

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Trump: Kim missile tests not a bother

Associated Press

TOKYO — President Donald Trump said Monday he is not “personally” bothered by recent short-range missile tests that North Korea conducted this month, breaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is hosting the president on a four-day state visit full of pageantry.

Standing beside Trump at a news conference after hours of talks, Abe disagreed with the U.S. president, saying the missile tests violated U.N. Security Council resolutions and were “of great regret.” Abe, who has forged a strong friendship with Trump and agrees with him on many issues, is concerned because the short-range missiles pose a threat to Japan’s security.

Trump was invited to Japan to be the first world leader to meet with its new emperor. Despite

being far from Washington, he didn’t miss the chance to lob another broadside against former Vice President Joe Biden, one of the Democrats seeking to challenge Trump in next year’s presidential election. North Korea’s Kim Jong Un recently criticized Biden as having a low IQ, and Trump told the world he agreed with the authoritarian leader’s assessment.

The visit was designed to highlight the U.S.-Japan alliance and showcase the warm relations between the leaders. Trump said he and Abe deliberated over economic issues, including trade and Iran, during hours of talks at the Akasaka Palace, but North Korea’s recent firing of short-range missiles emerged as an area of disagreement.

When asked if he was bothered by the missile tests, Trump said: “No, I’m not. I am

personally not.”

The Republican president has sought to downplay the significance of the missile tests, even though his own national security adviser, John Bolton, said over the weekend that they violated U.N. resolutions.

Trump continues to hold out hope of getting Kim to agree to give up his nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles despite two summits he’s had with the North Korean leader that produced no concrete pledge to denuclearize the peninsula.

Trump praised Kim, calling him a “smart man” who might have launched the missiles earlier this month to “get attention.”

“All I know is there have been no nuclear tests, no ballistic missiles going out, no long-range missiles going out and I think that someday we’ll have a deal,” Trump said, adding that

he is in “no rush.”

Trump is correct that North Korea has not recently tested a long-range missile that could reach the U.S. But earlier this month, North Korea fired off a series of short-range missiles that alarmed U.S. allies in closer proximity to North Korea, including Japan. The tests broke a pause in North Korea’s ballistic missile launches that began in late 2017.

Abe reiterated his previous statement that the tests were conducted in defiance of the U.N.

“This is violating the Security Council resolution,” Abe said, adding that, as North Korea’s neighbor, Japan feels threatened. “It is of great regret. But at the same time between Kim Jong Un and President Trump a certain new approach was taken and that is something that I pay tribute to.”

## Navy F-35 squadron deactivated at Eglin Air Force Base

Northwest Florida Daily News

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — With gratitude for its seven years at Eglin and enthusiasm for the future in California, the Navy’s first F-35C strike fighter squadron furlled its flag Thursday.

The F-35C is the “carrier variant” of the F-35 stealth fighter jet, designed specifically to operate from aircraft carriers.

“Today, we turn into the wind and launch on an aggressive path to deploy the F-35C,” said Navy Capt. Max G. McCoy, commander of the Joint Strike Fighter Wing.

McCoy spoke as VFA-101, informally known as the “Grim Reapers” squadron, was deactivated to become part of VFA-

125, a strike fighter squadron at California’s Naval Air Station Lemoore.

In the Navy, deactivation is different from decommissioning, and it is possible the VFA-101 Grim Reapers will be resurrected. In fact, Thursday’s ceremony marked the third time that VFA-101 has been deactivated. Throughout its history, the squadron has consistently trained pilots in the most advanced aircraft of their day, including the F-4 Phantom and the F-14 Tomcat.

In the meantime, said Rear Adm. Roy J. Kelley, commander of Naval Air Force Atlantic, “the legacy (of VFA-101) will live on, and I have no doubt that one day we will see it in an op-

erational capacity once again.

Moving the Grim Reapers to NAS Lemoore is designed to consolidate the Navy’s F-35C operations, said Lt. Cmdr. Lydia G. Bock, public affairs officer for the Joint Strike Fighter Wing, as the Navy focuses on getting the fifth-generation fighter jet out to sea.

At Eglin, Kelley said, the Grim Reapers did “incredible work” that delivered “a game-changing capability” to the Navy. But he said consolidating Navy F-35 operations at NAS Lemoore will support the development of Navy F-35C squadrons and assist in the testing and evaluation of the carrier-variant fighter jet.

“This is why the work you have been doing here is so im-

portant,” Kelley told the crowd of VFA-101 personnel and contractors gathered in a hangar at the departing squadron’s Eglin headquarters, in front of the last two Grim Reapers’ F-35Cs remaining at the base. The two aircraft left Eglin at 1 p.m. Thursday.

Also speaking Thursday was Navy Cmdr. Adan Covarrubias, commander of VFA-101.

After thanking Eglin personnel, particularly Col. Paul Moga, commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing, for their support during the Grim Reapers’ stay at Eglin, Covarrubias praised the personnel under his command, calling them “the finest group of sailors and Marines anyone could ever ask for. I thank you.”

## US strengthens Mideast forces to counter Iran; some on Hill alarmed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. will send hundreds of additional troops and a dozen fighter jets to the Middle East in the coming weeks to counter what the Pentagon said is an escalating campaign by Iran to plan attacks against the U.S. and its interests in the region. And for the first time, Pentagon officials on Friday publicly blamed Iran and its proxies for recent tanker bombings near United Arab Emirates and a rocket attack in Iraq.

