germans sprayed them with shells and machine-gun fire from a densely forested hill. Without proper artillery cover, the Americans were mowed down easily at first.

In the chaos, Kaemmerling, 26, rushed to help his comrades and was nearly torn in two by shrapnel and bullets.

The bravery of Kaemmerling and others helped the Americans chase the German forces out of Belleau Wood by the end of the month. The battle became a defining moment in World War I, not just containing the German push along the Western Front but proving the Americans' military mettle for all to see.

Victory bonded the Allies, and the friendship became the cornerstone of global diplomacy for most of the last 100 years.

That partnership is being celebrated during the centennial of the battle of Belleau Wood as the U.S. marks the Memorial Day holiday, even amid some trans-Atlantic strains.

Germany acknowledged the

arrival of the U.S. forces on the Western Front would be a burden, but peace with the Bolsheviks in Soviet Russia meant that German troops could reinforce another onslaught on France.

It was a unique window of opportunity for the Germans, and when it came they got within a week's march from Paris. Victory after four years of fighting seemed possible.

The American force "was still considered a very untried organization, and among the French and British, they were not sure how well they would perform," said retired U.S. Army Col. David S. Jones, a historian.

The initial plan was to give many of the U.S. forces more time to train before being thrown into battle, but Germany had other ideas.

In desperation, the French asked U.S. Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing for the immediate deployment of some of his troops to stop the gap near the Marne, northeast of Paris. U.S. soldiers and Marines were soon sent off to Belleau.

The combination of inexperience and gung-ho enthusiasm became the stuff of legend. The battle is one of the first things taught to any U.S. Marine, said Owen Gardner Finnegan, a Marine who served in Afghanistan and was visiting the Belleau Wood cemetery.

Because of their ferocity, the Americans "stopped the most advanced army in the world at the time in savage fighting," Finnegan said.

Marine Corps lore has it that one officer, told there was a general retreat, said, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!"

The Americans made their vigor, youth and resilience

count against the more experienced but battle-weary Germans, who were approaching their fifth year of fighting.

When the Americans were confronted with "intense enemy fire, instead of ducking, instead of retreating, they charged," said French historian Jean-Michel Steg.

At first, it was a matter of survival. Steadily, however, they established themselves in hostile terrain where any tree could hide an enemy. They stood their ground in man-to-man fighting.

Instead of marching on Paris, the Germans soon found themselves on the back foot.

Much more was at stake than a patch of ground along a 350-mile front line. "It became something different. It became a test of will," Steg said.

Bolstered by the Americans, the Allies were pushing the Germans back.

"The turning point was that the Germans came to the realization that the American Army was for real and was not only going to get bigger with the arrival of new soldiers each month but was also going to get better," Steg said. By the end of 1918, more than 2 million Americans were on the front.

Belleau Wood "definitely was a critical point in the road for America becoming a world power," Jones said.

Other successes by U.S., French and British Commonwealth forces led to the armistice of Nov. 11, 1918.

The U.S. would return again to Europe to fight and defeat the Germans in World War II. It spread its global reach to embody what some have called the "American Century."

# US officials in North Korea for prep talks

*The Washington Post*

SEOUL, South Korea — A team of U.S. officials crossed into North Korea on Sunday for talks to prepare for a summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un as both sides press ahead with arrangements despite the question marks hanging over the meeting.

Sung Kim, a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea and former nuclear negotiator with the North, has been called in from his posting as envoy to the Philippines to lead the preparations, according to a person familiar with the arrangements.

He crossed the line that separates the two Koreas to meet with Choe Son Hui, the North Korean vice foreign minister, who said last week that Pyongyang was “reconsidering” the talks. Kim and Choe know each other well — both were part of the delegations that negoti-

ated the 2005 denuclearization agreement through the six-party framework.

Kim is also joined by Allison Hooker, the Korea specialist on the National Security Council, and an official from the Defense Department. Randall Schriver, the assistant secretary of defense for East Asia and one of the officials who accompanied Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Pyongyang earlier this month, also is in Seoul at the moment.

The meetings are expected to continue Monday and Tuesday.

This team is focused on the substance of any summit between the two leaders — the issue of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.

After Saturday’s surprise inter-Korean talks, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Kim was still committed to the “complete denucleariza-

tion” of the Korean Peninsula. But Moon declined to define “complete denuclearization,” suggesting that there are still fundamental gaps on the key issue bedeviling preparations.

Still, Moon, who is playing something of a mediator role in the talks, was optimistic. “We two leaders agreed the June 12 North Korea-U.S. summit must be successfully held,” he said Sunday.

The U.S. team preparing for the talks traveled Sunday to Tongilgak, or “Unification House,” the building where Kim met Moon on Saturday for impromptu talks aimed at salvaging the summit.

After North Korean officials, including Choe, lashed out at Vice President Mike Pence and national security adviser John Bolton, Trump abruptly announced that he was canceling the talks, citing North Korea’s

“tremendous anger.”

But after a magnanimous statement from North Korea on Friday saying Kim still hoped to meet Trump “at any time,” the summit appears on again.

