

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Philippine leader pardons Marine in killing

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine president pardoned a U.S. Marine on Monday in a surprise move that will free him from imprisonment in the 2014 killing of a transgender Filipino woman that sparked anger in the former American colony.

President Rodrigo Duterte said he pardoned Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton because he was not treated fairly after opponents blocked his early release for good conduct in detention.

A left-wing human rights group, Karapatan, immediately condemned the pardon as a “despicable and shameless mockery of justice and servility to U.S. imperialist interests.”

Pemberton was convicted of homicide and has been serving a prison term of six to 10 years for the killing of Jennifer Laude in a motel in Olongapo city, northwest of Manila. His lawyer, Rowena Garcia-Flores, told The Associated Press that Pemberton was already aware of Duterte’s decision when she called him.

“I heard the news,” Garcia-Flores quoted the 25-year-old Pemberton as saying. “I’m very happy.”

Meeting Pemberton in detention a few days ago, she said he expressed his willingness to apologize to the Laude fam-

‘The president has erased the punishment that should be imposed on Pemberton. What the president did not erase was the conviction of Pemberton. He’s still a killer.’

Harry Roque

spokesman for Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte

ily even belatedly. Pemberton would likely be removed from the Marines due to his conviction and plans to work in the U.S., Garcia-Flores added.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, who once served as a lawyer for the Laude family, said the presidential pardon would mean the immediate release of Pemberton from detention.

“The president has erased the punishment that should be imposed on Pemberton. What the president did not erase was the conviction of Pemberton. He’s still a killer,” Roque told reporters.

Laude’s family denounced Duterte’s action as a grave injustice, including to the LGBTQ community, family lawyer Virginia Suarez said.

Duterte is one of the most vocal critics in Southeast Asia of U.S. security policies. But on Monday he said, “If there is a time where you are called upon to be fair, be fair.”

Last week, the Regional Trial Court in Olongapo city, which handled Pemberton’s case, ordered authorities to release him early from detention for good conduct, but Laude’s family appealed, blocking the Marine’s early release. Roque said the Department of Justice was planning a separate appeal.

The court order rekindled perceptions that American military personnel who run afoul of Philippine laws can get special treatment under the allies’ Visiting Forces Agreement, which provides the legal framework for temporary visits by U.S. forces to the country for combat exercises.

Pemberton, an anti-tank missile operator from New Bedford, Mass., was one of thousands of American and Philippine military personnel who participated in joint exercises in the country in 2014. He and a group of other Marines were on leave after the exercises and met Laude and her

friends at a bar in Olongapo, a city known for its nightlife outside Subic Bay, a former U.S. Navy base. Laude was later found dead, her head slumped in a toilet bowl in a motel room, where witnesses said she and Pemberton had checked in. A witness told investigators that Pemberton said he choked Laude after discovering she was transgender.

In December 2015, a judge convicted Pemberton of homicide, not the more serious charge of murder that prosecutors sought. The Olongapo court judge said at the time that she downgraded the charge because factors such as cruelty and treachery had not been proven.

Pemberton has been serving his sentence in a compound jointly guarded by Philippine and American security personnel at the main military camp in Manila. The place of detention was agreed to under the terms of the Visiting Forces Agreement, although Laude’s family had demanded that he be held in an ordinary jail.

Garcia-Flores said his detention was shortened by authorities under a Philippine law that allows the reduction of prison terms for good conduct. Suarez said the law cannot apply to Pemberton, who has been detained alone in a military camp and given other special privileges under the VFA.

Navy searching for missing sailor in North Arabian Sea

Stars and Stripes

Navy ships were searching for a sailor who was reported missing in the North Arabian Sea on Sunday.

The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz and guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton were

both conducting search and rescue operations, 5th Fleet said in a brief statement.

The missing sailor was listed as duty status whereabouts unknown, or DUSTWUN, onboard the carrier, the Bahrain-based command said.

The sailor’s name was withheld, the

command said, citing policy.

Last summer in the Arabian Sea, Petty Officer 2nd Class Slayton Saldana went missing after reportedly going overboard from the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. Saldana was declared dead on July 30, 2019, following an extensive search.

Military families split on Trump controversy

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — In this soldier's city and across the country, veterans and military families are divided about reports that President Donald Trump made disparaging comments toward the military, with some service members bristling at the remarks and others questioning whether they happened.

Thomas Richardson, a retired member of the Army's 82nd Airborne, did not like what he heard.

Richardson was trained to respect the office of commander in chief, but he was rankled by allegations in *The Atlantic*, many of them independently confirmed by *The Associated Press*, that Trump had referred to fallen and captured U.S. service members as "losers" and "suckers."

"Usually, you don't choose those kinds of missions. You agree to serve and you agree to go where your assignment is," said Richardson, who did not vote for Trump in 2016.

Fayetteville, home to more than 200,000 people, is bordered by Fort Bragg on its northern limits. It was named in 1783 for the Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution.

Katie Constandse, 37, is married to a sol-

dier stationed at Fort Bragg. She is skeptical about the reports of Trump's remarks and is prepared to stick by him even if they are true.

"If you twist his words or just take one thing out of context, you'll always find a way to hate him," Constandse said.