President Donald Trump told reporters Friday that the 1,500 troops would have a “mostly protective” role as part of a buildup that began this month in response to what the U.S. said was a threat from Iran.

The announcement caps three weeks of elevated tensions with Iran as the administration hurled accusations of an imminent attack and abruptly deployed Navy warships to the region. The moves alarmed members of Congress, who demanded proof and details amid fears the U.S. was lurching toward open conflict with Iran.

Adding to the uncertainty, Trump alternated between tough talk toward Iran and a more conciliatory message, insisting he is open to negotiations with the Islamic Republic. On Friday, he seemed to downplay the prospect of conflict when he spoke at the White House.

“Right now, I don’t think Iran wants to fight and I certainly don’t think they want to fight with us,” he said.

In a related move, the Trump administration on Friday used an emergency legal loophole to move ahead with the sale of \$7 billion in precision-guided munitions and other military support to Saudi Arabia, citing threats the kingdom faces from Iran.

Vice Adm. Michael Gilday told Pentagon reporters that the U.S. has “very high confidence” Iran’s Revolutionary Guard was responsible for the explosions on four tankers and that Iranian proxies in Iraq fired rockets into Baghdad. He said Iran also tried to deploy modified small boats that were capable of launching cruise missiles.

The deployments announced Friday include a squadron of 12 fighter jets, manned and unmanned surveillance aircraft and a number of military engineers to beef up protection for forces. In addition, a battalion of four Patriot missile batteries that was scheduled to leave the Middle East has been ordered to stay.

The total number of troops involved is about 1,500, with roughly 600 included in the Patriot battalion. None of those troops will go to either Iraq or Syria.

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Democrat Adam Smith, of Washington, called the buildup “unsettling.” The senior Republican on the committee, Mac Thornberry, of Texas, called it “a prudent step to protect our forces and deter Iran” and said requests from commanders should “never be subject to a partisan debate.”

## N. Korea calls John Bolton a ‘warmonger’

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Monday called U.S. national security adviser John Bolton a “warmonger” and “human defect” after he described its recent tests of short-range missiles as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The statement by an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson came as President Donald Trump visited Japan for meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at which the nuclear standoff with North Korea was high on the agenda.

Bolton told reporters in Tokyo on Saturday that there was “no doubt” that North Korea’s recent missile launches violated U.N. resolutions, and that sanctions against the North must be kept in place. Trump later downplayed the missile tests, tweeting, “North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me.”

In the statement carried by the North’s Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean spokesperson said the North was exercising its right of self-defense with the launches. North Korea has never recognized the U.N. Security Council resolutions, which it views as denying its “rights to existence and development of a sovereign state,” the statement said. The spokesperson said Bolton was an “ignorant” hard-liner who throughout different U.S. administrations pushed provocative policies against North Korea including endorsements of pre-emptive strikes and regime change. The spokesperson also said that Bolton’s “hammer act” was responsible for the collapse of a nuclear deal between the countries reached in 1994, when North Korea agreed to halt its nuclear program in exchange for U.S. fuel aid. The deal broke down in 2002 after U.S. intelligence agencies said North Korea was continuing its pursuit of bombs with a secret uranium enrichment program.

“It will be fit to call Bolton not a security adviser striving for security but a security-destroying adviser who is wrecking peace and security,” the spokesperson said. “It is not at all strange that perverse words always come out from the mouth of a structurally defective guy, and such a human defect deserves an earlier vanishing.”

## Officials say militant attacks kill 10 Afghan soldiers, 4 policemen

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bombing claimed by the Taliban killed 10 Afghan soldiers in the country’s west, while insurgent attacks on security checkpoints in northern Afghanistan killed four policemen, local officials said Monday.

The soldiers were driving back to base after picking up their salaries in the country’s western Farah province. They were traveling in a Humvee when the explosion took place Sunday afternoon in the Bala Buluk district, said Shah Mahmud Nahimi, a provincial councilman.

“The blast was so intense that no one in the Humvee survived,” he said.

Elsewhere, insurgents targeted several checkpoints in northern Sari Pul prov-

ince Sunday night, killing four members of the security forces and wounding 22, said Zabiullah Amani, the provincial governor’s spokesman.

The attacks took place on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Sari Pul and triggered gunbattles that lasted for hours, he said, adding that 15 Taliban fighters were also killed.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the Farah attack in a statement on their website but did not make any announcements about the Sari Pul attack.

Meanwhile, a sticky bomb attached to a minibus carrying government workers in Kabul detonated on Monday morning, wounding 10 people, said police spokesman Ferdus Faramarz.



# 2 tornadoes hit Okla.; at least 2 killed

Associated Press

EL RENO, Okla. — A tornado leveled a motel and tore through a mobile home park near Oklahoma City overnight, killing two people and injuring at least 29 others before a second twister raked a suburb of Tulsa more than 100 miles away, authorities said Sunday.

The first tornado touched down in El Reno, about 25 miles west of Oklahoma City, late Saturday night. It crossed an interstate and walloped the American Budget Value Inn before ripping through the Skyview Estates trailer park, flipping and leveling homes, Mayor Matt White said at a

news conference.