“We are having very productive talks with North Korea about reinstating the Summit which, if it does happen, will likely remain in Singapore on the same date, June 12th, and, if necessary, will be extended beyond that date,” Trump tweeted Friday night.

The White House has said preparations will continue while the final decision on whether to proceed with the summit is made.

A separate U.S. team led by Joe Hagin, deputy chief of staff at the White House, is organizing logistics with Kim Chang Son, who is effectively the North Korean leader’s chief of staff.

## US, Korean leaders revive summit hopes; skepticism high

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump and the leaders of North and South Korea revived hopes over the weekend that a U.S.-North Korea summit planned for next month in Singapore could be back on.

But experts said Trump’s abrupt cancellation of the June 12 meeting already could have damaged the U.S. negotiating position as it seeks to force the North to abandon its hard-won nuclear weapons program.

The dizzying series of diplomatic twists and turns began Thursday when Trump announced he was canceling his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, citing hostility in recent comments from the communist state.

Trump quickly adopted a warmer tone Friday after the North Koreans published a conciliatory note that said they remained willing to meet “at any time.”

He said Saturday that negotiations over resuming the summit were going well.

“It’s moving along very nicely,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “We’re looking at June 12 in Singapore. It hasn’t changed.”

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, meanwhile, stepped up his role as mediator on Saturday, holding his second summit in a month with Kim.

Moon said Kim renewed his commitment to “completely denuclearize” the divided peninsula as well as peace efforts.

“We two leaders had a candid, heart-to-heart conversation ahead of the North Korea-United States summit,” Moon said during a televised address Sunday. Kim “has concerns about whether his country can really trust the United States over its promise to end hostile relations and provide a security guarantee if they do denuclearization,” Moon said.

Moon said he was able to reassure the North Korean leader about those issues after his

separate summit with Trump in Washington on Tuesday.

The inter-Korean summit, which was held without the fanfare of the first one on April 27, underscored Moon’s sense of urgency in getting the two adversaries to the table after months of heightened tensions that raised fears of a nuclear war last year.

The South Korean leader, who was caught off guard by Trump’s announcement of the cancellation, stressed the need for Washington and Pyongyang to engage in direct talks and hold preliminary, working-level negotiations to set the agenda for the summit.

The two Koreas agreed to have a senior-level official meeting on Friday to discuss efforts to improve bilateral relations.

North Korea canceled plans for a similar high-level meeting earlier this month to protest continued joint exercises by the South Korean and U.S. militaries.

China also urged North Korea and the United States to “meet

each other halfway” and “address mutual concerns through dialogue and consultation,” according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Joel Wit, a senior fellow with the Washington-based Stimson Center, said the North has already succeeded in undermining the Trump administration’s so-called maximum pressure campaign with its recent outreach.

“If there is a summit ... I don’t think they’re gonna be able to deal with any of the big issues that are facing both countries, particularly the denuclearization issue,” Wit said Friday in a conference call organized by the 38 North website. “Everyone has to lower their expectations for a summit,” he added.

In addition to his summits with Moon, the North Korean leader has met twice with Chinese President Xi Jinping in recent weeks. “Kim has created sort of a cushion for failure that if the U.S. backs away, the Chinese and Russians will be behind him,” Wit said.

# Dunford advises West Point graduates to embrace change

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff urged graduating cadets at the U.S. Military Academy on Saturday to “embrace the constant changes” facing the military as the best route to success.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, the nation’s highest-ranking military officer, said armies that are slow to adapt to changes often find themselves on the wrong side of history.

“There’s no substitute for taking a clear-eyed look at the threats we’ll face and asking how our force will adapt to meet those threats,” said Dunford, who became chairman in October 2015. “To be successful, you have to antici-

pate and embrace the constant changes.”

He urged the almost 950 West Point cadets who were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army during the ceremony at the academy’s football stadium to challenge themselves to be the kind of leaders who continually think about change, especially in a world where “the pace of change and the speed of war has greatly accelerated.”

His remarks came at a ceremony that featured among its graduates the first black woman to lead the Long Gray Line.

Simone Askew, of Fairfax, Va., last year assumed duties as first captain of the 4,400-member Corps of Cadets, the

highest position in the cadet chain of command.

Dunford recalled that leaders on both sides in World War I were slow to grasp the significance of emerging technologies and the changing character of war, resulting in the deaths of many soldiers.

Throughout history, he said, most changes occur only “after significant failure.”

An exception came in the years before the Vietnam War when men who had graduated from West Point considered how the helicopter might be deployed to enhance mobility on the battlefield.

“They fundamentally changed Army maneuvers, and their ideas remain relevant today,” Dunford said.

# USS Arizona Memorial to be closed indefinitely

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Damage to the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu was worse than expected and it will remain closed indefinitely, officials said.

Boat transportation to the attraction was suspended May 6

**‘After further investigation on the interior, it was determined that the structure is not supporting the loading ramp the way that we need.’**

**Jay Blount** spokesman for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

after one of the vessel operators noticed a crack on the outside of the memorial, Hawaii News Now reported.

