

FACES

Sister trio HAIM makes rock history at Grammys
Page 18



PACIFIC

South Korea OKs spending boost for hosting US troops
Page 5



NBA

Exciting 2nd half awaits, but virus may have a say
Page 24

Indo-Pacific commander: Funding needed for Chinese threats >> Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79 Edition 232 ©SS 2021 THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥ 50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

National Guard troops open a gate in the perimeter fence around the Capitol to allow others in at sunrise Monday in Washington.

Mission extended

Pentagon will keep National Guard troops at US Capitol through May 23

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin on Tuesday approved a request by the U.S. Capitol Police for continued National Guard support through May 23, the Pentagon said in a statement.

Almost 2,300 National Guard personnel will continue with the work, which is roughly half the number currently on the mission,

2,300

The approximate number of National Guard personnel that will continue on the Capitol mission.

the Pentagon said.

Defense Department officials will work with the Capitol Police to continue reducing the Guard's footprint as conditions allow, the Pentagon said.

Officials have been scrambling in recent days to determine if and how to fill the request for more than 2,000 Guard forces. The original deadline called for the troops to leave Washington on Friday.

The decision underscores concern about the ongoing threat of violence at the Capitol, two months after rioters breached the building in violence that left five people dead. Law enforcement

have remained in a heightened security posture in response to intelligence suggesting possible threats to the Capitol by militia groups.

The request to extend the deployment met resistance last week, as some governors expressed reluctance or flatly refused to commit their troops to

SEE MISSION ON PAGE 6

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

Americans remember disaster a decade later

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Grant Okubo was on the phone with a colleague at Misawa Air Base when bottles started shaking in his home near Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo.

"It was the longest earthquake I'd ever experienced, but it was the same as a few others," said Okubo, who was an Army sergeant and photographer for Stars and Stripes when the quake hit March 11, 2011. "I wasn't completely shocked."

But the ground kept shaking, those wine and liquor bottles fell off his refrigerator. Then Okubo saw "crazy" scenes on TV from Sendai city, population 1.03 million, northeast of Tokyo and 80 miles west of the epicenter offshore.

"There were so many after-shocks," he said during an interview Friday over Zoom. "That's the

SEE DISASTER ON PAGE 4



Stars and Stripes

Marines and soldiers clean up an elementary school in Ishinomaki, Japan, on April 2, 2011.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Homebound children drive surge in Lego sales

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Sales of Lego sets surged last year as more children stayed home during global pandemic lockdowns — and parents bought the colorful plastic brick toys to keep them entertained through days of isolation.

The privately-held Danish company said its net profit rose 19% to \$1.6 billion as sales jumped 21% and it grew its presence in its 12 largest markets.

Lego, which on top of its sets al-

so earns money from video game apps, seems to be one of the businesses — like online retailers and technology companies — that were well placed to earn money from the massive disruptions in society worldwide during the pandemic.

Chief Executive Niels B. Christiansen told The Associated Press that the “super strong results” were thanks to strategic investments made years ago to move more sales online.

“This is not COVID-related.

This was an evolution that started a while ago,” he said. “In 2020, we began to see the benefits of these, especially in e-commerce and product innovation.”

He declined to say how much of the company sales were online but noted that there had been 250 million clicks on the group’s web page.

Consumer sales grew by double digits in all regions, with especially strong growth in China, the Americas, Western Europe and Asia Pacific.

EXCHANGE RATES

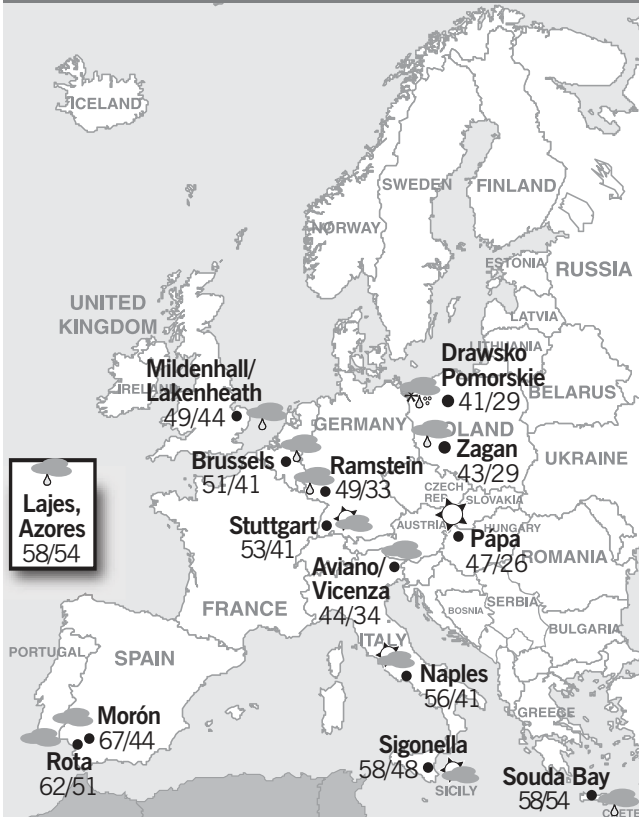
Military rates		South Korea (Won)	1,139.60
Euro costs (March 11)	\$1.16	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9291
Dollar buys (March 11)	0.8182	Thailand (Baht)	30.69
British pound (March 11)	\$1.35	Turkey (NewLira)	7.5449
Japanese yen (March 11)	106.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (March 11)	1,111.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	3.25
Bahrain(Dinar)	0.3772	Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Britain (Pound)	1.3912	Federal funds market rate	0.09
Canada (Dollar)	1.2626	3-month bill	0.05
China(Yuan)	6.5044	30-year bond	2.26
Denmark (Krone)	6.2425		
Egypt (Pound)	15.7267		
Euro	1.1901		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7616		
Hungary (Forint)	307.93		
Israel (Shekel)	3.3202		
Japan (Yen)	108.53		
Kuwait(Dinar)	0.3026		
Norway (Krone)	8.4376		
Philippines (Peso)	48.54		
Poland (Zloty)	3.84		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3447		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup 11

Classified 13

Comics 16

Crossword 16

Faces 18

Opinion 14

Sports 19-24

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ICHIRO KATAYANAGI | PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313
DSN: 227.7313

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES®

RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the **European** and **Pacific** editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo

MILITARY

Indo-Pacific commander cites Chinese threat

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The United States needs to invest more in troops, missile detection systems and weapons in the Indo-Pacific region in order to protect the country from an aggressive Chinese threat, Adm. Phil Davidson, the commander of Indo-Pacific Command, said Tuesday.

“I see [China] developing systems, capabilities, and a posture that would indicate that they’re interested in aggression,” Davidson said about China’s growing military during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has named China as the Pentagon’s “pacing threat.” But the focus on China is not new to the department, which has already named the country as an adversary in the 2018 National Defense Strategy. More so, defense offi-

cials are reviewing the U.S. strategy for China through a 15-member task force.

For fiscal year 2021, which ends Sept. 30, Congress funded \$2.2 billion in the Pacific Deterrence Initiative to counter Chinese influence in the region and increase cooperation with Pacific allies and partners. Davidson said he supports additional funding for the initiative in fiscal year 2022, which is slated to reach \$4.6 billion.

One of Davidson’s top priorities that is still unfunded is building an Aegis Ashore system on Guam to protect the territory from China. The system would allow a 360-degree air and missile defense against Chinese missiles. The current Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, radar system on Guam is not capable of meeting the future missile threat, according to Davidson.

Guam is home to 170,000 Americans and 21,000 service members, he said. It is also important strategically due to its deep water port, fuel storage, and Andersen Air Force Base, which allows U.S. aircraft to fly farther into the Pacific region. That base was also shown as a target in a simulated bombing attack in a Chinese propaganda video, Davidson said.

“Guam is a target today. It needs to be defended and it needs to be prepared for the threats that will come in the future,” he said.

Davidson called the status of American forces positioned in the region as “static” and their conventional deterrence is “eroding” as China builds and positions



Davidson

more ships in the region than the U.S. has there now. Having a posture that promotes deterrence is critical for America to respond to threats there, he said. It takes almost three weeks for forces to arrive to the region from the West Coast and 17 days from Alaska.

Davidson said he believes the U.S. must have a “robust” amount of forces spread out in permanently based locations in the region, as well as the ability to accommodate rotational forces to allow for a better response to threats. These forces include maritime as well as surveillance forces.

Increasing the stockpile of missiles to counter China’s growing stockpile is also key to deterring an attack, Davidson said. In 2019, the U.S. left the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty, or INF, due to claims that Russia violated the agreement and concern

about China’s ability to develop and build the missiles banned in the treaty because it was not a party to it. The treaty did not allow the U.S. or Russia to have intermediate missiles with ranges of 300 to 3,400 miles. Within that range, a missile from China can reach many of America’s allies in the Indo-Pacific region as well as Guam.

Davidson said it was important to have long-range missiles for land, air and sea forces to use to help “stabilize” the environment in the Western Pacific.

“Missile defense is the hardest thing we do ... We’ve got to have offensive capabilities that threaten — that cause a potential adversary to think twice about any malign activities that they might take in the region militarily,” Davidson said.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @caitlinmkenney

Leaders implement changes sparked by Fort Hood report

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A new law enforcement liaison, revised sexual assault prevention training and a crime survey for residents are some of the ways that leaders at Fort Hood have begun to address conditions at the base blamed for enabling crime and endangering soldiers.