"It's a tragic scene out there," White said, adding later that, "People have absolutely lost everything." He said the city established a GoFundMe site, the City of El Reno Tornado Relief Fund, for affected families. Several other businesses were also damaged, though not to the same extent as the motel.

The two people who were killed were in the mobile home park, White said. He did not provide additional details about them.

The 29 people who were injured were taken to hospitals, where some were undergoing surgery. Some of the injuries were deemed critical, he said.

The National Weather Service gave the tornado an EF3 rating, meaning it had wind speeds of 136-165 mph. Personnel who investigated the damage said the tornado began around 10:28 p.m.

Saturday and lasted for four minutes. The tornado was about 75 yards wide at its widest point and was on the ground for 2.2 miles.

The tornado was spawned by a powerful storm system that rolled through the state — the latest in a week of violent storms to hit the flood-weary Plains and Midwest that have been blamed for at least 11 deaths, including the two killed in El Reno.

Early Sunday, another tornado destroyed several buildings and downed trees and power lines in the Tulsa suburb of Sapulpa, which is 110 miles northeast of El Reno.

Pete Snyder, a hydrometeorological technician with the weather service in Tulsa, said crews were assessing damage to determine the tornado's rating.

The area also experienced damage from strong straight-line winds, he said.

The Sapulpa Police Department said on its Facebook page that it hadn't heard of any deaths and that only a few minor injuries had been reported.

## Historic flooding predicted along Arkansas River

Associated Press

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Residents in parts of Arkansas were preparing for what meteorologists on Sunday predicted will be the worst flooding in recorded history along parts of the Arkansas River over the coming week.

The National Weather Service said in the statement that levee "over topping" is likely with "significant impacts to

life and property across a very large area."

The Arkansas River reached 38.2 feet on Sunday near Fort Smith, Ark., surpassing the historic crest of 38.1 feet in April 1945. Spokeswoman Karen Santos said the city of 80,000 residents that's on the border with Oklahoma was in "preparedness and warning mode." She said one home was completely submerged and

about 500 homes either have water very close or in them. Authorities predict hundreds more homes and businesses will flood by the time the river crests there Tuesday at 42.5 feet.

Across the river from Fort Smith, the tiny town of Moffett, Okla., population about 120, was submerged by Saturday afternoon, Sequoyah County Emergency Management Di-

rector Steve Rutherford told the Times Record in Fort Smith.

In downtown Van Buren, Ark., just northeast of Fort Smith, Rickey Jones, co-owner of BrokenJoe's Screen Printing, was among several business owners who put sandbags in front of their entrances. "We're going to be stacking things as high as we can in here, taking out electronics and helping out our neighbors," Jones said.

## Rescued Hawaii woman told herself not to give up

Associated Press

WAILUKU, Hawaii — A Hawaii woman who was found alive in a forest on Maui island after going missing more than two weeks ago said she at times struggled not to give up.

Amanda Eller told The New York Times that despite these moments, she told herself "the only option I had was life or death."

"I heard this voice that said, 'If you want to live, keep going.' And as soon as I would doubt my intuition and try to go another way than where it was telling me, something would

stop me, a branch would fall on me, I'd stub my toe, or I'd trip," said Eller, 35, a physical therapist and yoga instructor.

"So I was like, 'OK, there is only one way to go.'"

Eller was found injured Friday in the Makawao Forest Reserve.

Eller, who is from the Maui town of Haiku, went missing on May 8. Her white Toyota RAV4 was found in the forest parking lot with her phone and wallet inside.

Hundreds of volunteers searched for her. Eller's parents offered a \$10,000 reward to

encourage people to find her.

Eller told the Times that she had intended to go on a short trail walk. She went off the path at one point to rest, and when she resumed hiking, she got turned around.

"I wanted to go back the way I'd come, but my gut was leading me another way — and I have a very strong gut instinct," Eller said. "So, I said, my car is this way and I'm just going to keep going until I reach it."

She said she kept trying to get back to her car but wound up going deeper into the jungle.

During her ordeal, she fell

off a cliff, which led her to fracture her leg and tear the meniscus in her knee, a friend, Katie York, told the Times.

After the fall, she struggled to walk, Eller said. She also had trouble finding food.

"I was getting so skinny that I was really starting to doubt if I could survive," Eller said.

Finally, after 17 days of wandering, she saw a helicopter that had been sent to find her.

"I looked up and they were right on top of me," Eller told the Times. "I was like, 'Oh my God,' and I just broke down and started bawling."

# Most 2020 Democrats tiptoe past talk of impeachment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic leaders in Congress have argued that impeaching President Donald Trump is a political mistake as the 2020 election nears. Most of the candidates running to succeed him seem to agree, for now.

Fewer than one-third of the 23 Democrats vying for the nomination are issuing calls to start the impeachment process, citing evidence in special counsel Robert Mueller's report they believe shows Trump obstructed justice. Most others, including leading contenders Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, have found a way to hedge or search for middle ground, supporting investigations that could lead to impeachment or saying Trump's conduct warrants impeachment but stopping short of any call for such a proceeding.

The candidates' reluctance, even as more congressional Democrats start pushing their leaders in the direction, underscores the risky politics of investigating the president for "high crimes and misdemeanors." Impeachment matters deeply to the party's base but remains unpopular with most Americans.