Tourists were allowed to disembark at the memorial after crews completed interim repairs. But the cracks reappeared hours later, indicating a more serious issue.

“There is a brow or an edge where the visitor ramp meets the memorial, and at that point, there’s been some fissures located on the exterior,” said Jay Blount, a spokesman for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

“After further investigation on the interior, it was determined that the structure is not supporting the loading ramp the way that we need.”

Engineers are working to figure out possible long-term solutions.

Other areas of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center remain open.

# Air Force colonel to decide whether airman will stand trial in stabbing

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Barksdale Air Force Base colonel is reviewing preliminary evidence to determine whether Airman 1st Class Isaiah Edwards should stand trial in the March stabbing death of a fellow airman in Guam.

Edwards is in custody at Barksdale and has been charged with murder in the stabbing death of Airman 1st Class Bradley Hale on March 26 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The airmen were assigned to Barksdale in Louisiana and were deployed to Guam.

Both Hale and Edwards were assigned to the 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 2nd Bomb Wing, as electronic warfare journeymen.

Hale, a native of Montgomery, Texas, had been in the Air Force about two years.

Col. Ty Neuman, the commander of 2nd Bomb Wing, directed that a preliminary hearing, also called an Article 32 hearing, be held for the charge of murder in Hale’s death.

The hearing was held May 11, and Neuman is reviewing the preliminary hearing officer’s report to determine the next step in the trial

process, the Air Force said. Edwards is considered innocent unless proven guilty during court-martial beyond reasonable doubt, the Air Force said.

An Article 32 hearing, so named for its citation in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, is conducted to determine whether probable cause exists to proceed to a court-martial.

No timeline in adjudication of this case was available, the Air Force said.

Hale, 20, was found unresponsive at a temporary lodging facility at Andersen and declared dead March 27 about 3 a.m., the Air Force said.

Edwards was arrested after a knife was found at the scene.

Dr. Aurelio Espinola, chief medical examiner in Guam, said there were three fatal wounds to Hale’s neck along with superficial cuts.

The 2nd Bomb Wing includes B-52H Stratofortress multirole bombers, which are capable of delivering conventional and nuclear weapons.

The bombers have been routinely deployed to Guam in recent years — along with B-1 conventional and B-2 stealth bombers — as tensions with North Korea have increased.

# Gulf Coast braces for impact as subtropical storm nears

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Normally packed with vacationers over the Memorial Day weekend, beaches along the eastern U.S. Gulf Coast were largely empty Sunday as a slowly intensifying storm carrying brisk winds and heavy rain approached.

Subtropical Storm Alberto — the first named storm of the 2018 hurricane season, which officially starts June 1 — prompted Florida, Alabama and Mississippi to launch emergency preparations Saturday. Rough conditions were expected to roil the seas off the eastern and northern Gulf Coast region through Tuesday.

“These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions,” the National Hurricane Center in Miami said in a statement.

Gusty showers were to begin lashing parts of Florida on Sun-

day, and authorities were warning of the possibility of flash flooding.

The hurricane center said Sunday that a tropical storm warning was in effect from Bonita Beach, Fla., to the Mississippi-Alabama border.

Isolated tornadoes were possible across the region on Sunday and Monday.

About 5 to 10 inches of rain are possible along affected areas in eastern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, western Tennessee and the western Florida Panhandle. Isolated areas could see as much as 15 inches.

Under overcast skies and occasional drizzle, several Gulfport, Miss., residents lined up to fill 10- and 20-pound bags with sand they will use to block encroaching floodwater expected as a result of Alberto.

Tommy Whitlock said sandbagging has become a usual event in his life since he lives next to a creek.

“I’m doing this because every time we have a hard rain, it floods at my house,” Whitlock said. “We get water from other neighborhoods, and water can get up to a foot deep in some places.”

Eddy Warner, a retired consultant for a construction company, filled bags while waiting for his nephew to come help transport them home to protect his garage.

“I’m 65 years old and too old to be doing this,” he said, laughing.

Alberto is expected to strengthen until it reaches the northern Gulf Coast, likely on Monday night.

Alberto has a less defined and cooler center than a tropical storm, and its strongest winds are found farther from its center. Subtropical storms can develop into tropical storms, which in turn can strengthen into hurricanes.

# 4th man to walk on moon dies

The Washington Post

Alan Bean, a NASA astronaut who journeyed into space two times and, as part of the Apollo 12 mission in 1969, became the fourth man to walk on the moon, died May 26 at a hospital in Houston. He was 86.

NASA announced his death, noting that he had fallen ill during two weeks of travel.

Bean was a Navy test pilot who joined NASA’s astronaut corps in 1963. He made his first voyage into space on Nov. 14, 1969, four months after the historic first landing on the moon of Apollo 11, commanded by Neil Armstrong.

The three astronauts aboard Apollo 12 were Charles “Pete” Conrad Jr., the mission commander; Richard Gordon Jr., the command module pilot; and Bean, whose duty was as lunar module pilot.