Overall, Constandse said Trump's presidency has been good for service members and their families.

"We don't need someone who is warm and cuddly," she said.

At North Carolina Veterans Park, Ben Henderson — a soldier stationed at Fort Bragg — was showing his father around the gardens and memorials on Saturday.

Henderson voted for Trump in 2016 and plans to again in November, partly in appreciation for a recent military pay raise. As for the reports about Trump, Henderson said he had given them little thought.

"I don't get involved with all that politics stuff. I'm concentrating on my job," he said.

Trump and his allies have dismissed the *Atlantic* report as false and depicted the president — who did not serve in the military — as a staunch supporter of service members and veterans.

Military families were broadly supportive of Trump in the 2016 election, and a

Pew Research Center survey of veterans conducted in June 2019 found overall that veterans were more supportive of Trump than the general public.

Among that group is retired Green Beret Joe Kent.

At his home near Portland, Ore., Kent clicked on the *Atlantic* article as soon as he scrolled across the explosive story on his Twitter feed Thursday evening. He does not overlook headlines regarding fallen service members because his wife was one of them.

Shannon Kent, a 36-year-old senior chief petty officer with the Navy, was killed in January 2019 in a suicide bombing in Syria.

Her husband, now working for an information technology company, does not believe Trump made the disparaging remarks attributed to him.

Kent, 40, speaks from his own personal experiences with the president. When his family gathered at Dover Air Force Base last January to receive his wife's remains, Trump was there.

"I didn't get any kind of disrespect," said Kent, who is now on the advisory board of Military Families for Trump. "He seemed to me to be a leader who was deeply conflicted about sending people off to die."

Catholic Masses canceled at San Diego-area Navy bases

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — Catholic Masses at San Diego-area Navy bases have ended because the Navy, in what it says is a cost-cutting move, has declined to renew its contracts with Catholic priests, and there are not enough Catholic chaplains on active duty to fill the void.

Protestant services on bases, which are led by active duty chaplains, will continue, said Brian O'Rourke, a Navy Region Southwest spokesman.

The changes to the Navy's religious ministries are part of a national realignment announced on Aug. 20. It is unclear how many priests this will affect.

"The Navy's religious ministries priority is reaching and ministering to our largest demographic — active duty Sailors and Marines in the 18-25-year-old range," O'Rourke

wrote in an email. "To meet that mission, the Navy has had to make the difficult decision to discontinue most contracted ministry services."

In the Navy message announcing the change, Vice Adm. Yancey Lindsey, the commander of Naval Installations Command, said it differently.

"We have a responsibility to use our limited resources wisely in meeting the needs of our personnel," wrote Lindsey. "Therefore, we will reduce redundancies and capture efficiencies by realigning resources," noting that religious services will be cut at bases where those services are readily available in the surrounding community outside the base.

To Rev. Jose Pimentel, a priest who has led services at Naval Base Coronado and Naval Air Station North Island for eight years, the loss of his parish isn't just a personal loss

— it's a loss of the First Amendment rights of service members on bases.

"One issue is discrimination (and) another is the violation of your right to practice your religion," he said when reached by phone Friday.

Pimentel was notified Aug. 19 that the Navy will not exercise the final two years of his contract, citing "funding constraints." His last day is Sept. 30.

While the Navy has an active duty component of clergy — the Chaplain Corps — the number of Catholic priests among them is small, reflecting a worldwide shortage of Catholic priests. To make up for that shortage, the service contracted with priests to lead Catholic services on U.S. bases.

Those contracts are the ones being canceled.

O'Rourke acknowledges in his statement that the change

predominately affects Roman Catholics.

"We know change can be difficult for our existing on-base congregations, but ask for understanding, patience and support from those faithful civilians and retirees who, in their heart of hearts, want what is best for our uniformed service members and their families," O'Rourke said. "Military chaplains are working closely with local parishes to assist the faithful in finding new congregations."

Contracted priests at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and at Marine Corps Recruit Depot will stay on, however, because service members at those locations don't have options for church outside those bases.

Catholic services on overseas bases and on Navy ships also will continue.

India now 2nd behind US in number of virus cases

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India's increasing coronavirus case-load made the Asian giant the world's second-worst-hit country behind the United States on Monday, as its efforts to head off economic disaster from the pandemic gain urgency.

The 90,802 cases added in the past 24 hours pushed India's total past Brazil with more than 4.2 million cases. India is now behind only the United States, where more than 6.2 million people have been infected, according to Johns Hopkins University.

India's Health Ministry on Monday also reported 1,016 new deaths for a total of 71,642, the third-highest national toll.

The world's second-most populous country with 1.4 billion people, India has been recording the world's largest daily increases in coronavirus cases for almost a month. Despite over 2 million new cases in the past month and the virus spreading through the country's smaller towns and villages, the Indian government

has continued relaxing restrictions to try and resuscitate the economy.

On Monday, the Delhi Metro, which serves India's sprawling capital, New Delhi, and adjoining areas, resumed operations after remaining shuttered for more than five months. Only asymptomatic people were allowed to board the trains, with masks.

New Delhi's streets have already returned to their normal bustle, and people are again flocking to markets. The city's bars will reopen on Wednesday.