The Fort Hood Independent Review Committee released a 136-page report three months ago that exposed the faults and missed opportunities of base officials that contributed to Fort Hood having the highest number of crimes in the Army. It also found an environment on base that was “permissive” of sexual assault and harassment and a lack of resources to properly investigate those crimes, which lowered the willingness of victims to report them.

Fort Hood has completed nearly 15 of the 70 recommendations made by the committee to improve conditions for the more than 37,000 soldiers assigned to the base, said Lt. Gen. Pat White, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood.

“While roughly a quarter of the [committee’s] proposals require higher level action, we’ve taken full ownership of the committee’s recommendations,” he wrote in a February letter to the base community. “III Corps has initiated action on over 80% of the [committee’s] recommendations that reside at our level and we remain in close coordination with both [Army Forces Command] and the Army’s newly formed People First Task Force to address all others.”

Some efforts have included the creation of a female mentorship program, training that teaches soldiers to better identify the early warning signs of sexual misconduct, and a several improvements to combating crime and improving communication between Fort Hood police and members of the military and civilian communities impacted by crime committed at the base.

About 11,000 of the nearly 20,000 Fort Hood soldiers who live off-base reside in Killeen, a town of about 148,000 located just



NATHAN AKRIDGE/U.S. Army

Fort Hood military police have taken steps to improve its communication lines to base residents and nearby civilian police departments.

outside of Fort Hood, according to the committee report. More than 20,500 military family members also live in Killeen. Combined, they make up about 21% of the city’s population.

The Supporting Warriors Action Team, which is newly designed sexual assault prevention training, kicked off last week with the goal of training soldiers how to recognize signs and early warnings of sexual misconduct, how to intervene in incidents of sexual misconduct and how to advocate for vulnerable service members and the survivors of sexual misconduct, said Lt. Col. Angie Chipman, the operations director for III Corps’ Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, known as SHARP.

“The person who makes the difference is down there in the formation,” Chipman said in a statement. “It’s not me. As many

speeches as I can give, I’m not the one who’s there on the range, or in the motor pools or at the companies every day.”

While the report heavily scrutinized criminal investigations, which fall within the scope of the Army Criminal Investigation Command, known as CID, it also found more could be done to prevent crime and communicate with the surrounding communities.

“What the Fort Hood report has done has really illuminated for us that our network is not as galvanized as it could and should be and we have missed opportunities in the past to connect with key stakeholders,” said Col. John Curry, commander of Fort Hood’s 89th Military Police Brigade.

He arrived on base in July, just as former Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy announced the committee’s creation to review Fort Hood following Spc. Vanessa Guillen’s

killing by another soldier in an arms room on the base.

The report, Curry said, highlighted “multiple areas for policing here at Fort Hood that we need to improve.” Work has already begun to improve crime prevention and community outreach, which are within the scope of his position as the police brigade commander and the director Fort Hood’s emergency services. He oversees a civilian and a uniformed police chief, the fire department, access control measures at the base gates and the physical security requirements.

Changes to CID are not part of Curry’s portfolio. CID has remained tight-lipped about its reforms and a first glimpse on those could come Thursday when the House Armed Services Committee subpanel on military personnel will hear testimony on its investigation recommendations from members of the Fort Hood review committee. Then the leaders of criminal investigation offices of the Army, Navy and Air Force will respond and provide information.

Later this month, Curry will send a military police officer to serve as a liaison between Fort Hood police and the Killeen Police Department.

While Killeen is the largest city near Fort Hood with the highest concentration of soldiers and families, Curry said he anticipates placing liaisons with other nearby police departments in the future.

The Fort Hood liaison will work in Killeen’s intelligence unit, said Charles Kimble, the Killeen police chief. As information filters in from the patrol and investigation divisions, the liaison can help identify patterns and people who specifically target military members.

Crime reports and statistics presented to White previously only showed the data for the base. Now reports include information from surrounding communities, Curry said.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

PACIFIC

Disaster: Journalists see parallels to Katrina destruction, Iraq

FROM PAGE 1

thing I remember, there were so many aftershocks. You kept wondering if there was another, heavier quake coming.”

The Great East Japan Earthquake registered magnitude 9, the largest ever recorded in Japan, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Accounts vary but the ground shook, depending on location, for up to six minutes.

Within 35 minutes of the quake, a tsunami arrived at the northeastern coast of Japan. The advancing water stood 60 feet high in some areas when it struck the prefectures of Fukushima, Iwate and Miyagi.

More than 19,000 lives were lost, the vast majority taken by the tsunami. Another 2,600 are unaccounted for. About 320,000 people at one time were in temporary shelters, and after nine years nearly 6,000 people were still considered displaced, the Asahi newspaper reported in March 2020.

Not the least of its consequences, the tsunami disabled the cooling system at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and caused three nuclear cores to melt down, the worst nuclear-power accident since Chernobyl in 1986.

At Misawa, Tim Flack felt the shaking, too. He grew worried enough to exit the building where he worked as a reporter for Stars and Stripes.

“I remember thinking to myself, ‘This isn’t one of the normal earthquakes,’” he said by phone March 4, “‘this is something a lot bigger and a lot scarier.’”

Outside, he heard children, crying, exiting the nearby arts and crafts center. Light posts shook. Across the street, a wall of water burst through the front door of the natatorium and cascaded down the steps, he said.

Flack, who’d also experienced shorter, sharper quakes, recalled the shaking went on for a long time.

“That’s when I started thinking this isn’t what I’m used to,” he said. “It was a surreal experience.”

Along with other Stars and Stripes journalists, the pair covered the aftermath from north and south, Okubo from Yokota Air Base, his home office, and Flack from Misawa.

Flack rode along with search-and-rescue parties and later with a Navy helicopter crew bringing supplies to stranded survivors. Okubo documented the scene at Sendai and portions of Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. military relief effort.

Ten years later, they recalled their most significant memories of the event.

‘A post-apocalyptic movie’

Okubo went to Sendai and Fukushima several weeks after the quake and tsunami to document relief progress. At its peak, Operation Tomodachi lent 24,000 personnel,



In this photo taken by former Stars and Stripes reporter Tim Flack, the coastal fishing village of Ofunato, Japan, looks like a war zone following the earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011.



Marines from Combined Arms Training Center at Camp Fuji, Japan, remove a smashed vehicle from Sendai Airport.

“It felt like a post-apocalyptic movie or zombie movie. You recognize the setting.”

Grant Okubo
former Stars and Stripes photographer

189 aircraft and 24 Navy vessels to the recovery effort, joining nearly five times that number of Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel, aircraft and vessels.

“When we landed at Sendai, the airport, I mean it was still a ghost town,” Okubo said. “The security checkpoint, where you normally went through the metal detectors, all the garbage and debris were piled up there.”

Okubo compared the event to his experience in Iraq from 2007-09

and at Fort Polk, La., where he was stationed during hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

In Louisiana, “there were houses covered, almost underneath water,” he said. “At Fukushima, the water, in the aftermath the water had receded, but you could see the remains of what had occurred.”

At Sendai, Okubo said, he saw shipping containers along the beach, capsized boats, fallen trees. Yet the place seemed empty.

“I could relate to it to a degree,”

Air Force dependent witnessed 2 historic natural disasters, 7 years apart: [stripes.com/go/disasters](https://www.stripes.com/go/disasters)

he said. In Iraq he saw something akin to such destruction: collapsed buildings, ruined roads and the power grid destroyed.

“There was a lot of similar destruction to some extent in Sendai. It felt like a post-apocalyptic movie or zombie movie,” he said. “You recognize the setting.”

Defining moments

In Misawa, Flack’s first priority turned to his wife, Kazumi, and their three young daughters. Not long after the quake, warnings were broadcast of a possible 18-foot-high tsunami.

“My initial instinct was to protect the family,” he said. “Once they were safe and sound the reporter instinct kicked in.”

He accompanied search-and-rescue teams from Los Angeles and Virginia that arrived quickly to look for survivors in a town south of Misawa. Normally a two-hour drive, that day it took many times that, Flack said.

“The crews were confident that if there were survivors, they would find them,” he said. “The crews we went with did not find survivors.”

Instead they marked the sites of likely remains and recorded their GPS coordinates.

Two weeks after the quake, Flack boarded a Seahawk helicopter whose crew searched the battered coastline for isolated survivors and brought them food, blankets, warm clothing and other supplies. Flack wrote up the trip for the March 23, 2011, edition of Stars and Stripes.

At one city center, the air crew

found a well-organized cluster of survivors that had prepared a list of the things they needed. The helicopter flew to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, dispatched to Operation Tomodachi, where the crew took on supplies, returned to the scene and unloaded.

The supplies the survivors needed most — kerosene and gas to run heaters and generators — could not be carried by the helicopters, Flack said.

Nonetheless, “the Japanese people lined up in a chain to the edge of the helicopter and unloaded,” he said. “They were very thankful.”

Ten years after

A decade later, Okubo said the yearlong coronavirus pandemic brought to mind how the Japanese people proved resilient in the disaster’s aftermath, ordering their lives in the ruins and coping with shortages and outages, even in Tokyo.

“It wasn’t like one or two days later, but they had done a lot of work to bring order. Even the debris was very orderly. I expected to see that,” he said.

Flack returned to Misawa from reporting assignments to find the base population turning out to help their Japanese neighbors clean up, he said. That project, Misawa Helps, started unofficially.

“About 2,000 people in the first four, five weeks, worked their way across the area,” he said. “It was hard work, and not ideal weather. It was just manual labor. Some folks went every day. They just wanted to do whatever they could to help.”

Neither Flack nor Okubo have returned to the Tohoku region. Flack, who now works in Army public affairs at Camp Zama outside Tokyo, said the pandemic put his plans on hold.