Conrad and Bean settled onto the lunar surface on Nov. 19, landing in a broad plain called the Ocean of Storms. Gordon continued to circle the moon in the command module, the Yankee Clipper, looking down from 70 miles above.

Conrad was the first Apollo 12 astronaut to step onto the moon.

Bean followed him onto the surface, where they collected moon rocks and took core samples of dirt, going down as deep as 32 inches. As images were transmitted back to television viewers at home, the astronauts set up scientific instruments to measure wind, solar radiation and other conditions.

Conrad and Bean pushed on with a second walk on the lunar surface, taking photographs of their surroundings and retrieving parts from the Surveyor III, an unmanned spacecraft that had reached the moon in 1967.

When Bean retired from NASA, he devoted himself to a longtime hobby that had become an overriding passion: painting.

Bean’s paintings have been exhibited at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

# Teacher who stopped shooting out of hospital

Associated Press

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. — An Indiana science teacher was released from a hospital a day after he was shot while tackling an armed student inside his classroom.

Noblesville police Lt. Bruce Barnes confirmed Saturday that Jason Seaman was discharged from Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

The only other person shot, student Ella Whistler, was in critical but stable condition, according to her family. They released a statement saying they were still trying to process “what happened and why.”

President Donald Trump sent a tweet Saturday thanking Seaman “for his heroic act in saving so many precious young lives. His quick and automatic

action is being talked about all over the world!”

Vice President Mike Pence, the former governor of Indiana, also credited the teacher’s “courageous action” for saving lives during the shooting at the suburban Indianapolis school.

“We’re all proud of you Jason and are praying for you and those impacted and recovering from injuries,” Pence said in his own tweet.

Ethan Stonebraker, a student witness, said the shooter was acting suspiciously when he walked into the classroom while the class was taking a test Friday. He told ABC News that Seaman threw a basketball at the shooter and ran toward the bullets as screaming students sought cover behind a table.

“If it weren’t for him, more of us would have been injured for

sure,” the seventh-grader said.

Investigators said the shooter had asked to be dismissed from the class before returning with two guns. He was arrested “extremely quickly” following the shooting around 9 a.m. Friday, local police Chief Kevin Jowitt said.

Authorities didn’t release the student’s name or say whether he had been in trouble before but indicated he likely acted alone. Police said the student didn’t appear to be injured.

Noblesville High School senior Jackson Ramsey started a GoFundMe fundraising effort for Seaman. He said his girlfriend’s sister was in a classroom adjacent to the shooting.

The goal is to “repay a deed that cannot be repaid,” Ramsey said. “He saved the lives of so many students.”

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Zoo visitors witness gorilla birth in exhibit

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Some visitors at a Pittsburgh zoo got an unexpected surprise when they witnessed a gorilla give birth in the exhibit area.

Moka, the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium's 22-year-old Western lowland gorilla, gave birth to her third baby on Friday morning.

The zoo said Moka is very attentive and has been encouraging her baby to nurse.

Brandi-Bella Shaw said she was at the gorilla exhibit with her husband, teenage son and his girlfriend when Moka emerged from behind a wall carrying the baby. She said the umbilical cord was still attached and it was very apparent Moka had just given birth.

She said, "It was amazing to see" and Moka "was so nurturing."

### Fish market buys big octopus, sets it free

**CA** MORRO BAY — Giovanni's Fish Market in Morro Bay makes its money by selling seafood, but owner Giovanni DeGarimore made news this month when he bought a live, 70-pound octopus — and set it free.

DeGarimore told The Tribune of San Luis Obispo he's had a change of heart about selling or consuming octopus after learning about their intelligence and an experience he had playing hide-and-seek with one while scuba diving in Fiji.

So when his dock manager called to say a local fisherman was selling an octopus that had been caught in a crab trap, DeGarimore couldn't bear the thought of it being cut up.

He said he bought the octo-

pus, named it Fred and temporarily kept it in a tank at his market, then released it.

### Dog gives birth to 8 puppies at airport

**FL** TAMPA — A service dog waiting for a flight to Philadelphia with her owner gave birth at the Tampa airport as travelers gathered around and watched.

The Tampa Bay Times reported that golden retriever Eleanor Rigby, 2, went into labor at Gate F-81 and birthed eight puppies — seven males and a female.

The new mom, owner Diane Van Atter, and the puppies' father, Golden Nugget, were waiting for a flight home Friday when the puppies started arriving one by one. Tampa Fire Rescue paramedics and a nurse assisted with the delivery.

Van Atter, the puppies and the parents missed the flight.

### Yacht hosting prom hits another boat

**NJ** HOBOKEN — Police in New Jersey said a yacht hosting a high school senior prom rear-ended another yacht on the Hudson River near Hoboken.

Video of the event shows the prom-hosting yacht Cornucopia Destiny crashing into the smaller yacht, named Sundancer, which then crashes into the pier. Weehawken

High School officials said no one was reported to be injured in the crash.