White House hopefuls may win praise from liberal activists by pressing House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi, D-Calif., for an impeachment inquiry, but those who fall short of insisting are unlikely to take heat from early state primary voters more focused on other issues.

"People talk about it and people have opinions about it, but health care is much more salient to them," Sue Dvorsky, a former head of the Iowa Democratic Party, said in an interview. "I just don't see Democratic activists here all worked up about impeachment. They trust Pelosi."

The 2020 candidates are facing pressure from the left to take a harder line on impeachment as the Trump administration's stiff-arming of subpoenas leaves House Democrats fuming and a growing number of lawmakers urging Pelosi to initiate an inquiry constitutionally required to remove Trump from office. Leah Greenberg, co-founder of the progressive group Indivisible, described the absence of louder calls for impeachment from the candidates as "a real gap in leadership."

"What we're seeing is, some Democrats would prefer to keep the topic focused on places where they're most comfortable, and some Democrats would prefer to play pundits on this," Greenberg said in an interview.

## 4 suspects arrested in France bomb blast

Associated Press

PARIS — French police have arrested four suspects following a blast in the city of Lyon that wounded 13 people last week, authorities said Monday.

TV footage showed a police operation underway Monday in a small town outside Lyon involving officers wearing ski masks. Police had launched a large manhunt after a device exploded Friday on a busy pedestrian street in France's third-largest city.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner announced the first arrest on Twitter, a development later confirmed by Paris prosecutors, who handle all terrorism-related cases.

The prosecutors' office later said three other suspects, including a woman, were detained and formally arrested. According to French media, they included the mother and the brother of the main suspect.

Lyon Mayor Gerard Collomb, a former interior minister, said one of the suspects is an IT student who was arrested as he stepped off a bus.

Last week, France's counterterrorism prosecutor, Remy Heitz, described video surveillance that showed a suspect heading toward the center of Lyon on a bike Friday afternoon. The man was seen arriving on foot, pushing his bike along a pedestrian-only street, then leaving a paper bag on a concrete block in the middle of the street near a bakery.

The suspect immediately returned to his bike and left the same way. One minute later, the explosion shattered the glass of a refrigerator in the bakery, Heitz said. Regional authorities said the 13 wounded suffered mostly minor injuries.

Investigators at the scene have found screws, ball bearings, batteries, a triggering device that can be used remotely and plastic pieces that may come from the explosive device.

## Europe's elections reveal altered landscape

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders and party officials plotted strategy Monday after European Parliament elections ended the domination of the main center-right and center-left parties and revealed an altered political landscape where the far-right and environmentalists stand as forces to be reckoned with.

French President Emmanuel Macron launched a flurry of meetings ahead of a summit Tuesday where the 28-nation bloc's presidents and prime ministers will take stock of the results from elections that attracted the highest voter turnout in 20 years.

Macron's Republic on the Move party looks to have secured 23 seats in the assembly for the next five years — the same number as the far-right National Rally, whose leader,

Marine Le Pen, was trounced by Macron in national elections two years ago.

France wasn't the only country where voters took their concerns about immigration and security to the ballot box. Italy's populist League party, under hard-line Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, is set to become one of the biggest in the 28-nation bloc's assembly. Belgium's Vlaams Belang also made significant gains.

"The rules are changing in Europe," Salvini said at his League party headquarters in Milan early Monday. "A new Europe is born."

Provisional results show the League would win 34% of the vote, up from just 6% at the last European election in 2014.

The lion's share of Britain's seats went to Nigel Farage's Brexit Party as citizens punished the governing conservatives and opposition Labour

party for their embarrassing failure to manage the divided country's delayed departure from the EU.

Riding what they called Europe's "green wave" backed by Europe-wide rallies urging climate action, environmentalist parties made strong gains, notably in Germany, one of the continent's main forces for EU integration.

Another mainstream formation, the pro-free-market ALDE group backed by Macron, saw its stake in the 751-seat parliament rise to 109 seats from 68 in 2014.

The picture of a fractured assembly for the next five years was complete as many citizens turned their backs on the center-right European People's Party — one of its key figures, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, saw her party lose ground — and the center-left Socialists.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Airborne irritant sends 3 to hospital

**CT** GROTON — A Connecticut high school's prom had to be cut short when several students were taken to the hospital because of what was described as an irritant similar to pepper spray in the air.

Police said rescue crews responded to the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton about 9:45 p.m. Saturday when several Stonington High School students reported difficulty breathing.

The Day reported that Principal Mark Friese said in an email to parents Sunday morning that three students were taken by ambulance to the hospital, where they were treated and released "and appeared fine when they went home."

## Woman attacked by alligator, medevaced

**FL** COCOA — A Florida woman was airlifted to a hospital after an alligator attack.

Brevard County Fire Rescue tweeted Saturday that the woman was attacked near a wilderness park near about 15 miles west of Cape Canaveral.

The department said the woman had significant bite wounds on her leg and flank. It said the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would investigate the attack.

## City may ban sale of small liquor bottles

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A northwestern New Mexico city is examining if it can ban the sale of miniature liquor bottles littering the grounds across town.

The Farmington Daily Times reported that Farm-

ington Mayor Nate Duckett recently asked City Attorney Jennifer Breakell to investigate if the city could pass an ordinance banning the small liquor bottles.