“There was one city I visited with Misawa Helps and had taken a photo of a service member digging through debris; in the background was a torii that was not destroyed,” he said.

“I don’t know how long that stood there but it survived the tsunami,” Flack said. “I want to see how they’ve rebuilt and what they’ve done since then.”

Okubo, who works in Army public affairs in California, said covering the aftermaths of war, of hurricanes, an earthquake and tsunami put life’s lesser events into perspective.

“When I went up to Sendai, and flew over Katrina, I realized that I was pretty lucky,” he said. “The military, there are pluses and minuses, but one thing it does is help you deal with a stressful situation. I definitely walked away a lot of times — and that time — feeling thankful for what I had.”

PACIFIC

S. Korea OKs spending boost to host US troops

**BY SETH ROBSON
AND YOO KYONG CHANG**
Stars and Stripes

South Korea will increase the amount it pays to support U.S. troops on the peninsula by 13.9%, the country's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday following agreement on a six-year cost-sharing deal.

South Korea will pay \$1.03 billion this year, up from \$910 million in 2019 to support 28,500 U.S. service members there, according to a ministry statement.

Seoul and Washington reached a deal Sunday on the defense arrangement called the Special Measures Agreement.

"The agreement served as an opportunity for the two countries to reaffirm the importance of the solid South Korea-U.S. alliance as the linchpin for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, and the need for the stable stationing of [U.S. Forces Korea]," the ministry said.

"It is assessed that by smoothly addressing the key pending alliance issue early on after the launch of the Biden administration, South Korea and the U.S. demonstrated the robustness of the firm alliance," it said.

South Korea has offset the costs for hosting U.S. troops under the agreement since 1991. Negotiations

over the amount have always been contentious, but they reached a breaking point in 2018 when former President Donald Trump reportedly demanded up to \$5 billion per year, a fivefold increase.

Previous contracts have lasted for five years, but the allies agreed to a retroactive, one-year stopgap measure for 2019 after failing to meet the end-of-year deadline.

That deal expired on Dec. 31, 2019, eventually prompting USFK to place over 4,000 local base workers who provide food and administrative services on unpaid leave.

The furlough ended in June after South Korea agreed to pay \$200 mil-

lion for salaries, and another loomed if a deal could not be struck.

To prevent future furloughs, Seoul and Washington established a new rule to enable the United States to provide its share of the cost at a level set in the previous year.

The deal, subject to approval by South Korea's National Assembly, freezes Seoul's payment for 2020 at the 2019 level.

The boost reflects last year's 7.4% rise in South Korea's defense spending, as well as a 6.5% increase in the cost for Korean workers supporting U.S. forces.

The two countries also agreed that Seoul's cost-sharing payments

from 2022 through 2025 will be tied to increases in South Korea's defense spending. Next year's payment will grow by this year's increase rate of 5.4%.

"The rate of defense spending increase reflects our financial capacity and defense capabilities, and is determined through parliamentary deliberations," the ministry said. "Thus, it is a reasonable standard that any citizen can verify and trust."

The deal could be signed during a visit to South Korea by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, which is expected next week.

Marines shed Super Stallion helicopters in Hawaii

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Two Super Stallion helicopters were permanently transferred from Marine Corps Base Hawaii to Okinawa last week as part of Force Design 2030, in which the Corps is refocusing on expeditionary warfare in the Pacific.

The U.S. Air Force 517th Airlift Squadron transported the CH-53E helicopters on Thursday, the Marine Corps said in a statement Tuesday to Stars and Stripes.

The Stallions were part of the Hawaii-based Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463. The transfer leaves the squadron with eight Stallions, but they won't be in Hawaii for very long.

Squadron 463 will continue to divest itself of aircraft and be decommissioned sometime in fiscal year 2022, which begins Oct. 1, the

Marine Corps said.

Hawaii's Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 will also be decommissioned as part of the force redesign, the Marine Corps said.

Marine Aircraft Group 24 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii will gain a KC-130 cargo plane squadron in the years following the other deactivations, the Marine Corps said.

The new force design calls for formation of the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment from the existing 3rd Marine Regiment in Hawaii.

The littoral regiment will consist of a combat team, an anti-air battalion and logistics unit capable of quick maneuvering to and among the myriad islands and atolls in the Pacific, the Marine Corps Times has reported.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson



LUKE KUENNEN/U.S. Marine Corps

A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter is readied Thursday for shipping from Marine Corps Base Hawaii to Okinawa, Japan.

Blackout window shades set up at Fort Wainwright to help curb suicides

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

A \$1.24 million project to install blackout shades on all soldiers' barracks at Fort Wainwright in Alaska is mostly complete, the Army said Tuesday.

The project is among efforts to reduce the risk of soldier suicide by improving overall quality of life.

"We did beat our timeline goal of getting shades installed in all of the facilities that are occupied by soldiers," Col. Adam Lange, U.S. Army Alaska's deputy commander for sustainment, said in a video posted Tuesday on Facebook.

Only a couple of barracks on the Fairbanks base do not have shades yet because they are under renovation, he said.

Soldiers stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson — the Army-Air Force installation in Anchorage — will also be getting the shades, Lange said.



U.S. Army

A soldier at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, talks about a blackout shade in his living quarters with Col. Adam Lange, deputy commander for sustainment for U.S. Army Alaska.

"Working with our Air Force counterparts, they've agreed and plan to install 400 sets of blackout shades in those facilities that don't already have them down at the Fort Richardson side of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson," he said.

Fort Wainwright is less than 140

miles south of the Arctic Circle, a location that experiences long, dark days in the winter and seemingly endless daylight in the summer.

Fairbanks gets about 22 hours of sunlight a day during the height of summer. For some individuals, the incessant sunlight interrupts the

body's circadian rhythm that regulates sleep and wakefulness, which can affect mental health.

Blackout shades are among several initiatives undertaken by the Army to improve quality of life for soldiers stationed in Alaska, an effort sparked in large part by a spike in suicides in recent years.

In 2019, a team from the U.S. Army Public Health Center's Behavioral Health and Social Outcome Program conducted a study at Fort Wainwright after five soldiers died by suicide between May 2018 and April 2019. The researchers found multiple factors in the risk of soldier suicide, including chronic pain, inadequate sleep and distress over personal relationships.

Almost a third of soldiers surveyed told researchers they suffered from sleeplessness; about 40% of them pointed to extended daylight hours as the cause, the Army said in a news release in early 2020.

The Army began installing the first blackout shades last summer.

The first priority in installation had been barracks needed by soldiers redeploying last year from Iraq and Syria, he said.

Troops from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, returned in May after a nine-month deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

In the video, Lange visits the living quarters of two soldiers who have been stationed at Wainwright long enough to have experienced barracks life with and without blackout shades.

"Sir, let me tell you, it was rough," said one soldier of pre-shade life, demonstrating for the colonel how the sliding blind works in her small room. "It's not easy — not easy without these things."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson

MILITARY



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

National Guard troops stand their posts around the Capitol at sunrise in Washington, D.C., on Monday.

Mission: National Guard looking to ensure troops have good care for extended DC stay

FROM PAGE 1

more time in the city. There now appears to be enough states willing to provide Guard troops for the mission, said the defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Army leaders had also initially questioned whether the Capitol Police had exhausted all other options to fill the need, such as asking other federal law enforcement agencies to provide security. But officials said military leaders thought it was important to find ways to work out the details.

It was unclear Tuesday if Guard troops currently in Washington would have to stay an extra day or two while the new forces arrive and get trained and settled in.

The threat was tied to the far-right conspiracy theory promoted by QAnon supporters that former President Donald Trump would rise again to power on March 4,

the original presidential inauguration day. That day passed with no problems, but law enforcement has said threats to buildings and personnel remain.

The Guard's deployment to the Capitol has been troubled. Early on, Guard members were briefly forced to take rest breaks and meals in a nearby cold garage, sparking outrage within the Biden administration. Officials quickly found new spaces within congressional buildings for the on-duty breaks.

In addition, Guard members complained of bad food, including some who said they became sick.

On Monday, chief Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said that about 50 Guard troops had been treated for gastrointestinal issues out of the 26,000 that deployed to Washington. He said six sought outpatient medical treatment, while the rest were treated at aid stations set up for the Capitol Hill mission.

Kirby said that Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, has been visiting the troops several times a week and eating alongside them to ensure that they were getting good food.

Acting Capitol Police Chief Yogananda Pittman made the request to have the Guard members stay on, setting off a series of discussions with the Pentagon and National Guard leaders.

U.S. military officials have said the cost of deploying about 26,000 Guard troops to the U.S. Capitol from shortly after the Jan. 6 riot to this Friday is close to \$500 million. No cost estimate for the next two months has been released. The costs include housing, transportation, salaries, benefits and other essentials.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.
olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson

500 National Guard troops deployed to US border at Texas

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas National Guard will deploy 500 troops to the state's border with Mexico this week as part of a surge of resources that Gov. Greg Abbott said are necessary to stop the increase in illegal activity there following federal policy changes.

"We will work to step up and try to fill the gap that the federal government is leaving open by making sure we deploy every resource, whether it be Department of Public Safety or Texas National Guard, whatever we need to do. Texas is going to fight for the safety and security of our state," Abbott said Tuesday during a news conference along the border in Mission, Texas.

The 500 troops will arrive by the end of the week and have already begun training to work in observation posts in support of the Department of Public Safety, which is adding about 1,200 state police officers to the region. The Guard has already embedded planners within the department and begun to train soldiers who will deploy to the border, said Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris, Texas adjutant general and commander of the Texas Military Department.