The Hoboken Fire Department, Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps and New Jersey State Police responded to the scene Thursday evening. There was minor damage to both boats and the pier.

### Ex-stripper sentenced to prison for arson

**CT** PROSPECT — A former stripper from Connecticut has been sentenced to eight years in prison for setting a fire that destroyed two businesses in a dispute over money.

The Republican-American reported that Willow Martin, 21, was sentenced Thursday after pleading guilty to second-degree arson in connection with the fire at MTM Masonry in Prospect in 2015.

Prosecutors say the Naugatuck woman torched the company because it belonged to the stepfather of her best friend, another dancer who owed her about \$1,200.

The fire spread to the Golden Wok restaurant next door and caused more than \$450,000 in damages.

### Police: Man chased 5 kids with pellet gun

**DE** DOVER — A Delaware man is accused of chasing children while wielding a pellet gun.

News outlets cited a news release from Dover police that says Russell Ewell Jr. threatened five children between the ages of 6 and 14 while carrying what appeared to be a black handgun on Wednesday.

Police said it's not known whether Ewell knew the children before the chase. It's also unclear whether the pellet gun was loaded. The news release says the pellet gun didn't have any markings indicating it wasn't a real handgun.

Ewell was arrested without incident at a home. He's charged with aggravated menacing and terroristic threatening, possession of deadly weapon by a person prohibited and possession of deadly weapon during commission of a felony.

### 3 fluffy peregrine chicks need names

**CA** BERKELEY — University of California, Berkeley officials are asking for help naming three fluffy peregrine falcon chicks that hatched last month in the upper reaches of the Campanile bell tower on campus.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported a woman named Bunny suggested via Twitter naming the two males and one female Fluffy, Cottonball and Marshmallow.

But grown peregrines are deadly and the chicks might outgrow those names.

Other suggestions include Rosencrantz, Guildenstern and Ophelia for Shakespeare fans, and Bruce Wayne, Clark Kent and Diana Powers for superhero fans — although Wonder Woman's last name was Prince.

### She did headstand in all 50 US states

**AK** KETCHIKAN — An elderly woman has completed her mission of performing a headstand in all 50 states.

The Ketchikan Daily News reported retiree Anne Bruinooge, 71, checked the last state off her list Thursday as she lay down a mat and did a headstand outside the Alaska newspaper's office.

Bruinooge said she has been traveling around the country for the past decade, doing headstands in every state that she and her husband visit.

Bruinooge, who is an avid participant of yoga, said her motivation was simply "the fun of doing headstands." Bruinooge said she isn't sure if anyone else has ever attempted to do a headstand in each state.

From wire reports

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# Capitals, Knights ready for showdown

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Ovechkin is thrilled, though hardly satisfied.

The Washington Capitals star is headed to the Stanley Cup Final for the first time in his 13-year career, eager to put more distance between the Eastern Conference champions and a lingering perception of Ovechkin and the Caps as playoff underachievers.

“Finally we get what we want, be in the Stanley Cup Final,” the 32-year-old Russian star said. “There’s still a lot of hockey to play.”

Ovechkin scored just over a minute into Washington’s 4-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference final Wednesday night.

Braden Holtby stopped 29 shots to notch his second straight shutout. Andre Burakovsky scored two goals, and Nicklas Backstrom added an empty-netter to help the Capitals close it out.

Now, they’ve got to do it again against the expansion Vegas Golden Knights, who are Western Conference champions in their inaugural season.

“I feel very happy, but we’re not finished yet,” Ovechkin said. “We’ve been waiting

for this moment a long time.”

The Golden Knights breezed through the Western Conference, scoring 43 goals and allowing 27 while going 12-3 to eliminate the Los Angeles Kings, San Jose Sharks and Winnipeg Jets during an improbable run to the Stanley Cup Final.

Vegas went 2-0 against the Capitals in the regular season, winning 3-0 at home on Dec. 23 and 4-3 at Washington on Feb. 4.

“It’s a great story. They’re a good hockey team, they have a lot of good players, players from other teams — I know a lot of people say we didn’t want those players, but we all did,” Capitals coach Barry Trotz said.

“The rules were the rules. They did a great job, they’ve been galvanized as a group.

There’s nothing tighter than that first-year group because there’s no pre-conceived notion. Leadership’s not in place, nobody knows where to live, all those things are galvanizing.”

The Golden Knights’ top scorer during the playoffs has been former Lightning forward Jonathan Marchessault with 18 points (eight goals, 10 assists). Alex Tuch is second among league rookies with nine points (six goals, three assists).

Goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, who’s in the

Stanley Cup Final for the third straight season and fifth time overall, has been a huge part of the team’s success, too, with a 1.68 goals-against-average and .947 save percentage.

Fleury and teammate James Neal return to the Cup Final after facing each other in the championship round last year — Fleury with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Neal with the Nashville Predators.

“They’re deep. They’re probably the most veteran team still playing in the playoffs. But they’ve done a fabulous job,” Trotz said. “They’re a fabulous story. ... It’s a great story, not only for our game, but for everybody.”