The reopenings come after India's economy shrank faster than any other major nation's, nearly 24% in the last quarter.

Now, as cases surge, most of the country, except in high-risk areas, has already opened up, with authorities saying they have little choice.

"While lives are important, livelihoods are equally important," Rajesh Bhushan, the top official of India's federal health ministry, said at a news briefing last week.

Service member wounded in Somali al-Shabab hit

Stars and Stripes

One U.S. service member was wounded in an attack Monday in Somalia by al-Shabab militants who fired off mortar rounds and used a vehicle as a roadside bomb, U.S. Africa Command said.

The service member is in stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries, AFRICOM spokesman Col. Chris Karns said in a statement.

The attack happened near Jana Cabdalle, about 300 miles south of Mogadishu, where U.S. troops were on an advisory mission with Somali forces. At least one al-Shabab fighter was killed during the attack, Karns said.

The militant group, which

has been waging a decadeslong insurgency against Somalia's weak central government, "remains a dangerous enemy," Karns said.

"Continued pressure is being placed on this Al Qaeda-affiliated threat to limit its ability to expand and export violence, terrorism, and crime more broadly," he said.

The U.S. military has been on the ground for several years, serving as advisers to the country's military.

It also carries out airstrikes against al-Shabab targets. Their number has increased in recent years, with AFRICOM launching at least 46 strikes so far this year, putting it on pace to exceed the 63 strikes carried out in 2019.

Hopes for another relief bill fades as Congress returns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least there won't be a government shutdown.

But as lawmakers straggle back to Washington for an abbreviated preelection session, hopes are dimming for another coronavirus relief bill — or much else.

Talks between top Democrats and the Trump administration broke off last month and remain off track, with the bipartisan unity that drove almost \$3 trillion in COVID-19 rescue legislation into law this spring replaced by toxic partisanship and a return to Washington dysfunction.

Expectations in July and August that a fifth bipartisan pandemic response bill would eventually be birthed despite increased obstacles has been replaced by genuine pessimism. Recent COVID-related conversations among key players have led to nothing.

Democrats seem secure in their political position, with President Donald Trump and several Senate GOP incumbents lagging in the polls. Trump is seeking to sideline the pandemic as a campaign issue, and Republicans aren't interested in a deal on Democratic terms — even as needs like school aid enjoy widespread support.

Poisonous relationships among key leaders like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows give little reason for confidence about overcoming obstacles on the cost, scope and details of a potential relief bill. Pelosi recently referred to Meadows as "whatever his name is," while the Meadows-run White House during a press briefing ran a video loop of Pelosi's contro-

versial visit to a San Francisco hair salon.

All of this imperils the chances for another round of \$1,200 direct payments delivered under Trump's name, the restoration of more generous unemployment benefits to those who've lost their jobs because of the pandemic, updates to a popular business subsidy program, and money to help schools reopen and states and local governments avoid layoffs.

"I personally would like to see one more rescue package, but I must tell you the environment in Washington right now is exceedingly partisan because of the proximity to the election," said GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell at an appearance in Kentucky last week. "We've been in discussion now for the last month or so with no results so far. So I can't promise one final package."

Many Senate Republicans are also wary or opposed outright to another major chunk of debt-financed virus relief, even as GOP senators imperiled in the election like Susan Collins of Maine and Cory Gardner of Colorado plead for more. Republicans are struggling to coalesce around a unified party position — and that's before they engage with Democratic leaders, who are demanding far more.

The relationship between Pelosi and her preferred negotiating partner, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, is civil but isn't generating much in the way of results, other than a promise to avoid a government shutdown at the end of the month by keeping a government-wide temporary spending bill free of controversy.

Navalny out of coma, German hospital says

Associated Press

BERLIN — The German hospital treating Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny says he has been taken out of an induced coma and is responsive.

Navalny, a fierce, high-profile critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany on Aug. 22, two days after falling ill on a domestic flight in Russia. German chemical weapons experts said tests showed that Navalny, 44, was poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent, prompting the

German government last week to demand that Russia investigate the case.

Berlin's Charite hospital said Monday that Navalny's condition has improved, allowing doctors to end the medically induced coma and gradually ease him off mechanical ventilation. It noted he was responding to speech, but "long-term consequences of the serious poisoning can still not be ruled out."

He has been in an induced coma in the Berlin hospital since he was flown to Germany for treatment.

Remote towns evacuated as California fire grows

Associated Press

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. — Evacuation orders were expanded Monday to more mountain communities as a huge wildfire churned through California's Sierra National Forest, one of dozens of blazes crews battled during a heat wave that shattered records across the state.

Firefighters working in steep terrain through the night saved the tiny town of Shaver Lake from flames that roared down hillsides toward a marina. To the north, about 30 houses were destroyed in the remote hamlet of Big Creek.

"About half the private

homes in town burned down," Big Creek resident Toby Wait said. "Words cannot even begin to describe the devastation of this community. And it is a very close-knit community."

An elementary school, church, library, historic general store and a major hydroelectric plant were spared in the community of about 200 residents, Wait told the Fresno Bee.