"We have been supporting the border for our governor and our federal and state partners for over 15 years," Norris said.

About 100 of the soldiers set to deploy served on similar border missions last year, she said.

Funding for the mission, dubbed Operation Lone Star, will come from the \$800 million that the Texas Legislature designates each session for border security, Abbott said.

This mission is separate from the federal National Guard mission to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection across the entire southern U.S. border that began under former President Donald Trump in April 2018 and continues under President Joe Biden. About 3,600 active-duty service members and Guard troops from several states are deployed through that mission, according to the Defense Department.

A Government Accountability Office report recently revealed that the Department of Homeland Security expects to need continued military support at the border for at least the next three years.

Texas troops have supported the federal mission and, in 2019, Abbott sent about 1,000 Guard

troops under state orders to temporarily assist that mission.

Abbott said Tuesday that this new influx of resources is necessary because apprehensions for illegal entry into the country are already up in the Rio Grande Valley sector of Texas, which covers southeast Texas from Orange County west into Starr County.

Last year, Border Patrol apprehended about 90,000 people in the Rio Grande Valley. This year, there have been 108,000 apprehensions so far, Abbott said.

Prior to the news conference, Abbott inspected the border from the air. He said he saw a raft with about 21 people, including children, attempting to cross the Rio Grande River.

"There is a crisis on the Texas border right now with the overwhelming number of people coming across the border. This crisis is a result of President Biden's open border policies. It invites illegal immigration and is creating a humanitarian crisis in Texas right now that will grow increasingly worse by the day," Abbott said, citing two specific policy changes as the problem.

Biden changed Trump's Migrant Protection Protocols, also known as "Remain in Mexico," which kept asylum seekers waiting for court dates in Mexico instead of entering the United States. Biden has stopped adding people to the program, but his administration has not outlined how to process the 65,000 people already in it.

The second policy, known as "catch and release," was used under former President Barack Obama and reinstated by Biden. It allows people to be paroled in America as they await court proceedings instead of remaining in detention.

Speaking at the White House last week, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said he does not believe there is a crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I think there is a challenge at the border that we are managing, and we have our resources dedicated to managing it," he said. "The men and women of the Department of Homeland Security are working around the clock, seven days a week, to ensure that we do not have a crisis at the border, that we manage the challenge as acute as the challenge is, and they are not doing it alone."

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

San Diego judge orders detention of Thai woman linked to 'Fat Leonard' case

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A former executive for a Singapore-based defense contractor linked to a sweeping corruption scandal that cost the Navy some \$35 million appeared Tuesday in a California courtroom to face federal charges.

Pornpun "Yin" Settaphakorn appeared before a judge in San Diego and was ordered detained pending another hearing next month.

Settaphakorn, of Thailand, was

extradited from that country last week, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office.

Last Friday, she pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and making false claims.

Settaphakorn oversaw the Thailand office of Glenn Defense Marine Asia, which provided fuel, food and other services to Navy ships in Pacific ports.

Prosecutors said the firm and its owner, known by his nickname of "Fat Leonard" Francis, bribed Navy officers with fancy

gifts, trips and prostitutes to provide classified information in order to beat competitors and overcharge for services.

The scheme cost the Navy some \$35 million.

Settaphakorn was charged in 2014 with involvement in a conspiracy to submit fraudulent price quotes, claims and invoices for about \$5 million to the Navy.

More than a dozen Navy and company officials, including Leonard and an admiral, have pleaded guilty in the case.

EUROPE

Soldier killed in crash followed family into Army

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. soldier killed last week in a car crash in Kaiserslautern had dreams of making the Army a career.

Sgt. Monesha L. Burton was profiled in an Army-produced feature last year for her work as a veterinary food inspector during the pandemic. Her family ties influenced her to join the Army in 2016, she said.

"My dad, uncle and cousins all served. I was inspired by everything they did," she said. "Right now, I plan on doing 20 years."

Burton, 22, died Friday from injuries she sustained in a car

crash near Kleber Kaserne and Daenner Kaserne. German police said Burton collided with another car that had the right-of-way at the intersection. The crash investigation has been turned over to the U.S. military, police said.

Two soldiers received minor injuries in the wreck, while a third, Burton's 26-year-old passenger, was hospitalized with life-threatening conditions.

The Army did not immediately provide any new information on the injured soldier's condition Wednesday.

Burton was a veterinary food inspection specialist at the Vet-

erinary Branch Kaiserslautern, Public Health Activity - Rheinland-Pfalz, said Gino Mattorano, a spokesman for Regional Health Command Europe.

Public Health Command Europe is hosting a memorial ceremony Friday for Burton, Mattorano said. The ceremony will be livestreamed on Facebook to a group created to share photos and memories of Burton.

In August, Burton spoke about her job in a short Facebook video her command posted for Women's Equality Day. She was also featured in an Army statement the same month for her work inspecting Army food facilities in

Kaiserslautern during the pandemic.

"What I enjoy most about my job is being able to help people by making sure they have a credible source for their food," she said. "My job is food defense and food safety."

Originally from Hammond, La., Burton in the video said she had other reasons for joining the Army besides her family's history of service.

"Mostly to better myself and to prove to myself that I can do it," she said.



RUSSELL TOOF/U.S. Army

Sgt. Monesha L. Burton

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown

American offers to do community service for fatal crash

By KYLE ALVAREZ
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — An American woman who fled England and claimed diplomatic immunity after killing British teen Harry Dunn in a traffic accident near RAF Croughton has offered to do community service in his memory, her lawyer said.

"We understand that community service is a typical sentence for offenses like this," attorney Amy Jeffress, who is representing Anne Sacoolas, told the BBC in an interview that aired Tuesday.

"We have offered ever since over a year ago that she would be willing to serve that kind of a sentence and to make a contribution in Harry's memory, to take other steps to try to bring some peace to the family," she said.

Sacoolas was driving on the wrong side of the road after leaving RAF Croughton, where her husband worked, in August 2019 when she struck 19-year-old Dunn



Facebook

Harry Dunn

head-on as he rode his motorcycle. Dunn died of his injuries in a near-by hospital.

Sacoolas was charged in England with death by dangerous driving, which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison. Punishments for vehicular manslaughter, the rough equivalent in the United States, vary be-

tween states and based on the circumstances.

An accident like the one that killed Dunn would not be prosecuted criminally in the U.S., Jeffress said.

"In the United States, these cases are only prosecuted where there is evidence of recklessness that rises to the level of close to intent — drunk driving, distracted driving, a hit-and-run situation or excessive speeding," she said. "But there was none of that here."

Dunn's mother, Charlotte Charles, told the BBC Tuesday that Sacoolas "needs to come back to face the U.K. justice system." But the U.S. has rejected a British extradition request.

Sacoolas wants to resolve the case without returning to the United Kingdom, Jeffress said.

She initially claimed diplomatic immunity as her husband's dependent, but recent news reports have said she was also working for the U.S. government in England.

RAF Croughton is a military base near Oxford that is home to an intelligence station operated by the U.S. Air Force. The base also includes State Department employees.

Jeffress denied that Interpol had issued a Red Notice for Sacoolas, as several media outlets reported last year.

A Red Notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender or similar legal action.

A search on Interpol's website Wednesday confirmed there was no Red Notice for Sacoolas, but it was unclear if there had been one previously and it had been removed.

Last month, a Virginia federal court ruled that a civil lawsuit filed by Dunn's family against Sacoolas could proceed.

alvarez.kyle@stripes.com
Twitter: @Kal2931

Drop Off Tax Service

Getting your refund is more important than ever.

- Leave your docs with us.
- Your tax pro will call with any questions.
- Review and approve your return online.

BAMBERG

Zollner Str. 187, 95052 Bamberg
0951-7000899
rosie.short@hrblock.com

VILSECK

Ambergerstr. 1, 92249 Vilseck
09662-701339
jorellano@hrblock.com

GRAFENWOEHR AAFES

AAFES Shopping Mall, Seasonal Office
0173-573-6112
jorellano@hrblock.com

VILSECK AAFES

Seasonal Office
0152-520-68935
jorellano@hrblock.com

MILITARY TAX EXPERTS
QUESTIONS? CALL US. OPEN YEAR ROUND.
ITIN ACCEPTANCE AGENT • EXPAT TAX SERVICE

ENTER TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD!



ONE WINNER EVERY MONTH!



GO TO 75.STRIPES.COM TODAY!



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVING
US MILITARY IN THE PACIFIC • 1945-2020



75.stripes.com
STARS AND STRIPES

MILITARY

US bases in Japan ease limits for vaccinated troops

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Two more U.S. military bases in Japan eased their post-travel coronavirus regulations Wednesday to permit fully vaccinated newcomers and returning travelers to serve part of their movement restrictions at work.

Yokosuka Naval Base and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni adopted “working ROM” policies that allow fully vaccinated people without COVID-19 symptoms to spend half the two-week restriction-of-movement period doing their jobs, provided tight measures are kept.

Statements by the Yokosuka public affairs office Wednesday on Facebook indicate it is clarifying details in response to questions about the policy. However, individuals under working ROM may not visit other areas on or off base, such as gyms, commissaries, exchanges or mess halls, according to a Naval Forces Japan order Friday. They must work apart from non-vaccinated colleagues.

Yokota Air Base, the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, instituted similar changes there Tuesday.

All three installations appear to have tailored the policy to their needs. Their changes come with lengthy conditions, including eligibility and continued testing, that are detailed on their Facebook pages.