Duckett made the request during the May 14 City Council meeting. That request came after a Farmington resident showed up at a City Council meeting with a bag full of miniature liquor bottles he had picked up while walking near Ladera Elementary School.

New Mexico Petroleum Marketers Association state executive Ruben Baca said banning miniature liquor bottles from being sold would likely be a hard battle for the city to win.

## Man faces charges for defacing vet memorial

**MA** BOSTON — Police said they took a man into custody for vandalizing a memorial to Vietnam War veterans in Boston ahead of the Memorial Day holiday.

State police and University of Massachusetts-Boston police identified a 33-year-old man from Dorchester as the suspect. Police said he was interviewed Saturday, then sent to a local hospital for a mental health evaluation and treatment.

His name wasn't publicly released. Police said he'll be charged with malicious destruction of property and tagging.

Volunteers cleaned up the swastikas and other graffiti that were scrawled on the memorial at the UMass-Boston campus.

## Burglary suspect found in a treehouse

**CA** POMONA — Police pursuing a burglary suspect in a Southern California suburb found him living in

an elaborate treehouse hidden on a hillside.

The Pomona Police Department said a tipster reported on May 21 that someone was living in the treehouse. Officers in a helicopter used heat-sensing equipment to locate Mark Duda, 56, in what police described as "a very well built and modern" treehouse.

Duda climbed down the tree and was arrested on suspicion of burglarizing a house last month.

## Officials warn about bear that charged

**AK** JUNEAU — Alaska state officials are warning people about a brown bear that charged a man at Juneau's Salmon Creek Trail.

The Juneau Empire reported that the bear emerged from the brush and charged at the man twice last Sunday as he was running along the trail.

The man was not hurt in the encounter about 1 1/2 miles from the trailhead.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game says in a report that the bear ran into the woods, turned around and went back on the trail after charging and roaring at the man.

## Nature exhibit: 'Attack of the Bloodsuckers!'

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — "Attack of the Bloodsuckers!" isn't a horror movie but an exhibit opening soon at a New Orleans nature center.

The Audubon Louisiana Nature Center in eastern New Orleans will teach why mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, leeches and other parasites are important to the ecosystem.

The free exhibit will also explain how to avoid them — or at least find them in time.

## Arrest made in subway brake events

**NY** NEW YORK — Police have made an arrest in a mystery that's been stopping New Yorkers in their tracks for months: a wave of subway trains grinding to a halt because someone pulled the emergency brake.

Isaiah Thompson, 23, of Brooklyn, was arrested late Thursday after police publicized video of a man they say pulled the emergency brake on a train in Manhattan during the May 21 evening rush hour. Thompson is also accused of committing a lewd act on the subway.

Police are investigating whether he's behind about 40 other brake-pulling incidents since February.

## 2 die trying to jump car over drawbridge

**TX** LAKE CHARLES — Two Texas men are dead after trying to jump a compact car across the gap on a raised drawbridge.

Louisiana State Police said the incident happened shortly after 2 a.m. Friday at the Black Bayou Bridge about 6 miles south of Lake Charles. Investigators said the bridge was closed to traffic to let a boat pass through.

Witnesses said the car's passenger pushed the gate arm up and they drove the 2016 Chevrolet Cruze up to the raised section. They backed up, then accelerated forward, trying to jump to the other side.

The vehicle landed in the water, and Alejandro Cazares, 23, of McAllen, and Roberto Alejandro Moreno, 32, of Edinburg, were pronounced dead at the scene.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Pagenaud holds on for Indy 500 victory

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Simon Pagenaud arrived at Indianapolis Motor Speedway this month with his job on the line and rumors swirling around Gasoline Alley that Alexander Rossi could soon replace him at Team Penske.

The Frenchman is leaving with a pair of wins, his face soon to be engraved on the Borg-Warner trophy as the Indianapolis 500 champion and an assurance from Roger Penske himself that he isn't going anywhere.

"Do I even have to answer that?" Penske asked. "Absolutely."

In a head-to-head duel for the ages, Pagenaud defeated none other than Rossi with a dramatic pass on the penultimate lap, then holding on the rest of the way to hand Penske his 18th win in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Even sweeter, it came on the 50th anniversary of Penske's arrival at the Brickyard.

Pagenaud and Rossi swapped the lead five times over the final 13 laps, and the margin of victory was a mere 0.2086 seconds — the seventh-closest finish in the 103 years of the race.

"It's a dream come true. A lifetime trying to achieve this," said Pagenaud, who

dismissed the thought over job security as he celebrated his first Indy 500 win. "The milk motivated me. I was just focused on the job, man."

Pagenaud was dominant all day, leading 116 of the 200 laps, and the win was cathartic. He stopped his car at the start-finish line and hopped out to share the moment with his fans. And once he finally made his way to victory lane, Pagenaud climbed from his car and let out a primal scream, then dumped the entire bottle of milk over his head.

"I never expected to be in this position," Pagenaud said, "and I certainly am grateful."

President Donald Trump phoned Penske in victory lane from Japan, where he was meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe over trade. Penske passed the phone to Pagenaud, and Trump later tweeted an invite to the White House for the winning team.

Penske now has two consecutive Indy 500 victories — Will Power won last year — for the first time since 2002-03. It was his third win in the crown jewel race in the past five years and fifth in the past 14.