Sheriff's deputies went door to door to make sure residents were complying with orders to leave. Officials hoped to keep the fire from pushing west into rural towns along State Route 41 and possibly Yosemite National Park.

Typhoon hits S. Korea after striking Japan's islands

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea on Monday after battering islands in southern Japan, killing one person and injuring dozens of others.

The Korea Meteorological Administration downgraded Typhoon Haishen to a tropical storm Monday night as it made landfall near the North Korean coastal city of Hamhung. During its period as a typhoon, Haishen packed maximum winds of about 80 miles per hour as it barreled through South Korea's southern and eastern regions in the morning.

Japanese disaster management officials in Kagoshima said a woman in her 70s died of a head injury after falling into a roadside ditch while evacuating from a coastal town as Haishen lashed southwestern Japan over the weekend with strong winds and rain. Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said at least 38 other people were injured, five of them seriously. Schools and department stores were closed

in Hiroshima and other cities in the country's southwest.

Damage caused by the typhoon was less than feared because it took a path farther from the coast and weakened more quickly than expected, officials said.

In South Korea, more than 100 homes were destroyed or flooded, while cars struggled to navigate flooded roads in Ulsan and other coastal cities such as Busan, Sokcho and Gangneung. Emergency workers scrambled to clean up toppled trees and damaged traffic signs, buildings, port facilities and other structures.

At least one person was missing after getting swept away by water that filled a drainage channel at a limestone mine in the eastern coastal town of Samcheok. Another person was found dead in Busan, but officials said it wasn't immediately clear whether the death was caused by the typhoon.

At least five people were hurt, including one in Busan who sustained light injuries after a car flipped over in strong winds, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said.

The storm also destroyed or sank around 80 fishing boats, and caused generating turbines

at two nuclear reactors in the southeastern city of Gyeongju to automatically stop. No leakage of radioactive materials was detected.

Hundreds of flights in and out of the southern island province of Jeju and across the mainland were canceled. Some bridges and railroad sections were shut down, thousands of fishing boats and other vessels were moved to safety and more than 2,600 residents in the southern mainland regions were evacuated due to the possibility of landslides and other concerns.

Workers as of Monday afternoon had restored power to 49,643 of the 75,237 households that lost electricity in the southern mainland areas and Jeju.

Haishen, which means "sea god" in Chinese, plowed through Okinawa and other southern Japanese islands over the weekend. Traffic was still paralyzed in places, bullet train service was suspended and most domestic flights in and out of airports in southwestern Japan were canceled Monday.

Regional officials in Miyazaki said rescue workers were looking for four people missing after a mudslide hit the mountainous village of Shiiba

earlier Monday. A fifth person who was rescued at the site was seriously injured.

Electricity was restored to thousands of homes in Japan, but more than 340,000 others were still without power. Nearly 4 million people in Japan were still advised to evacuate as of Monday afternoon.

The storm by late Monday was expected to reach North Korea's northeastern region, which was battered by Typhoon Maysak last week, inflicting further pain on an economy ravaged by U.S.-led sanctions, border closures from the coronavirus pandemic and chronic food shortages.

North Korean TV aired video of widespread flooding in the eastern coastal city of Wonsan and nearby Tongchon, but the country's state media didn't immediately report any casualties caused by Haishen.

The North's state media earlier said leader Kim Jong Un visited typhoon-stricken areas, fired a top regional official for poor readiness and promised to send 12,000 workers from Pyongyang to help with recovery efforts. The North said Maysak destroyed more than 1,000 houses and inundated public buildings and farmland.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

18-year-old black rhino named Klyde dies at zoo

KS WICHITA — An 18-year-old black rhinoceros named Klyde has died unexpectedly at Wichita's Sedgwick County Zoo.

The zoo said in a Facebook post that the zookeepers reported that Klyde appeared healthy when he went on exhibit Saturday but then collapsed. Zoo staff was not able to revive him. The veterinary team plans to perform a necropsy to learn more about Klyde's health and a potential cause of death.

"Known for his gentle demeanor and sweet personality, he was a favorite of the Zoo family and will be greatly missed," the post said.

Chase across two states leaves 3 hurt, 1 arrested

NC NASH COUNTY — A suspect is in custody after a high-speed police chase began Saturday in North Carolina and ended in Virginia, leaving two people and a deputy injured.

The Nash County Sheriff's Office in North Carolina said officers responded around 7 p.m. to a call that reported someone firing gunshots at random cars on Interstate 95.

Officers began pursuing the suspected shooter in southern Nash County and continued through Halifax County before heading into Virginia. The pursuit ended in Emporia, Va.

Shots were fired during the chase, officials said. Two people were injured, including a 70-year-old woman who was shot in the shoulder. Another woman, a passenger in a vehicle that was shot at, suffered injuries from shattered glass that punctured her.

The suspect was taken in custody and brought to a hospital in Richmond, Va.

Museum faces closure due to low revenue

MI REED CITY — A Michigan museum that pays homage to the "The Old Rugged Cross" Christian hymn is facing closure due to low revenue, a local official said.

The venue has been operating on no more than \$4,000 in donations each year, Reed City Councilmember Nate Bailey told The Detroit News. Revenue has been so low that the nonprofit that runs it has asked the city to waive the building's \$200 monthly rent.