The changes follow a USFJ order Monday that modifies the overarching ROM policy that differentiates between fully vaccinated and partially or unvaccinated travelers and newcomers. Fully vaccinated people in some cases may spend seven days at home followed by seven days with access to their installations, but not the surrounding community.

Typically, restriction of movement, a form of quarantine meant to stem the coronavirus’s spread, is spent at an individual’s home or in lodging on base.

Yokota and Yokosuka, the homeport of the U.S. 7th Fleet, are the two largest U.S. military installations in the greater metropolitan area. The ROM changes come as new case numbers fall and more people are vaccinated at their bases.

New arrivals and returning travelers at some stages of the pandemic accounted for the bulk of new infections reported by the

U.S. military in Japan and South Korea.

In February, USFJ Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Winegardner Jr. said the command would ease some forms of restricted movement as an incentive for service members, civilian employees and families to get vaccinated. Service members must volunteer for the coronavirus inoculations because the Food and Drug Administration approved them for emergency use only.

The U.S. military started isolating new arrivals and returning travelers in summer 2020 at the government of Japan’s request. A similar policy, which has not changed, is in place for U.S. Forces Korea.

Four U.S. installations in Japan reported seven new COVID-19 cases as of 6 p.m. Wednesday, according to base Facebook posts.

Sasebo Naval Base on Kyushu Island said two new arrivals to Japan came up positive on the test required to exit quarantine. They are the only cases on base. Naval Air Facility Atsugi, 26 miles southeast of Tokyo, said one person tested positive after arriving at a local airport; a second individual contracted the virus from another infected person. The base has five patients under observation.

U.S. Army Japan at Camp Zama, southeast of Tokyo, said one person recently tested positive during pre-travel screening, according to a news release.

Kadena Air Base on Okinawa had two individuals test positive after showing COVID-19 symptoms, according to a news release. An unidentified number of their close contacts were quarantined.

In another development, U.S. Forces Korea announced Tuesday it expects shipments of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine approved for use Feb. 27. It did not specify a delivery date.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine “will enable USFK to begin its transition to the remaining three priority groups sooner than expected,” according to a news release.

Those groups include Defense Department teachers, and employees at commissaries, post offices, exchanges, transit services and others.

Stars and Stripes reported Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
ditzler.joseph@stripes.com
Twitter: @JosephDitzler



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

A police car is parked outside a home on the outskirts of Weilerbach, Germany, on Wednesday at the scene of what is believed to be a double homicide. Police are still searching for a suspect.

Search for man suspected in 2 killings expanded near Ramstein Air Base

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

A German man suspected of killing his mother and her partner in their Weilerbach home remained at large Wednesday as police expanded their search in neighboring villages near Ramstein Air Base.

Daniel Mentel, 38, is wanted in connection with the killing of a man, 65, and Mentel's mother, 60, who were found dead Tuesday morning in a residential building, Kaiserslautern police said.

Preliminary autopsy results found “that the death of the two victims was caused by violence — but not by gunshot wounds,” Rheinland-Pfalz police said in a statement Wednesday.

Police are searching eight villages near Ramstein Air Base, including Weilerbach, Schwedelbach, Rodenbach, Reichenbach-Steegen, Mackenbach, Kollweiler, Eulenis and Erzenhausen, Kaiserslautern police spokesman Bernhard Christian Erfort said Wednesday.

The area has a population of about 14,000, including many Americans affiliated with the U.S. military at Ramstein and other bases in Kaiserslautern.

A search helicopter hovered over the villages Wednesday and several police cars were parked outside Mentel's listed address, a building next to a farm on the outskirts of Weilerbach where the killings are believed to have occurred.

A window and construction business, Fensterbau Mentel, is registered to the same address.

Police also maintained a presence near Rodenbach's village entrances near Weilerbacher Waldchen.

Mentel was described by police as about 5 feet, 7 inches tall, with short curly hair. He was last seen wearing green work pants, a dark softshell jacket and black work shoes, police said in a statement

Tuesday.

Anyone driving through the search area may encounter roadblocks and traffic stops, Erfort said.

The L356 road between Weilerbach and Hirschhorn, which was blocked Tuesday and runs close to Mentel's address, was open again Wednesday morning.

Erfort declined to discuss a motive for the suspected homicides, citing the ongoing investigation.

Mentel is also suspected of having started two fires in the nearby villages of Mackenbach and Erzenhausen late Monday night and Tuesday, police said. The fires caused significant property damage but no one was hurt, police said.

Police asked anyone with information regarding the suspect or the incident to call the Westpfalz police at 0631-369-2999. Anyone who sees Mentel should dial the emergency number 110, Erfort said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com



Mentel

Expanded fertility services for vets sought

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Advocates pushed members of Congress on Tuesday to expand and make permanent a federal program to help veterans conceive through in vitro fertilization.

The program was approved in 2017 to help veterans cover the cost of IVF if they have a service-connected disability that makes them infertile. Before that, the Department of Veterans Affairs was banned from providing the coverage, which can cost about \$12,000 per pregnancy attempt.

As the law was written, the program is only temporary and must be reauthorized by Congress every

year during federal budget negotiations. It's also limited in scope, advocates said, applying only to veterans who are married and not using a surrogate or donated eggs or sperm.

IVF can be a time-consuming process and having the program's existence at the discretion of Congress each year is “untenable,” said Barbara Collura, president of the National Infertility Association. She and Maureen Elias, associate legislative director for Paralyzed Veterans of America, testified about the issue Tuesday before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations.

“Not only does this uncertainty add anxiety to a very emotional,

stressful and personal situation, but the decision to have a child shouldn't be made because couples are worried the funding is going to run out or the service isn't going to continue,” Elias said. “When it comes to planning your family, the federal budgetary cycle shouldn't be a part of that.”

The fertility needs of veterans are much higher than the rest of the U.S. population, according to a 2013 study by the VA. The study found that nearly 14% of men and 16% of women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan reported infertility.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

NATION

Virus aid bill nears final OK in win for Dems

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress sped toward final approval Wednesday of a landmark \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill, as President Joe Biden and Democrats neared a major triumph for the party's priorities and showcased the unity they'll need to forge future victories.

The House was on track to use a virtual party-line vote to approve the 628-page measure, which represents Democrats' effort to bridle the catastrophic pandemic and revive the enfeebled economy. Four days after the Senate passed the measure over unanimous Republican opposition, GOP House counterparts were poised to do the same for a bill they've characterized as bloated, crammed with liberal policies and heedless of signs the dual crises are easing.

Democrats rejected those complaints.

"I call upon my Republican colleagues to stop their March madness and show some compassion for their constituents who are less

than wealthy," said No. 3 House Democratic leader James Clyburn of South Carolina as the House debated the legislation.

For Biden and Democrats, the bill is essentially a canvas on which they've painted their core beliefs — that government programs can be a benefit, not a bane, to millions of people and that spending huge sums on such efforts can be a cure, not a curse. The measure so closely tracks Democrats' priorities that several rank it with the top achievements of their careers, and despite their slender congressional majorities there was never real suspense over its fate.

They were also empowered by three dynamics: their unfettered control of the White House and Congress, polls showing robust support for Biden's approach and a moment when most voters care little that the national debt is soaring toward a stratospheric \$22 trillion. Neither party seems much troubled by surging red ink, either, except when the other is using it to finance its priorities, be they Democratic spending or



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / AP

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, right, D-Calif., joined from left by Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass.; Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass.; Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky.; and Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-S.C., finishes a news conference ahead of the vote on the Democrats' \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill in Washington on Tuesday.

GOP tax cuts.

Republicans noted that they've overwhelmingly supported five previous relief bills Congress has approved since the pandemic struck a year ago — when divided government under then-President Donald Trump forced the parties to negotiate. They said this one, written solely by Democrats, was a bridge too far.

"This isn't a rescue bill, it isn't a relief bill. It's a laundry list of left-wing priorities that predate the pandemic," said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California.

fornia.

A dominant feature of the bill is initiatives making it one of the biggest federal thrusts in years to assist lower- and middle-income families. Included are expanded tax credits over the next year for children, child care and family leave plus spending for renters, feeding programs and people's utility bills.

The measure provides up to \$1,400 direct payments to most Americans, extended emergency unemployment benefits and hundreds of billions for COVID-19

vaccines and treatments, schools, state and local governments and ailing industries from airlines to concert halls.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found last week that 70% of Americans back Biden's response to the virus, including a hefty 44% of Republicans.

Democrats control the Senate, split 50-50, only because Vice President Kamala Harris gives them the winning vote in tied roll calls. They have just a 10-vote advantage in the House.

Attorneys sift through opinions, anxiety among Chauvin jurors

BY AMY FORLITI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — One was anxious, worried about high emotion surrounding the case. One worried his family might be targeted. And one was delighted to receive her jury summons — even after learning she might wind up on the panel considering whether to convict a former police officer in George Floyd's death.

Jury selection for Derek Chauvin opened Tuesday, a grinding process during which attorneys asked the prospective jurors one by one whether they could keep an open mind, what they think of the criminal justice system, how they resolve conflicts and much more.

"I definitely have strong opinions about the case," one woman said. "I think I can try to be impartial — I don't know that I can promise impartiality."

She was dismissed. So was another woman, who said she didn't understand why Chauvin didn't get up when Floyd — in a widely seen bystander video that showed



AP

Defense attorney Eric Nelson, left, and defendant, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, take their seats as Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill on Wednesday presides over jury selection in Chauvin's trial.

Chauvin with his knee pressed on Floyd's neck — kept saying he couldn't breathe.