It was a banner day, too, with Josef Newgarden finishing fourth and Power in fifth.

Rossi lost his cool several times in the

race, but the Californian had better fuel mileage than Pagenaud and the Penske cars. The 2016 race winner twice charged to the front in the closing laps.

"Horsepower. That's unfortunately the way it is," said Rossi, who was in a Honda for Andretti Autosport. "I think we had the superior car. We just didn't have enough there at the end."

Pagenaud was in a Chevrolet, and the bowtie brand was the dominant engine all May. It swept the top four spots in qualifying, won the race and took four of the top six spots.

Pagenaud is the first Frenchman to win the Indy 500 since Rene Thomas in 1914. Indianapolis records count five French winners, but Gil de Ferran in 2003 and Gaston Chevrolet in 1920, while born in France, list other nationalities. Pagenaud was the 21st winner from the pole and first since Helio Castroneves a decade ago.

As he began the traditional victory lap in the back of a convertible, Rossi was one of many drivers to walk onto the track to congratulate him. The American leaned in for a genuine embrace.

"Nothing else matters but winning," Rossi said. "This one will be hard to get over."

## Truex overcomes tire issues at Charlotte

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Martin Truex Jr. gave team owner Joe Gibbs another reason to celebrate at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Truex overcame an early flat tire after hitting the wall, then broke to the front on a wild final restart and won the Coca-Cola 600 for the second time in four seasons Sunday night.

It was the perfect cap to a landmark week for Gibbs and his race team. The three-time Super Bowl champion coach was voted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame on Wednesday, along with two of his race team's championship drivers in Bobby Labonte and Tony Stewart. But according to Gibbs, it was Truex, in his first season with JGR, who delivered the program's biggest moment.

"What was Wednesday?" Gibbs responded when asked if the race victory was bigger

than the Hall of Fame.

Gibbs broke into laughter when reminded about his honor. "Obviously, I'm excited about tonight," he said with a smile.

And Truex provided much of the excitement.

He slid into the Turn 4 wall during the first stage of NASCAR's longest event, damaging his tire and seemingly putting his chances in serious jeopardy. But crew chief Cole Pearn radioed his driver that things were not that bad and to stay calm and remain focused.

"I thought, 'We're done. How we going to fix this thing?'" Truex said. "I didn't know how bad it was, [but] the guys worked hard, fixed it up."

That steadied Truex the rest of the way, especially near the end when he drove low during a four-wide fight for the lead on the final restart at Charlotte Motor Speedway. He had an easier time in the 2016 race

when he led 392 of 400 laps.

Truex sprang out low and shot into the front past Kyle Busch, Ryan Newman and David Ragan, who stretched four across the track. "You just never know what can happen," said Truex, who led 116 laps.

Truex held off defending series champion and Team Penske driver Joey Logano — and again prevent owner Roger Penske from becoming the first to helm winners at the Indianapolis 500 and Coca-Cola 600 on motorsports biggest day.

Things began with Lewis Hamilton's rousing win in the Monaco Grand Prix, which he dedicated to his late friend and champion driver Niki Lauda. Next, Simon Pagenaud gave Penske his 18th Indy 500 victory in a thrilling duel over the final laps with Alexander Rossi.

"For us, it's the wildest race we've ever won," Pearn said.

Truex was happy to provide his boss another win. "To think a guy can be in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the NASCAR Hall of Fame just tells you how special [Gibbs] is and I'm super honored to drive for him," Truex said.

Pearn said the car was seriously damaged by the early run into the wall and it took several trips to the pits to fix the issues. Still, in victory lane, Pearn couldn't believe his team came out on top. "It was crazy to see the car be that good and be that banged up," he said.

Penske driver Brad Keselowski won the first two stages and appeared to have the strongest car. But he slipped to the middle of the pack during the third 100-lap segment and never challenged for the victory. He finished 19th.

Busch was third, Chase Elliott fourth and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. fifth.



# Serena recovers to win French opener

Associated Press

PARIS — Serena Williams overcame a slow start for a 2-6, 6-1, 6-0 win over 83rd-ranked Vitalia Diatchenko of Russia in her French Open opener.

Williams had completed only three matches since her Australian Open ended four months ago, and she cited a bothersome left knee when pulling out of her past two tournaments.

During an error-filled first set, Williams was constantly shaking her head and yelling at herself.

But the 23-time Grand Slam champion quickly changed the momentum by winning the opening three games of the second set.

After committing 14 unforced errors in the first set, Williams had a total of 10 in the second and third sets.

Afterward, Williams seemed more relieved than pleased at avoiding what would have been only the second loss of her career in the first round of a Grand Slam tournament — after her defeat to Virginie Razzano at Roland Garros in 2012.

Caroline Wozniacki went from playing a perfect set to

quickly fading away against an opponent who had never previously won a Grand Slam match.

In a performance emblematic of a difficult season, Wozniacki, a former No. 1 and last year's Australian Open champion, lost Monday in the first round at Roland Garros 0-6, 6-3, 6-3 to 68th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova of Russia.

"Definitely wasn't the best match I've ever played," said the 13th-seeded Wozniacki, who had only 15 winners to Kudermetova's 40.

The way-up-then-way-down showing by Wozniacki stretched her losing streak to four matches and dropped her 2019 record to 9-8.