The Old Rugged Cross Historical Museum is dedicated to the Rev. George Bennard, who composed the hymn more than a century ago. The museum followed a memorial cross erected in 1954 near Bennard's home.

Man's checkout mishap conviction upheld

KS WICHITA — The Kansas Appeals Court has upheld the theft conviction of a man who repeatedly returned to a Walmart self-checkout machine that was mistakenly spitting out \$20 bills instead of \$1s, eventually receiving nearly \$500 in extra change.

The Wichita Eagle reported that a three-judge panel wrote Friday in its ruling rejecting Nicholas Ryan Morris' appeal that "Sometimes, things are too good to be true."

Morris' conviction for theft of property delivered by mistake stems from a January 2019 shopping trip in which he discovered a self-checkout machine at the Walmart in Wellington was giving incorrect change. Besides returning to the same self-checkout machine at least six more times, Morris also convinced his girlfriend and an acquaintance to use the machine.

State's 'Big Trees' could be demoted

NH CONCORD — Some trees deemed the largest in their species are getting a second look in New Hampshire.

The Concord Monitor reported that the change is a result of rethinking about the way measurements are taken of trees with multiple trunks.

The new measurements have already changed the status of an Eastern white pine in the Keene area that had been considered the biggest in the country by the Big Tree Program.

Now the tree is only the biggest in Cheshire County.

Sam Stoddard helps oversee the program in the state. He estimates that there are as many as 100 to 150 "multi-trunkers" on the state's list of big trees.

"We have to re-measure them, and for many their standings will change," Stoddard told the Monitor.

Officials investigating dead mountain whitefish

MT BOZEMAN — Montana officials are investigating whether an outbreak of disease is responsible for recent mountain whitefish deaths in several sections of the Yellowstone River.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks began receiving reports of dead whitefish along sections of the river near Big Timber and Livingston last week, the Bozeman Chronicle reported.

Officials said the die off could be due to proliferative kidney disease, a condition caused by a parasite affecting salmonids, such as mountain whitefish and trout. An outbreak of the disease in the Yellowstone River in 2016 led to the deaths of thousands of fish.

During observations conducted last week near Big Timber

and Livingston, biologists saw around 200 dead whitefish.

Police: Boys found safe inside stolen vehicle

MD PASADENA — Law enforcement authorities in Maryland said a toddler and a baby who were in a vehicle that was stolen from a gas station have been found safe.

Police in Anne Arundel County on Friday said the 2-year-old and 6-month-old boys were reunited with their mother after they were found inside the vehicle, which the suspect had ditched. News outlets reported the suspect remains at large.

The vehicle was stolen Friday evening in Pasadena. Anne Arundel County police Lt. John Mahaffee said the mother reported that she was pumping gas when a man jumped in her vehicle and took off.

Officials to issue more cougar hunting permits

UT ST. GEORGE — Utah wildlife officials plan on issuing additional cougar hunting permits this fall in an attempt to reverse dwindling mule deer populations.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources said evidence suggests that reducing the number of cougars may spur an uptick in mule deer populations.

Cougar numbers tend to oscillate in sync with mule deer numbers, The Spectrum reported. An abundance of deer one year will boost cougar numbers in following years. That cougar population increase might cause a decrease in deer population and, later, a corresponding drop in cougar numbers.

From wire reports

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Top seed Djokovic booted from Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Novak Djokovic was kicked out of the U.S. Open for accidentally hitting a line judge in the throat with a tennis ball after dropping a game in his fourth-round match Sunday, ending his 29-match winning streak and bid for an 18th Grand Slam title.

As he walked to the Arthur Ashe Stadium sideline for a changeover, trailing Pablo Carreno Busta 6-5 in the first set, Djokovic — who was seeded and ranked No. 1 and an overwhelming favorite for the championship — angrily smacked a ball behind him. The ball flew right at the line judge, who dropped to her knees at the back of the court and reached for her neck.

During a discussion of about 10 minutes near the net involving tournament referee Soeren Friemel, Grand Slam supervisor Andreas Egli and chair umpire Aurelie Tourte, Djokovic pleaded his case.

“His point was that he didn’t hit the line umpire intentionally. He said, ‘Yes, I was angry. I hit the ball. I hit the line umpire. The facts are very clear.

But it wasn’t my intent. I didn’t do it on purpose.’ So he said he shouldn’t be defaulted for it,” said Friemel, who made the decision to end the match. “We all agree that he didn’t do it on purpose, but the facts are still that he hit the line umpire and the line umpire was clearly hurt.”

Friemel didn’t see what happened, and said he was not allowed to check a video replay, but was given a rundown by Egli and Tourte. Friemel said that even if Djokovic didn’t intend to hurt the line judge, she was hurt, and that was enough to merit the ruling.

Eventually, Djokovic walked over to shake hands with Carreno Busta. Tourte then announced that Djokovic was defaulted, the tennis equivalent of an ejection.

Djokovic quickly left the tournament grounds without speaking to reporters, posting an apology on social media hours later.

No. 5 seed Alexander Zverev, who will face No. 27 Borna Coric in the other quarterfinal on that side of the draw, called Djokovic “unlucky.”