To reach the Cup Final for the first time since 1998, the Caps beat Tampa Bay three times on the road to run their record to 8-2 away from home this postseason.

“It’s fun. I’m more happy for that group than I am personally,” Trotz said. “They did it together. Everybody has been in all year. We kept growing on and off the ice.”

And shoving aside a decade of playoff frustration.

“The playoffs are fun,” Trotz added. “They got to the next level and realized they’re not going to be defined by anything they’ve done or not done in the past.”

## Overdue Ovie feels playoff burden lightened

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — Raw emotion came from Alex Ovechkin as he wore an “Eastern Conference champions” hat for the first time.

“Oh my God,” he said. “It’s unbelievable. I can’t explain my emotions. I’m just happy for my boys, for organizations, for fans. Finally.”

Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals will play for the Stanley Cup. It’s a journey 14 years in the making from Ovechkin being the first overall draft pick to the greatest goal scorer of this generation — and a player who until this year hasn’t made it out of the second round of the playoffs through little fault of his own. Yet he’s gotten an uneven proportion of the blame.

Ovechkin essentially willed the Capitals to the Cup Final with 12 goals, 10 assists and the best postseason of his career. In one spring, the 32-year-old

Russian superstar has ended Washington’s 20-year final drought, slayed demons and destroyed the old narrative that he can’t get the job done when it matters most.

“The special thing is because we’re winning,” Ovechkin said before the Capitals left for Las Vegas. “That’s the whole thing. That’s all I can say. We win and we move forward. We’ve never been in this position before. All my career, I played for this team, and we never get the success like that.”

Ovechkin bore the brunt of nine playoff appearances ending after the first or second round despite being a point-a-game player. With time running out on chasing the trophy he knew all about as a kid, this season has featured a different-looking player.

General manager Brian MacLellan sees a new level of maturity on and off the ice that he believes comes from Ovechkin getting married. A different

offseason training regimen allowed Ovechkin to produce more at even strength, and the result was an NHL-leading 49 goals.

“I think the way he plays this year is more within the team structure,” MacLellan said. “This is the most systematic he’s played throughout his career, in my mind.”

In the playoffs, Ovechkin has raised his game even further. His vintage physicality and his willingness to get his body in front of shots and hustle down ice on the backcheck have been noticeable.

“When you see him blocking shots, you see him coming back hard, you see him playing physical, he’s getting more and more excited,” linemate Tom Wilson said. “It seems like every round you win, he’s playing even harder. And that’s what you need out of your top guys. When he’s going, you’re aware he’s on the ice. Everyone in the building knows he’s on the ice.”

During the third round, Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said Ovechkin has “taken 14 years of frustration out in one playoffs.” Ovechkin is reluctant to talk about previous playoff disappointments, but they’ve been tied to him.

“He’s an elite player that shoulders the responsibility of how our team performs, whether that is fair or unfair, and I think that happens to all those elite players in the league,” MacLellan said. “They get built up when they win and they get torn down a little bit when they lose. It is not always fair, because it is a team game. And for him, he has shouldered a lot of the burden that has gone on here for the last 11 years or whatever the time period has been, and hopefully this is a time when he gets payback and enjoys it this year.”

Getting past the Pittsburgh Penguins and the second round made Ovechkin look “freer” in Trotz’s eyes.

# Thompson helps Warriors force Game 7

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Klay Thompson flashed back to a night he left the arena still in uniform, furious about his forgettable performance against Denver.

It used to be he struggled to shake off a bad night, or even a bad start to a game.

Now, he just keeps shooting. Whenever he feels like it, from wherever. No conscience. A hand or two in his face, no matter.

“I was not always like this. I used to be so hard on myself, especially early in my career,” Thompson said. “... I learned, as I get older, if you play with passion, you play hard, and you leave the game saying I gave everything I have tonight in those 48 minutes, you can live with the result.”

The Warriors’ season lives on largely thanks to Thompson’s shooting touch. Golden State is one win from a fourth straight NBA Finals, headed back to Houston for Monday night’s Game 7.

He came through with the defending champions’ season on the line in another do-or-die Game 6, just as he did two years ago at Oklahoma City. This time he scored 35 points with nine three-pointers as the Warriors rallied with a huge second half to beat the Rockets 115-86 on Saturday night to force a deciding game in the Western Conference finals.

His defense shined, too. Oh, and the typically subdued Thompson let his emotions

flow for all to see: He flexed his biceps Draymond Green style, pumped his arms like Kevin Durant and yelled out the way Stephen Curry often does at Oracle Arena.

Thompson has long been content to be the understated All-Star among the four in Golden State’s starting lineup.

“I just wanted to play with as much passion as I could tonight. Probably sounded more vocal than I usually am,” Thompson acknowledged. “When your back’s against the wall, if your shot’s not falling, you can always control your passion and how hard you play. Usually when I do that, it trickles over to other aspects of my game.”

Curry’s Splash Brother did it in 2016 when he scored 41 points against Durant’s former Thunder team with the Warriors facing elimination. They went on to win Game 7 before falling to LeBron James and the Cavaliers in a seven-game NBA Finals.