Three in the pool were seated on the jury, and six others were dismissed by day's end, in a process that actually began months ago, when potential jurors re-

sponded to an extensive questionnaire that explored their familiarity with the case and their own contacts with police. The questionnaires have not been made public and the jurors' identities are being kept secret.

The three jurors who were se-

lected — two men and one woman — all said they had heard some details about the case against Chauvin but would be able to put aside what they heard or opinions they had formed and make a decision based on evidence in court. One of the selected jurors said he hadn't seen the bystander video of Floyd's arrest at all, while the others described seeing it minimally.

The exchanges between potential jurors, attorneys and the judge illustrate the challenges in seating a jury in such a well-known case. Judge Peter Cahill has set aside at least three weeks for jury selection. Opening statements are scheduled no sooner than March 29.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death, and jury selection is proceeding despite uncertainty over whether a third-degree murder charge will be added. The state has asked the Minnesota Court of Appeals to stop proceedings until that's resolved, which could mean a delay of weeks or months.

Floyd was declared dead on

May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against the Black man's neck for about nine minutes. Floyd's death sparked sometimes violent protests in Minneapolis and beyond, leading to a nationwide reckoning on race.

Chauvin and three other officers were fired. The others face an August trial on aiding and abetting charges.

Cahill ruled on several pretrial motions Tuesday, setting parameters for trial testimony. Among them, Cahill said jurors will hear when Chauvin stopped working for the police department, but not that he was fired or that the city made a "substantial offer" to settle a lawsuit from Floyd's family. Those details won't be allowed because they could imply guilt, Cahill said.

Minneapolis City Attorney Jim Rowader said the city made an offer to the Floyd family last summer that was rejected. He didn't provide details.

A message left with an attorney for the Floyd family hasn't been returned.

NATION

House OKs pro-union bill despite dim Senate odds

BY BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-led House approved legislation that would invigorate workers' unions, following decades of court defeats and legislative setbacks that have kneecapped the labor movement's once formidable ability to organize.

The measure, which union leaders and labor allies have presented as a cure for decades of working-class wage stagnation, was approved Tuesday on a mostly party-line 225-206 vote. But it faces an all-but-certain Republican blockade in a narrowly divided Senate and is unlikely to become law.

In an angry floor speech, Rep. Tim Ryan

excoriated Republicans, most of whom opposed the measure, mocking them for rejecting a bill to "help the damn workers."

"Heaven forbid we tilt the balance that has been going in the wrong direction for 50 years," Ryan, D-Ohio, said, his voice rising. "We talk about pensions, you complain. We talk about the minimum wage increase, you complain. We talk about giving them the right to organize, you complain. But if we were passing a tax cut here, you'd be all getting in line to vote 'yes.'"

The Democratic push comes in the midst of a massive organizing drive in the historically labor-resistant South, which offers a crucial test for a labor movement that is

showing new signs of life after decades of atrophy.

President Joe Biden, who previously pledged to be "the most pro-union president you've ever seen," recently gave union organizers at a 6,000-worker Amazon facility near Birmingham, Ala., his tacit endorsement in an unprecedented sign of support. He also backs the Democratic bill.

Democrats are looking to fortify bonds with rank-and-file union members, a key constituency that has been critical for getting out the vote. Some drifted toward the GOP under former President Donald Trump, despite the Republican Party's long antipathy toward unions — attracted to

Trump's "America First" agenda and his hostile stance toward global trade.

While Republicans have welcomed blue-collar workers drawn to the party by conservative cultural issues, many draw the line at measures that would expand the power of labor and could benefit their economic bottom line.

"I've heard Democrats argue that it's the unions that built the middle class," said Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., the senior Republican on the House labor panel. "No, the unions didn't build the middle class. Entrepreneurs and individual workers in this country built the middle class. And what this bill does is take away their freedom."



PATRICK SEMANSKY / AP

President Joe Biden on Tuesday speaks with Mary Anna Ackley, owner of Little Wild Things Farm, left, and Michael Siegel, co-owner of W.S. Jenks & Son hardware store, a small business that received a Paycheck Protection Program loan.

Republicans struggle to define Biden, turn to culture wars instead

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden and the Democrats were on the brink of pushing through sprawling legislation with an eyepopping, \$1.9 trillion price tag.

But many Republican politicians and conservative commentators had other priorities in recent days. A passionate defense of Dr. Seuss. Serious questions about the future of Mr. Potato Head. Intense scrutiny of Meghan Markle.

The conservatives' relentless focus on culture wars rather than the new president highlights both their strategy for regaining power in Washington and their challenge in doing so. Unlike previous Democratic leaders, Biden himself simply isn't proving to be an easy target or animating figure for the GOP base, prompting Republicans to turn to the kind of cultural issues the party has used to cast Democrats as elitist and out of touch with average Americans.

"There's just not the antipathy to Biden like there was Obama. He just doesn't drive conservative

outrage," said Alex Conant, a long-time GOP operative, who worked for the Republican National Committee in 2009 as they labored to undermine then-President Barack Obama.

"They never talk about Biden. It's amazing," Conant said of the conservative news media. "I think Fox covered Dr. Seuss more than Biden's stimulus bill in the week leading up to the vote."

The GOP is focusing more on America's culture wars than on Biden, including a relatively new villain decried as "cancel culture."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy tweeted a video of himself reading from Dr. Seuss in the days after the author's publishing house announced it was discontinuing several books that contained racist imagery. And former Trump aide Stephen Miller joined others on the right in launching a Twitter defense of Buckingham Palace after Markle, in a blockbuster interview with Oprah Winfrey, alleged racist treatment by an unnamed member of the mon-

archy.

Biden himself has largely stayed gaffe-free, with the exception of his calling decisions by Republican governors to lift mask mandates "Neanderthal," which generated a brief tempest on the right.

Instead, the West Wing has focused on the relief bill, believing that Americans will reward results, not controversy.

"The cancel culture is a huge meme on the right and it may work with the base, but the base is not the country at large," said David Axelrod, former senior adviser to Obama. "That is a sideshow right now, the main event is the virus and how quickly are we going to be able to get back to normal."

Biden, Axelrod said, has remained "a difficult target" for the Republicans.

"He does not engage, he does not personalize his disputes, and while he is pursuing a progressive platform, he does not use the conventional ideological language about it," Axelrod said. "He's not a provocative personality."

Embattled Calif. governor says 'brighter days ahead'

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California Gov. Gavin Newsom sought to rally his state worn down after a year of coronavirus lockdowns, record wildfires and unfathomable sickness and death. He urged California's nearly 40 million residents to "dream of brighter days ahead" while acknowledging mistakes that have put his political future on the line.

"People are alive today because of the public health decisions we made — lives saved because of your sacrifice," Newsom said Tuesday night in his third State of the State address. "Even so, I acknowledge that it's made life hard, it's made life unpredictable, and you're exhausted by all of it."

California governors normally make these annual speeches before a joint session of the Legislature in Sacramento and are interrupted frequently by cheers and applause from members of their party.

This year, with the coronavirus receding but still dangerous, Newsom delivered the speech from an empty Dodger Stadium. He stood behind a solitary lectern rising from a carpeted black podium in deep center field. There were no cheers, only the sound of a helicopter thumping overhead.

Newsom made no new major policy announcements, instead focusing mostly on actions he believes have positioned the state for a robust recovery and that blunt calls for him to be recalled.

He issued a warning to Republicans working to give voters a chance to remove him later this year and vowed: "I remain determined."

"To the California critics out there who are promoting partisan political power grabs with outdated prejudices, rejecting everything that makes California truly great, we say this: We will not be distracted from getting shots in arms and our economy booming again," he said.

Newsom was the first governor to impose a statewide stay-at-home order last year, a move praised by many public health experts. When cases in New York and elsewhere surged last spring, California fared better.

California by the end of the year was the epicenter for the virus, though cases and hospitalizations have plummeted in recent weeks.

Strict state rules limiting which businesses could open led to 1.6 million job losses last year. A crush of unemployment benefit claims overwhelmed Newsom's administration, contributing to more than \$11 billion in fraud —

including an estimated \$810 million paid in the names of prison inmates.



Newsom

That scandal is referenced often by Newsom's critics but his most damaging political pandemic blow came when he attended a private dinner with lobbyists at a fancy restaurant and was photographed without a mask. The gathering didn't technically violate the state's rules at the time but contrasted with his message for state residents to stay home and wear masks.

Newsom apologized after the outing and made no direct reference to the event Tuesday, but acknowledged: "I have made mistakes. But we own them, learn from them, and we never stop trying."

Newsom painted a rosy picture of California's future, saying the state's vaccine program is "allowing you to visit your parents again, go to your daughter's basketball game, show up for shift work without fearing an infection."

He pledged to "make sure every Californian who needs a vaccine can get one," while prioritizing those at the greatest risk for exposure.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Student hurts self after igniting firework in class

MI NEWAYGO — A student lit a firework inside a western Michigan classroom, injuring himself through a “serious lack of judgment,” an official said.

No other injuries were reported at Newaygo High School. Details about the student’s injury were not immediately disclosed.

Students were sent home because of the odor and smoke, Superintendent Peg Mathis said.

Confederate flag to fly from smaller pole

VA LOUISA — A 1,500-square-foot Confederate flag visible from a major Virginia highway will soon be flying from a diminished flagpole.

A building permit issued by Louisa County shows that the flag’s owners plan to reduce the current 120-foot flagpole down to 60 feet to bring it in compliance with county regulations.

It was built on private property about 15 miles east of Charlottesville in 2018, after the Charlottesville City Council voted to remove two Confederate statues.