Harvick takes Southern 500

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — There was no doubt which of his two Darlington Raceway victories this year Kevin Harvick enjoyed more.

“The first thing I want to say is, ‘Welcome back fans! This is a hell of a lot more fun with you guys up there,’” he told the crowd Saturday night.

Harvick had a large smile as he waved to the 8,000 or so fans — the May 17 event here was run without spectators due to the coronavirus pandemic — and even gave the checkered flag to a young fan wearing one of his shirts.

Harvick had reason to be

happy, taking the Southern 500 when leaders Chase Elliott and Martin Truex Jr. bumped as Truex tried to make a pass and both brushed the wall.

Harvick was there to take advantage — and begin NASCAR’s playoff the best way possible.

Harvick, the 2014 series champion, was widely considered a favorite to be racing for a title this season. His eighth win this year put him into the second round.

“It was way better” getting out of the car and hearing a fan reaction, Harvick said. “It felt really good to have fans cheering.”

Sports briefs

Speedy Hall of Famer Brock dies at age 81

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hall of Famer Lou Brock, one of baseball’s signature leadoff hitters and base stealers who helped the St. Louis Cardinals win three pennants and two World Series in the 1960s, has died. He was 81.

Dick Zitzmann, Brock’s longtime agent and friend, confirmed Brock’s death Sunday, but he said he couldn’t provide any details. The Cardinals and Cubs also observed a moment of silence in the outfielder’s memory before their game at Wrigley Field.

Brock lost a leg from diabetes in recent years and was diagnosed with cancer in 2017.

“Lou Brock was one of the most revered members of the St. Louis Cardinals organization and one of the very best to ever wear the Birds on the Bat,” Cardinals chairman Bill DeWitt Jr. said in a release.

“He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.”

Brock stole 938 bases in his career, including 118 in 1974 — both of those were big league records until they were broken by Rickey Henderson.

Brock’s death came after Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver died Monday. Brock and Seaver faced each other 157 times, the most prolific matchup for both of them in their careers.

‘Father of Final Four’ Jernstedt dies at 75

INDIANAPOLIS — Tom Jernstedt, a member of the Naismith Hall of Fame for his contributions to college basketball and the NCAA Tournament, has died. He was 75.

The NCAA said Sunday Jernstedt died this weekend.

Nicknamed “Father of the Final Four,” Jernstedt has widely been credited with transforming the NCAA Tournament into the billion-dollar March Madness it has become today.

“A decade after his depar-

ture from the NCAA, Tom Jernstedt’s fingertips remain visible during March Madness and the Final Four,” NCAA senior vice president Dan Gavitt said in a statement. “His innovation and superb ability to develop relationships turned a basketball tournament into a three-week phenomenon that became a global event.”

Steelers sign Heyward to 5-year contract

Cam Heyward is getting his wish. The veteran All-Pro defensive tackle is set to be a Pittsburgh Steeler for life.

The Steelers signed Heyward to a five-year contract on Monday worth around \$75 million. The 31-year-old was entering the final season of a six-year deal he signed in 2015.

Heyward, whose father Craig starred as a running back for the University of Pittsburgh in the 1980s before a lengthy NFL career of his own, has created deep ties to the city since being taken in the first round of the 2011 draft. The new contract gives the nine-year veteran and longtime defensive captain a sense of stability.

A three-time Pro Bowler and two-time All-Pro, Heyward appears to be getting better with age, particularly after the Steelers moved him from defensive end to defensive tackle two years ago. Heyward has had 30 of his 54 sacks over the past three seasons.

In other NFL news:

■ Adrian Peterson has agreed to a one-year contract with the Detroit Lions, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Sunday because the agreement had not been announced. The 35-year-old Peterson was released by Washington on Friday after spending the past two seasons there. He has rushed for 14,216 yards in 13 seasons, mostly with the Minnesota Vikings.

NBA Playoff roundup

Bucks keep season alive, top Heat in OT

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Giannis Antetokounmpo was waiting in the locker room for his teammates Sunday, standing on his bad right ankle to greet every one of them.

His day ended early.

His season isn't over yet.

Khris Middleton scored 36 points, including a big three-pointer with 6.4 seconds left in overtime, and the Milwaukee Bucks avoided a sweep by beating the Miami Heat 118-115 in overtime of Game 4 of the teams' Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Heat still lead 3-1, but the Bucks — the best team in the regular season — are still alive, even after Antetokounmpo left early in the second quarter with an aggravation of his sprained right ankle.

"Khris is very unique," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "He's got a way about him. He wanted to play. He asked to stay in the game."

As if there was any other option. Middleton's season-high before Sunday was 40 minutes; he logged 48 in Game 4, taking over with Antetokounmpo watching from the locker room.

"Just keep fighting," said Middleton,

who also had eight rebounds and eight assists. "That's all my teammates did."

Bam Adebayo had 26 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for Miami. Duncan Robinson scored 20 points, Jae Crowder had 18 and Goran Dragic and Jimmy Butler each finished with 17 for the Heat.

"We didn't deserve to win that game," Butler said.