Durant had no interest in recollecting, smiling and laughing with Curry as he said, “next question.”

As for Curry?

“I think we both blocked that whole year out of our memory,” the two-time MVP quipped.

No arguing they both appreciate Thompson’s no-fear shooting approach and ability to almost single-handedly turn the tide of a game with a timely three-pointer or two — or nine.

Once Golden State got going in transition, following clutch defensive stops, Thompson found the looks he so prefers from long range.

“I feel like we’re the best team in the world and most fun team in the world to watch when we’re pushing that ball, getting defensive stops and making plays,” he said. “We’ve got too much talent not just to hit singles like Coach always says. Trust the next man ahead of us. It will end up working in our favor most of the time.”

Thompson shot 13-for-23 and 9 of 14 from deep as the Warriors responded from an early 17-point deficit to dominate James Harden and Houston the final three quarters, outscoring the Rockets 93-47 after trailing 39-22 at the end of the first.

Thompson went a combined 20 of 32 from three-point range in those two impressive Game 6 shows, Saturday and in 2016.

“I think Klay doesn’t worry too much about repercussions. He doesn’t worry about judgment and results. I think he just loves to play,” coach Steve Kerr said. “He’s so comfortable in his own skin. I just think he wants to go out there and hoop, and he doesn’t worry about much else. So the pressure doesn’t seem to bother him much. He just competes and plays. As I said, the two-way ability of this guy hounding the MVP of the league, most likely, all game, and continuing to rain down three-pointers, he’s amazing.”

## Defending tennis champ Ostapenko eliminated

Associated Press

PARIS — A year after stunning the tennis world by winning the French Open for the first tour title of her career, Jelena Ostapenko is again in rare company: a first-round loser as the defending champion at a Grand Slam tournament.

Ostapenko’s high-risk game produced far fewer rewards than problems Sunday at Roland Garros, and she bowed out to 67th-ranked Kateryna Kozlova of Ukraine 7-5, 6-3 at Court Philippe Chatrier.

The result made Ostapenko only the second reigning women’s champion to exit in the first round of the French Open a year later — it happened to 2005 winner Anastasia Myskina, too — and only the sixth at any major tournament in the

professional era.

“I didn’t expect anything from this match,” Kozlova said in an on-court interview. “It’s just an amazing feeling.”

Hers was not the only significant surprise of Day 1.

Seven-time major champion Venus Williams was beaten 6-4, 7-5 by 85th-ranked Wang Qiang of China. Add that to the ninth-seeded Williams’ loss at the Australian Open in January, and this is the only time in the 37-year-old American’s career that she was sent home in the first round of back-to-back majors.

In 2017, ranked only 47th and 20 years old, Ostapenko became the first woman since 1979 to win her initial tour-level trophy at a Grand Slam tournament.

But the Latvian has had a rough road this season: Her re-

cord is just 12-12.

Kozlova, meanwhile, is 24 and arrived at Roland Garros with an even worse mark for 2018 — 4-6.

In her only previous appearance in the main draw in Paris, last year, she lost in the first round. Overall, she had won one of seven matches at any Grand Slam site.

And against the No. 5-seeded Ostapenko, Kozlova earned the first victory of her career against someone ranked in the top 30.

In many ways, Ostapenko was her own undoing.

She wound up with 48 unforced errors, more than twice as many as Kozlova, and that was more than enough to render Ostapenko’s 22-13 edge in winners irrelevant. Ostapenko allowed her opponent to convert

7 of 16 break points, including when a backhand landed in the net to end the match after about 1½ hours.

Moments later, she was gone, swiftly heading to the locker room. Ostapenko raised her left hand to acknowledge the crowd’s applause, but she kept her eyes focused on the ground as she walked off.

Kozlova stayed steady despite the enormity of the moment and while dealing with a blister on the back of her right foot. She was treated by a trainer during a medical timeout after the first set.

“Actually, I have three blisters, but one was the worst, with blood,” Kozlova said afterward. “When you are playing the match, sometimes you are not feeling the pain. ... I tried to stay focused.”

# Trout lifts Angels to win over Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Saturday night, center stage, under the Yankee Stadium spotlight. And the best player in baseball put on quite a show.

Mike Trout homered and doubled three times during his first five-hit game in the majors as the Los Angeles Angels quickly recovered from a rocky start in rolling to an 11-4 victory over the New York Yankees.

“It’s awesome. Preparation, working on timing, and nice payoff tonight,” Trout said. “I was just getting pitches where I like it and I wasn’t missing.”

Playing not far from his southern New Jersey hometown, Trout went deep for the third straight game to tie Boston’s Mookie Betts for the big league lead with 17 homers. The two-time MVP drove in four runs, scored three and set career bests with four extra-base hits and 11 total bases.

Trout added an infield single and finished 5-for-5, including a two-run homer in the fourth inning off shaky Sonny Gray (3-4) that put the Angels ahead 5-4.