Louisa officials said the flagpole exceeded the 60-foot maximum allowed by the county, and several years of legal battles ensued.

Fire hall blaze totals building, damages trucks

ND GLENBURN — Authorities said a small-town North Dakota fire department lost its building and likely six trucks in a fire.

Fire crews from Lansford, Maxbass and the Minot Air Force Base also responded to the blaze at the Glenburn Fire Department, the Minot Daily News reported.

The structure is considered a total loss, said Lance Johnson, fire district board vice president and firefighter. The fire damaged a pumper truck, a tanker, three grass fire units and a rescue truck.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Area departments have offered to loan equipment in the interim as the Glenburn department seeks to restore or replace equipment.

Meteor spotted over New England, Canada

VT BURLINGTON — A meteor first spotted over Vermont’s Mount Mansfield State Forest was likely traveling more than 40,000 miles per hour before it burned up, experts said.

NASA Meteor Watch said the bright fireball was seen just before 5:40 p.m. last Sunday.

It traveled 33 miles before burning up over Orleans County. More than 100 eyewitnesses from across the region reported seeing it.

It was seen over northern New England and Canada.



DARYN SLOVER, THE (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

All fired up

Roger Gervais of Wales, Maine, feeds the evaporator with wood at Jillson’s Farm & Sugarhouse in Sabattus, Maine. Gervais cleaned the evaporator by boiling water in anticipation of making their first batch of maple syrup this week. “The sap is really going to run good,” farm owner Ed Jillson said about rising temperatures during the daytime this week. Jillson said that the last of 15,000 buckets was hung from maple trees over the weekend. This is the 22nd year that Gervais has been making syrup on the farm.

Failed heater leads to loss of \$40K of plants

KS WICHITA — Last month’s Arctic cold snap has proved costly for a well-known botanical gardens venue in Wichita, officials there said.

A heater in Botanica’s largest greenhouse failed during the coldest day of the cold snap, when the temperature was well below zero, television station KAKE reported. Because gardeners didn’t discover the failure until the next day, most of the plants in it succumbed to the freeze.

The estimated value of the plants lost is between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Botanica staff have started a crowd-funding effort to replace the plants.

Police arrest man after rescue from ceiling

MS NATCHEZ — A teenager who called 911 to report that he was stuck in the ceiling of an elementary school was arrested after being rescued by police and firefighters, authorities said.

Willie Dobbins, 19, of Hattiesburg telephoned dispatchers to tell them he was suspended from

THE CENSUS

77 The number of chain saws a longtime Amtrak employee in New Jersey is accused of stealing and selling, according to a federal criminal complaint. Jose Rodriguez, 48, sold the chain saws and hundreds of parts online for more than \$50,000 between 2016 and July 2020, according to the complaint. In all, Rodriguez sold 77 chain saws, 103 chain saw replacement bars and 163 replacement chains to buyers in Pennsylvania, Michigan, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, California and South Carolina, according to the complaint. He faces one count of stealing government property and one count of stealing from an agency receiving federal funds.

inside the cafeteria ceiling at Frazier Elementary School in Natchez, The Natchez Democrat reported.

Dobbins appeared to be trying to break in through the roof where money is kept and got stuck, said Police Chief Joseph Daughtry. Once in police custody, Dobbins was checked for injuries at a hospital, the chief said.

Community cancels July 4 fireworks show

MI SOUTH HAVEN — A Lake Michigan community in southwestern Michigan is canceling a popular fireworks show months before the July 4 holiday.

Organizers said the spread of COVID-19 would be too risky, despite the availability of vaccines.

The South Haven show usually attracts 50,000 people to the area.

“Out of an abundance of caution, city leadership decided to cancel the show this year with hopes to resume in 2022,” City Manager Kate Hosier said.

Department fined for operating cesspools

HI HONOLULU — The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources was fined nearly \$222,000 for operating seven large-capacity cesspools on Kauai island.

The Environmental Protection Agency banned the type of cesspool targeted in 2005 because they can pollute water resources and violate the Safe Drinking Water Act, Hawaii News Now reported.

The cesspools were at Camp

Hale Koa, the Wainekae Cabins and at a commercial property, the television station reported.

The EPA has taken action before against the department, has collected over \$400,000 in fines and closed 74 cesspools.

Woman booted from bar drives into crowd, hurts 1

WI MOUNT PLEASANT — Authorities said a woman who got kicked out of a Mount Pleasant bar drove her car into a crowd and seriously injured a pedestrian.

The crash happened after the 33-year-old Racine woman was allegedly involved in an altercation with a group inside the bar, Mount Pleasant police said. Witnesses told police the pedestrian was struck and became trapped under the car.

The driver tried to flee the scene but was apprehended by officers, WDJT-TV reported.

The victim was taken to a local hospital and then later transported by Flight for Life to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee with possible life-threatening injuries.

NATION

Ark. enacts near-total abortion ban

By Andrew DeMillo
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Tuesday signed into law legislation banning nearly all abortions in the state, a sweeping measure that supporters hope will force the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit its landmark Roe v. Wade decision but opponents vow to block before it takes effect later this year.

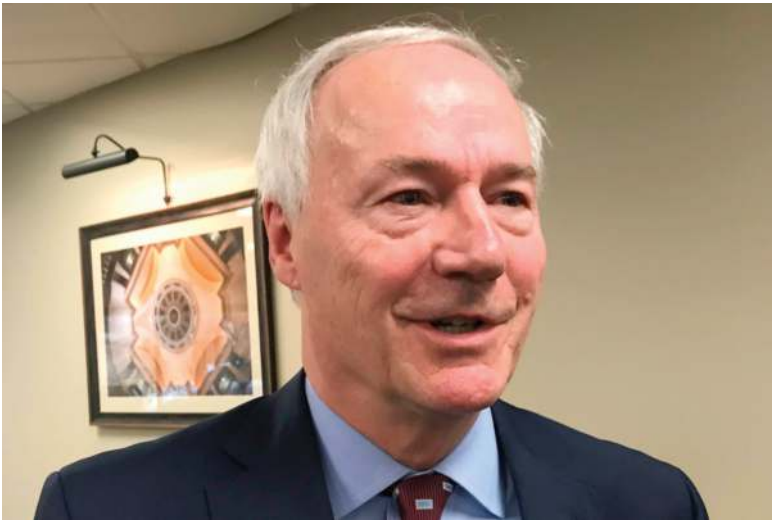
The Republican governor had expressed reservations about the bill, which only allows the procedure to save the life of the mother and does not provide exceptions for those impregnated in an act of rape or incest. Arkansas is one of at least 14 states where legislators have proposed outright abortion bans this year.

Hutchinson said he was signing the bill because of its “overwhelming legislative support and my sincere and long-held pro-life convictions.”

The bans were pushed by Republicans who want to force the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide. Conservatives believe the court is more open to striking down the decision following former President Donald Trump’s three appointments to the court.

“We must abolish abortion in this nation just as we abolished slavery in the 19th century — all lives matter,” Republican Sen. Jason Rapert, the bill’s sponsor said in a statement.

Hutchinson has signed several



Andrew DeMillo/AP

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Tuesday signed into law legislation banning nearly all abortions in the state, a measure supporters hope will force the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit its Roe v. Wade decision but opponents vow to block before it takes effect later this year.

major abortion restrictions into law since taking office in 2015, but he had voiced concerns that this bill directly challenges Roe and about the lack of rape and incest exceptions. He repeated those concerns as he announced his decision.

“(The ban) is in contradiction of binding precedents of the U.S. Supreme Court, but it is the intent of the legislation to set the stage for the Supreme Court overturning current case law,” he said in a statement released by his office. “I would have preferred the legislation to include the exceptions for rape and incest, which has been my consistent view, and such exceptions would increase the chances for a review by the U.S. Supreme

Court.”

As the Legislature considered the measure, Hutchinson shared with lawmakers a letter written by an attorney for abortion opponents National Right to Life that said the chances of the bill leading to Roe being overturned were “very small and remote.” National Right to Life didn’t take a position on the bill, though its Arkansas affiliate supported the ban.

The legislation won’t take effect until 90 days after the majority-Republican Legislature adjourns this year’s session. That means it can’t

be enforced until this summer at the earliest. Abortion rights supporters said they plan to challenge the ban in court before then.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas called the ban “cruel and unconstitutional.”

“Governor Hutchinson: we’ll see you in court,” ACLU of Arkansas Executive Director Holly Dickson said.

“This is politics at its very worst,” Alexis McGill Johnson, president of Planned Parenthood Action Fund, said in a statement. “At a time when people need economic relief and basic safety precautions, dismantling abortion access is cruel, dangerous, and blatantly unjust.”

Hutchinson had until Wednesday afternoon to take action on the bill before it would have become law without his signature, a move past governors have taken to express displeasure with a bill without risking an override fight with the Legislature. It takes a simple majority for the Legislature to override a governor’s veto in Arkansas.

Arkansas has some of the strictest abortion measures in the country and two years ago Hutchinson signed into law a measure that would ban the procedure if the Roe decision was overturned. Another measure Hutchinson signed in 2019 banning abortions after 18 weeks of pregnancy is on hold due to a legal challenge.

Biden dog injures security agent

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has Major trouble.

Family dogs Major and Champ have been banished from the White House for a doggie time out in Delaware after Major caused a “minor injury” to a Secret Service agent.

“On Monday, the first family’s younger dog Major was surprised by an unfamiliar person and reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury to the individual, which was handled by the White House medical unit, with no further treatment needed,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday.