Miami had an eight-point lead in the fourth quarter, promptly allowed the Bucks to score the next 12, and now needs to come back Tuesday in an effort to finish the series off.

Antetokounmpo scored 19 points for the Bucks in only 11 minutes, while Brook Lopez and Eric Bledsoe each had 14 for Milwaukee. George Hill added 12 for the Bucks.

Miami managed only two points in the first 4:30 of overtime, got within one on a three-pointer from Tyler Herro, but Middleton delivered the biggest shot of the night to make it 116-112.

Herro made another three with 3.0 seconds left, but Middleton sealed it with a pair of free throws — and Miami coach Erik Spoelstra lauded Milwaukee's effort afterward.

"The reality is, they deserved to win the game," Spoelstra said. "They were

doing things with more force, more consistency."

Game 5 is Tuesday.

Lakers 117, Rockets 109: LeBron James had 28 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, Anthony Davis added 34 points and 10 rebounds and Los Angeles evened the Western Conference semifinals by beating Houston.

Markieff Morris scored 16 points for the Lakers. They opened a 21-point lead in the first half, gave up 41 points in the third quarter to fall behind, and then regrouped behind some big plays by James to pull away again.

James took only 15 shots in Game 1 and was scoreless in the fourth quarter of the Lakers' 112-97 loss, but he was dominant on both ends in the final period of this one. He had eight points in the quarter and a powerful blocked shot on Russell Westbrook that flew far out of bounds.

James Harden scored 27 points and Eric Gordon made six three-pointers and added 24 for the Rockets, who made 22 three-pointers. P.J. Tucker had 18 points and Robert Covington 17, but Westbrook finished only 4-for-15 with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Game 3 is Tuesday.

Stars blank Vegas in physical series opener

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Two days after they and the Vegas Golden Knights each won a hard-fought Game 7 to move on, the Dallas Stars figured there might be an emotional letdown at the start of the Western Conference final.

They filled that void with hit after hit, got one early goal and played the trademark lockdown style that made them one of the best defensive teams in the NHL during the regular season. The result was a hard-hitting 1-0 victory in Game 1 on Sunday night that served notice to Vegas that a spot in the Stanley Cup final won't come easily.

"We were skating, we were on top of them, we were creating a lot of offense from good

play, good defensive structure all over the ice," coach Rick Bowness said. "That's Dallas Stars' hockey."

That brand of hockey worked especially well after John Klingberg scored on the Stars' first shot 2:36 in and with goaltender Anton Khudobin locked in. Khudobin's rebound control was excellent in stopping all 25 Vegas shots he faced on the way to his first shutout in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"It's always goes to your career record," said Khudobin, who entered this year without a postseason start on that record. "At the same time, most of it, I'm happy with the win."

The recipe for this win was a barrage of hits. In true Stars fashion, the game had almost double the amount of total hits (96) than shots on goal (50).

With physicality the focus, Dallas took it to top-seeded Vegas, which has the size to bang bodies but couldn't match the Stars' jump from the drop of the puck.

"It took us a while to get our legs going," Golden Knights defenseman Nate Schmidt said. "We didn't come out to play from the start of the game."

The Stars came out hitting and got the boost they needed when it looked like surprise Vegas starter Marc-Andre Fleury didn't get reset after Dallas captain Jamie Benn's shot attempt was blocked, and Klingberg fired the loose puck past him into the net.

Playing with a lead allowed Dallas players to throw their bodies around. If the Golden Knights didn't know what to expect from the Stars, they do

now, and the competition level will be higher than the first two rounds.

"This is going to be a different series," Vegas coach Peter DeBoer said. "They're a heavy, veteran team and you've got to work to get inside and you've got to work for pucks and puck battles. They're not going to hand you offense, and you've got to be willing to compete for pucks."

After having the play dictated to them for the first two periods, the Golden Knights dominated the third but couldn't crack Khudobin, who has been thrust into the No. 1 role with Ben Bishop injured. As good as Khudobin was, Fleury matched him almost save for save, stopping 23 after allowing the goal to Klingberg.

MLB roundup

Cards gain ground on Cubs in NL Central

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Paul Goldschmidt's drive got up and just kept going, soaring out of a windy Wrigley Field on Sunday night.

When it landed, St. Louis was well on its way to another big win in Chicago.

Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer off a struggling Jon Lester, and the Cardinals gained ground in the NL Central race with a 7-3 victory over the Cubs.

St. Louis pulled within 1½ games of Chicago with its third consecutive win over the division leaders, sweeping a doubleheader on Saturday after the Cubs won 4-1 in the series opener Friday night. The longtime rivals have one game left in their pandemic-shortened season series on Monday.

"We're always taking care of our business and we put our head down and we play regardless of where we are," manager Mike Shildt said. "I think we've proven that, and that's a good trait for a group."

Tommy Edman also homered for the Cardinals, and Harrison Bader had three hits. Dakota Hudson (2-2) worked five innings of three-run ball, shrugging off a shaky start.

Chicago dropped to 10-15 since its 13-3 start. Anthony Rizzo and Jason Kipnis homered for the Cubs, but Lester (2-2) lasted just 3⅓ innings in another lackluster performance.