Another past Grand Slam champion dropped out of the field Monday when two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitová withdrew because of an injured left forearm.

The left-hander said the arm had been bothering her for some time and during practice Sunday, "suddenly I felt the pain."

"I went to have an MRI, and, yeah, unfortunately I have a tear in my forearm, which is

not great," said Kvitová, who hopes to be ready for the start of Wimbledon on July 1.

In other action, Rafael Nadal began his bid for a record 12th championship in Paris and Novak Djokovic got started on his quest for a fourth consecutive major trophy with easy wins.

Nadal was a bit shaky in the very first game against 184th-ranked German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann, facing four break points, but he saved them all — and didn't face another the rest of the way for a 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 victory.

Nadal's feared forehand was not at its dangerous best, accounting for more unforced errors (11) than winners (nine).

"I had my match plan and, yeah, some of the things, they didn't work out well," said Hanfmann, who played college tennis at Southern California. "But, I mean, that's why he's as good as he is."

Djokovic also needed under two hours to reach the second round, running his Grand Slam winning streak to 22 matches by getting past 44th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz of Poland 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

But No. 32 seed Frances Tiafoe of the U.S., a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open in January, threw up a couple of times and his game came apart late in a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 loss to Filip Krajinovic of Serbia.

"Obviously very depleted and had nothing really in me," said Tiafoe, now 0-4 at Roland Garros.

Other seeded players on the way home included No. 12 Daniil Medvedev, who was eliminated 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 by Pierre-Hugues Herbert and No. 15 Nikoloz Basilashvili on the men's side, along with No. 18 Julia Goerges on the women's.

Wozniacki's preparation for Paris had been hampered by an injured left calf, which was heavily wrapped Monday, but she said that was not an issue against her 22-year-old opponent. The Danish player also said she was not bothered by her rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune condition that can cause pain and swelling in the wrist and other joints.

She made only three unforced errors in that opening set, but 18 over the last two.

## US blanks Mexico in final Cup prep game

Associated Press

HARRISON, N.J. — Fans spelled out the message at the end of the national anthem, unfurling a huge banner behind the goal on the south end of Red Bull Arena: "ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR FOUR" it read, with a large gold star in the center.

Ten prep games for the U.S. women's soccer team this year ended with an unimpressive 3-0 win over Mexico in a send-off match on Sunday. The Americans travel to England on Monday and will work out at Tottenham's training grounds before heading to France on June 7, four days before starting their World Cup title defense against Thailand.

"We want to win everything. We want to win every game," said midfielder Megan Rapinoe, her spiky hair newly dyed pink. "It's going to be extremely tough. It's going to be a grueling tournament. But, yeah,

like I said, the expectation for us is always to win."

Seeking their fourth World Cup title, the top-ranked Americans have seven wins and two draws since a Jan. 19 loss at France, outscoring opponents 28-8. That defeat ended a 28-game unbeaten streak and the current run has been largely against lesser opponents, but confidence is high. After playing No. 34 Thailand, the U.S. closes group play against 39th-ranked Chile and No. 9 Sweden.

"Pressure is starting to build, and I think for us it's just getting more real and that's why we're excited to go over to London because we're going to be away from all the distractions and it's just going to be us and the tournament ahead," star forward Alex Morgan said.

During training next week in London, more focus is likely to be a few pitches away on a Spurs side preparing for its first

Champions League final, against Liverpool on June 1. Team bonding will be as important as training.

"So much of it is a mindset and an approach," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said. "There's a lot of good teams and we're all aware of that, but want to be the team to beat."

Mexico failed to qualify after consecutive group stage eliminations, is ranked 26th and fielded a relatively inexperienced team mixed with a few veterans. But while the Americans had a 25-3 advantage in shots — including 11-0 on target — they struggled to score against an inferior rival.

Tobin Heath was gifted her 30th international goal in the 11th minute when she ran onto a pass from goalkeeper Cecilia Santiago to unaware defender Rebeca Bernal.

After the U.S. misfired in front of the net on an afternoon that displayed failings more than facets, the Americans pulled away on the strength of second-half substitutes.

# Braves rally past Cardinals in 10th

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Ozzie Albies was not about to back down.

The Atlanta infielder finished a 10-pitch at-bat by singling in the tying run in the ninth inning to kick-start the Braves to a 4-3, 10-inning come-from-behind win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Brian McCann drew a bases-loaded walk off reliever Tyler Webb for the go-ahead run in the 10th.

Albies forced extra innings by fouling off five consecutive 3-2 pitches from Andrew Miller before ripping a one-out hit to right to tie the score at 3-3.

"The same way he was trying to get me out, I was trying to get my knock," Albies said. "I got the hit, we got the run. It was a huge win for us."

Atlanta, which trailed 3-0 before scoring three in the ninth to tie it, has won 12 of 16 and captured its fifth successive series by winning two of three from St. Louis.

"As he kept fouling off more and more pitches, you could tell his confidence kept growing," Atlanta infielder Freddie Freeman said. "He was throwing everything he had up there and he kept fouling it off. We were feeling pretty good in the dugout."

Braves' infielder Josh Donaldson also saw Albies' confidence growing with each pitch.

"He relished that moment against a guy that's got swing-and-miss stuff," Donaldson said.