“He had a night that was incredible,” Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia said. “Gave us a big lift and we needed it. In this park, you’ve got to keep scoring and we did.”

Jose Briceno homered in his major league debut for the Angels, and rookie Jaime Barria (4-1) returned from the minors to win his third consecutive big league decision. Scioscia tied Dodgers mentor and Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda for 20th place on the career list with 1,599 wins as a manager.

Brett Gardner and Aaron Judge began the bottom of the first with back-to-back homers for the Yankees, who lost for only the third time in their last 17 home games. Austin Romine poked a two-run shot off the right-field foul pole to give New York a 4-1 lead in the second.

The 21-year-old Barria settled down after that and lasted five innings before three Los Angeles relievers combined to allow just one hit the rest of the way.

“I think you saw his makeup right there. This could have taken some ugly turns,” Scioscia said.

Coming off his best outing this season, eight dominant innings at Kansas City, the inconsistent Gray took a step back. He was charged with five runs, seven hits and three walks in 3<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

“I think the stuff was good, just the results weren’t,” Gray said. “I don’t think I got a leadoff hitter out all night and that

can make for a long game for a starter.”

Trout hit an RBI double off the left-field wall in the first and laced a double to right in the third. After his homer to left in the fourth, he had an RBI double to left-center in the sixth and an infield single to deep shortstop in the seventh.

“He’s an unbelievable player and I think he kind of showed that tonight,” Gray said.

Albert Pujols had a two-run single as the Angels broke it open with a four-run sixth, taking advantage of a costly error by rookie second baseman Gleyber Torres.

**Ohtani watch:** Shohei Ohtani threw a bullpen before the game and then went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts and a bases-loaded walk as the designated hitter. Ohtani also grounded into a double play that scored a run. He initially was lined up to pitch Sunday against Japanese countryman Masahiro Tanaka, but the two-way rookie sensation was pushed back by the Angels to manage his workload. Ohtani would seem likely to be the DH against Tanaka on Sunday, though Scioscia wouldn’t commit to that. Ohtani appears to be tracking toward making his next start on the mound Wednesday in Detroit, but the team has not made any announcement.

## MLB roundup

# Choo’s 176th career HR carries Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Shin-Soo Choo became the top major league home run hitter born in Asia, connecting for a leadoff drive in the 10th inning that lifted Texas to a 4-3 victory.

Choo’s 176th career homer moved him past Hideki Matsui for the most by an Asian player.

Choo hit a 3-1 pitch from Kevin McCarthy (3-2) for his eighth homer this year. It was his third career game-ending homer and first in five seasons with the Rangers.

**Red Sox 8, Braves 6:** Andrew Benintendi homered and drove in three runs, helping Boston top visiting Atlanta.

The AL East-leading Red Sox celebrated the return of Dustin Pedroia with their sixth

win in seven games. The 34-year-old Pedroia went 0-for-4 with a walk and scored in his first game after offseason knee surgery.

**Phillies 2, Blue Jays 1:** Aaron Nola took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Nick Williams hit his third pinch-hit homer in the eighth and host Philadelphia moved into first in the NL East.

**Athletics 3, Diamondbacks 0:** Daniel Mengden pitched a two-hitter for his second career shutout, leading host Oakland.

**Brewers 17, Mets 6:** At Milwaukee, Erik Kratz homered in his Brewers debut, and Jesus Aguilar also connected.

Christian Yelich had three hits, drove in three runs and scored three times for the NL Central-leading Brewers, who have won eight of their last 10.

**Nationals 4, Marlins 1:** Mark Reynolds hit a tiebreaking homer leading off the ninth inning, and visiting Washington rallied to beat Miami for the 10th consecutive time.

**Cardinals 4, Pirates 1:** Jack Flaherty pitched six crisp innings and Matt Carpenter homered, leading St. Louis to the road win.

**Giants 5, Cubs 4:** Brandon Crawford hit a two-run homer, Brandon Belt drove in two runs and visiting San Francisco stopped a three-game slide.

**Rays 5, Orioles 1:** At St. Petersburg, Ryne Stanek, Anthony Banda and Chaz Roe combined on a three-hitter on a bullpen day for Tampa Bay.

**White Sox 8, Tigers 4:** Tim Anderson homered twice on his way to a career-high four RBIs, leading Hector Santiago and

visiting Chicago to the victory.

**Reds 6, Rockies 5:** Scooter Gennett had five hits, including a solo homer, Tony Cruz also homered and Cincinnati held on to beat host Colorado.

**Indians 8, Astros 6:** Yonder Alonso, Jason Kipnis and Edwin Encarnacion each hit two-run homers, and Cleveland’s beleaguered bullpen hung on as the Indians defeated visiting Houston.

**Padres 7, Dodgers 5:** Christian Villanueva homered twice and Jose Pirela hit the go-ahead single in the seventh inning, leading San Diego to a comeback victory over visiting Los Angeles.

**Mariners 4, Twins 3 (12):** Mike Zunino homered with two outs in the 12th to give host Seattle a victory over Minnesota.