"Just giving too many runs, too many hits, too many baserunners," Lester said. "Too many of everything."

St. Louis went ahead to stay with four runs in the third. With one out and runners on first and second, Goldschmidt hit a massive drive to left that landed on Waveland Avenue for his fourth homer.

Tyler O'Neill singled with two out and scored on Rangel Ravelo's double, giving the Cardinals a 5-3 lead.

Paul DeJong, who had two hits and drove in a run, said St. Louis' lineup has been working well as a group.

"Top to bottom throwing up great at-bats. Everyone seems to be contributing," he said.

Angels 9, Astros 5: Anthony Rendon homered, Jared Walsh and Justin Upton delivered key hits during a four-run eighth inning and host Los Angeles swept the four-game series.

The Angels have won a season-high five straight. They trailed by at least three runs in each game against Houston before rallying.

Padres 5, Athletics 3: Fernando Tatis Jr. matched Angels slugger Mike Trout for the majors' home run lead with his 15th, a two-run drive in the seventh inning that

sent visiting San Diego over Oakland.

Garrett Richards (2-2) struck out nine and didn't walk a batter in seven sharp innings to end a four-start winless stretch.

Indians 4, Brewers 1: Shane Bieber struck out 10 in five innings to remain unbeaten in 2020, leading host Cleveland over Milwaukee.

Bieber (7-0) allowed only one run and five singles. He came in leading the majors strikeouts and added to his total by reaching double-digits for the sixth time this season.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 6: Matt Kemp hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning against his former team, and visiting Colorado sent the Dodgers to their first series loss of the season.

Kemp connected off Caleb Ferguson (2-1) for the sixth homer in a back-and-forth game between the NL West rivals. The Rockies won the last two in the series to boost their playoff hopes while curbing their 4-24 skid against the powerhouse Dodgers, who lost back-to-back games for only the third time this season.

Orioles 5, Yankees 1: Dean Kremer allowed one hit in six innings and struck out seven in his major league debut, DJ Stewart homered off Masahiro Tanaka and host Baltimore beat skidding New York.

The Orioles won their third in a row over the Yankees after losing 19 straight to them. New York has lost 13 of 18 overall.

The game was played on the 25-year anniversary of the night Cal Ripken played his 2,131st consecutive game, which broke Lou Gehrig's major league record.

Rays 5, Marlins 4: Brandon Lowe hit a sacrifice fly to complete a two-run 10th inning for AL East-leading host Tampa Bay.

Ji-Man Choi hit a tying double off Brandon Kintzler (1-3) to begin the 10th and pinch-runner Brett Phillips advanced to third on Michael Perez's fly to deep center.

After Kevin Kiermaier walked, Lowe sent a long fly into center field.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 8: Cavan Biggio's two-run double capped a six-run fifth inning, Rowdy Tellez and Caleb Joseph homered and visiting Toronto held off Boston.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had four singles for the Blue Jays, who had lost the previous two games after winning the opening pair of a five-game series at Fenway Park.

Tigers 10, Twins 8: Grayson Greiner hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning off left fielder Eddie Rosario's glove to lift visiting Detroit.

The Tigers erased a four-run deficit by

raking Minnesota's relievers for eight runs in the late innings. The Tigers snapped a streak of five straight losses to the Twins.

White Sox 8, Royals 2: Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer, Dallas Keuchel threw five scoreless innings and visiting Chicago completed a four-game sweep.

Keuchel (6-2) left the game with lower back stiffness after throwing a few warmup pitches before the sixth inning and is considered day to day.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3: Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer and rookie Kyle Lewis added a solo shot for host Seattle.

The surging Mariners won their fifth straight and 10th of 13 after an 8-19 start.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 2: Donovan Solano hit a two-run, go-ahead homer in the sixth inning and host San Francisco beat Arizona.

Brandon Belt and Chadwick Tromp also went deep for the Giants, who improved to 7-2 against the Diamondbacks this season.

Braves 10, Nationals 3: Freddie Freeman hit his second career grand slam — and second of the series — leading host Atlanta to a win over Patrick Corbin and Washington.

Josh Tomlin (2-2) allowed one run in six innings as Atlanta split the four-game series. Marcell Ozuna drove in four runs with three hits, including a homer and a three-run triple. Tyler Flowers had a two-run double.

Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo was ejected from a luxury suite after umpires said he was berating them. Crew chief Joe West said Rizzo had done the same thing earlier in the series.

Mets 14, Phillies 1: Jacob deGrom struck out 12 in seven innings, Aaron Nola was let down by lackluster defense and host New York poured it on with a season-best 17 hits in a victory over Philadelphia.

Pete Alonso homered twice, Jeff McNeil hit his first shot of the season, and Brandon Nimmo and Wilson Ramos also went deep for the Mets, who have won four of five.

Pirates 3, Reds 2: Erik Gonzalez's sacrifice fly capped a two-run ninth inning as host Pittsburgh rallied to beat Cincinnati.

Josh Bell and Ke'Bryan Hayes began the winning rally with singles off Raisel Iglesias (2-3). Bell then scored the tying run on Cole Tucker's single.

One out later, Gonzalez lined out to right field and Tucker easily beat Nick Castellanos' off-target throw.