The Braves won for only the second time in 19 games when trailing after eight innings.

"We were dead in the weeds for eight innings," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "This is a resilient group. They played 27 outs. This was a good one."

Freeman reached on an infield single with one out and moved to second on a walk to Donaldson and advanced to third on Nick Markakis' fly ball

to center field. After Austin Riley was intentionally walked to load the bases, McCann drew a five-pitch walk from Tyler Webb (0-1) that brought in Freeman with the go-ahead run.

Jacob Webb (3-0) picked up the win with a scoreless ninth and Luke Jackson got the last three outs for his seventh save in 11 tries.

Ronald Acuna Jr. had two hits for Atlanta.

The Cardinals have lost four of six and have not won back-to-back games since May 1.

Donaldson and Riley's run-scoring hits in the ninth came off closer Jordan Hicks.

St. Louis starter Jack Flaherty gave up three hits and struck out seven in a 91-pitch outing over six scoreless innings.

The Cardinals scored two unearned runs against Atlanta starter Julio Teheran in the fourth. Kolten Wong reached on a two-base error by Riley, who dropped a line drive in left field. Harrison Bader followed with a run-scoring single to right. He eventually scored on a wild throw to the plate by Donaldson at third.

Yadier Molina pushed the lead to 3-0 with a sacrifice fly in the fifth.

"This one stings a little more than most," St. Louis manager Mike Shildt said. "When you get to that point in the game, we've just got to be able to figure a way to bring it home."

Teheran gave up just two hits and three runs — one earned — in five innings. He walked four and struck out one.

Molina suffered a bruise on his right thumb in the fifth inning. He stayed in the game.

"Just a bruise, no damage," Molina said.

**Rotaton change:** The Cardinals announced that rookie LHP Genesis Cabrera will start on Wednesday at Philadelphia. He is replacing RHP Michael Wacha, who has been sent to the bullpen.

## MLB roundup

# Red Sox top Astros, avoid series sweep

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Rafael Devers homered off Justin Verlander, and the Boston Red Sox took advantage of two errors by the Houston Astros to avoid a series sweep with a 4-1 victory Sunday.

Eduardo Rodriguez (5-3) held Houston to one run and four hits in six innings, improving to 5-1 in his last eight starts.

The Astros lost for just the fifth time in 22 games and finished the regular season 4-2 against the Red Sox, who beat them 4-1 in the ALCS last season on the way to a World Series championship.

**Athletics 7, Mariners 1:** Matt Chapman homered for the second consecutive day, Josh Phegley also went deep and had three RBIs, and streaking Oakland beat host Seattle to win its ninth straight.

The Mariners' Jay Bruce hit his 300th career double in the second and his 299th homer in the seventh. Bruce needs one home run to become the eighth active player with 300 doubles and 300 homers.

**Royals 8, Yankees 7 (10):** Whit Merrifield got a fortunate hop on an RBI single in the 10th inning, and Kansas City beat visiting New York despite blowing a six-run lead.

Merrifield hit a sharp, two-out grounder toward third baseman Gio Urshela with speedster Billy Hamilton at second. The ball skipped over Urshela's head, giving Hamilton time to race home. Hamilton had walked against Jonathan Holder (3-2) and stole second.

**Dodgers 11, Pirates 7:** Justin Turner had five hits after taking a day off, Joc Pederson homered during a six-run sixth inning that featured consecutive bases-loaded plunkings and Los Angeles beat host Pittsburgh to complete a three-game sweep.

**Brewers 9, Phillies 1:** Brandon Woodruff allowed a solo homer but was otherwise per-

fect over eight innings, Christian Yelich hit his NL-leading 21st home run and Milwaukee connected five times against visiting Philadelphia.

**Rays 6, Indians 3:** Austin Meadows led off the game with a home run and was 4-for-4 with three RBIs, leading Tampa Bay over host Cleveland.

**Twins 7, White Sox 0:** Jake Odorizzi permitted one hit in 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings, and Eddie Rosario and Max Kepler each hit a three-run homer as Minnesota completed a sweep of visiting Chicago.

**Reds 10, Cubs 2:** Nick Senzel had three hits, scored four times and cut down a runner at the plate to help visiting Cincinnati beat Chicago.

**Blue Jays 10, Padres 1:** Cavan Biggio had three hits, including his first career home run, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had four hits and homered for the third straight game, and Toronto beat visiting San Diego.

**Mets 4, Tigers 3:** Zack Wheeler pitched into the eighth inning, Todd Frazier delivered a clever push bunt and host New York kept up a run of comebacks by beating Detroit for its sixth win in seven games.

**Nationals 9, Marlins 6:** Howie Kendrick hit his eighth homer, drove in three runs and finished with three hits as Washington beat visiting Miami.

**Rockies 8, Orioles 7:** Nolan Arenado homered for the third straight game, pitcher German Marquez tripled and drove in three runs, and host Colorado scored twice in the bottom of the ninth inning to rally past Baltimore.

**Angels 7, Rangers 6:** At Anaheim, Calif., Mike Trout and Kole Calhoun scored on wild pitches in a six-run seventh inning that gave Los Angeles a comeback win over Texas.

**Diamondbacks 6, Giants 2:** Ketel Marte homered for the third time in three games, Eduardo Escobar had three hits and Arizona completed a sweep of host San Francisco.