She would not confirm that a Secret Service agent was injured in Monday’s incident, but an administration official later said an agent was Major’s victim. The agent was not seriously injured, said the official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Psaki said plans already had been made to send the German shepherds to Delaware while first lady Jill Biden left town on Monday. The dogs will return to the White House soon, Psaki said.

Prosecutor: Man put wife’s body on sofa in front of kids

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — A Southern California man who killed his wife propped up her body on a sofa, told their children she was drunk and had them open Christmas presents in front of her body, a prosecutor told jurors at his murder trial.

“This Christmas story does not have a happy ending, and unfortunately this is not just a story, it is real life,” Heather Brown, senior deputy district attorney in Orange County, said Monday as a trial began for William Wallace, of Anaheim, the Orange County Register reported.

Za’Zell Preston, 26, was taking college classes in hopes of becoming a domestic violence counselor when she was killed in 2011 by a man who already had served jail time for beating her, the paper said.

The couple had gone to a neighbor’s Christmas Eve party and a neighbor described hearing an argument later that night, Brown said.

Wallace told a member of Pres-

ton’s family that “we were drinking and during the argument I tossed her around a bit,” the prosecutor said.

Brown said the next morning, Wallace dragged his wife’s body from the bedroom to the living room couch, placed sunglasses on her and told the children: “Mommy ruined Christmas, she got drunk and ruined Christmas.”

Preston was slumped over on the couch when paramedics arrived. She left a newborn son and two daughters, who were then 3 and 8 years old.

Wallace’s attorney argued that Preston died from injuries after she drunkenly tripped and fell into a glass table, shattering it.

“Mr. Wallace is being accused of something that is not his fault,” Heather Moorhead told jurors. “You will hear about a relationship that was full of arguing and yelling, but also a lot of love.”

Wallace, 39, could face up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder.

STARS AND STRIPES

CAST YOUR VOTE!

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES!

STARS AND STRIPES

BEST OF THE PACIFIC

2021

YOU COULD WIN A GIFT CARD WORTH UP TO \$300!

Vote online by March 21!

BESTOFPACIFIC.STRIPES.COM

WORLD

Myanmar police raid housing for striking railway workers

Associated Press
MANDALAY, Myanmar — Myanmar security forces Wednesday raided a neighborhood in the country's largest city that houses state railway workers who have gone on strike to protest last month's military coup.
Police sealed off the Mingalar Taung Nyunt neighborhood in Yangon where the Ma Hlwa Kone train station and housing for railway workers are located. Photos and video on social media showed officers blocking streets and what was said to be people escaping.
At least three arrests were reported, but couldn't immediately be confirmed. There was no ap-

parent resistance to the raid, and local media reported that the authorities forced at least some residents from their homes.
Later Wednesday, police fired warning shots, tear gas, stun grenades and live rounds in other areas of Yangon to disperse protesters. In North Okkalapa, press and social media reports said at least 200 people were arrested. About 400 young people who were detained in mass arrests a week ago are believed to still be behind bars.
The raid on rail workers comes just days after several Myanmar unions, including the Myanmar Railway Worker's Union Federa-

tion, issued a joint call for a nationwide work stoppage. They said the strike would be part of a broader effort for "the full, extended shutdown of the Myanmar economy."
Despite the increasingly violent tactics of security forces, protests continued Wednesday in cities and towns across the country, including Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, Dawei, Myitkyina, Myitkyina, Bago, Kalaw and Myingyan.
Myanmar has been roiled by protests and other acts of civil disobedience since the Feb. 1 coup that toppled elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi's government just as it was to start its second term.



STR / AP
Anti-coup protesters communicate from the frontlines as they stand off with riot policemen in Yangon, Myanmar, on Wednesday.

Russia slows down Twitter for not removing banned content

Associated Press
MOSCOW — Russian authorities said Wednesday they are slowing down the speed of uploading photos and videos to Twitter over its failure to remove banned content — part of growing efforts to curb social media platforms that have played a major role in amplifying dissent.

The state communications watchdog, Roskomnadzor, said it began the slowdown after it said Twitter failed to remove content encouraging suicide among children and containing information about drugs and child pornography.
The agency warned that if Twitter refuses to abide by Russian law, it could be

blocked entirely, but it voiced hope the platform would "take a constructive stance" and comply with removing the banned content. Vadim Subbotin, deputy chief of Roskomnadzor, said in televised remarks that Twitter is the only social platform that has "openly ignored the Russian authorities' demand to remove

the banned content."
The action against Twitter comes as the authorities have criticized social media platforms that have been used to bring tens of thousands of people into the streets across Russia this year to demand the release of jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY

Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730

Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)

E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de

WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM

+44-(0)1638-515714

enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk

www.carshipuk.co.uk

U.S.A

+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701

+1-800-264-8167 (US only)

info@tgul.us

www.tgal.us

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Are you in the picture?

Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri

0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de

Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

No one covers the bases the way we do.



Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
 Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
 croley.tina@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 slavin.erik@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350
Pacific
 Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com
 +81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380
Washington
 Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
 cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
 (+1)(202)886-0033
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
 Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager
 robert.w.reismann.naf@mail.mil
 xsscirculation@stripes.com
 DSN (314)583-9111
Europe
 Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
 lewis.karen@stripes.com
 memberservices@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090
Pacific
 Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: (+1)202.886.0003
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050
Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com
Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

OPINION

A mission to curb extremism in the ranks

BY DAVID IGNATIUS
 Washington Post Writers Group
 WASHINGTON

The Pentagon is experiencing continuing aftershocks from the Jan. 6 insurrection — the frightening recognition that many of the people who assaulted the Capitol that day saw themselves as part of the military family. Military leaders have long known they had a problem with white extremism in the ranks. Many senior commanders describe incidents early in their careers when they had to discipline troops who had racist tattoos or links to extremist groups. But they didn't fully realize how dangerous the spread of this extremist ideology could become for the country — until the wake-up call on Jan. 6. “A commander who tells you that there’s no problem really doesn’t know what’s going on in his own unit,” argued Gen. Kenneth Frank McKenzie Jr., who heads U.S. Central Command, in an interview during a trip to the Middle East. If military leaders don’t address these problems within the ranks, “then you need to get new leaders,” McKenzie Jr. said. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered a military-wide stand-down on Feb. 5 so that commanders could talk with their forces about extremism. Officers were advised to review the meaning of the oath that military personnel sign, and to review “impermissible behaviors” and how to report them. This process of internal discussion will end in early April, but it’s already clear that the extremist views of the Capitol rioters are shared by some active-duty forces. “It is real. It is not an imaginary problem. It exists,”

said John Kirby, the Pentagon spokesman, in an interview Tuesday about the danger of extremism in the military. He told me that one difficulty in assessing the threat is that extremists are secretive about their views. “These people often live in darkness, thrive in darkness, and conceal their belief systems.” Kirby said that Austin is focusing on three corrective measures: tighter screening of recruits before they join the armed forces; closer monitoring of whether military personnel are being radicalized while they’re on active duty; and better communication about values with men and women who are about to leave the military and become veterans. Anger and chagrin about Jan. 6 are widely shared in the Pentagon. “I was outraged that any service member took part in the attack on the Capitol because it was an attack on the Constitution and we are sworn to defend the Constitution,” said Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in an email sent through his spokesman Tuesday. Warning signs of growing extremism in the military are obvious, in retrospect. A 59-page Pentagon report last June to the congressional armed services committees warned that the Defense Department “is facing a threat from domestic extremists . . . particularly those who espouse white supremacy or white nationalist ideologies.” Drawing on FBI evidence, the report listed examples of extremist behavior. But the information didn’t receive any public attention until this month. The Oath Keepers, a militia formed by a former Army paratrooper, is probably the best example of an insurrectionist group

that tries to feed off the military culture. Back in 2016, it claimed to have 30,000 members “who were said to be mostly current and former military, law enforcement and emergency first responders,” according to the Southern Law Poverty Center. Federal prosecutors recently charged nine alleged members or associates of the group with conspiring to obstruct Congress in the Jan. 6 riot. These self-styled patriots waved the stars and stripes even as they assaulted the House and Senate chambers. A court document released Monday quotes Thomas Caldwell, a former Navy intelligence officer charged as a member of the Capitol conspiracy, recalling that on Jan. 6, “it was exhilarating to stand there with thousands . . . waving my American flag . . . singing ‘America the Beautiful’ and ‘The Star-Spangled Banner.’” Caldwell was allegedly in regular contact with Oath Keepers leaders but denies he was a dues-paying member. McKenzie argues that one reason the military has spawned extremists is that the volunteer force that fought our wars in recent decades began to see itself as a warrior “elite.” The four-star Marine general explains: “You can come back [from deployments abroad] and feel that you’re inherently superior to your fellow citizens. Perhaps you’ve borne a very heavy share of the responsibilities. . . . But actually, we’re all citizens in the end.” The military carried a heavy load for the country the past two decades, and perhaps that made some veterans feel they had a special status as protectors of the republic — even to the treacherous point of insurrection.

The Capitol fence is linked to other affronts

BY GEORGE F. WILL
 Washington Post Writers Group
 “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
 — Ronald Reagan, June 12, 1987
 WASHINGTON

Regarding contemporary American foolishness, there really is no such thing as rock bottom. Nine weeks after the assault on the Capitol, today’s president still will not say, “Speaker Pelosi and Sen. Schumer, tear down this fence!” In normal life, when there is no penalty for failure, failures proliferate. In government, failure, far from being penalized, is often rewarded. Those whose bad judgments botched the Capitol’s security on Jan. 6 now are granted seemingly unlimited deference regarding their judgments about needed security measures. Hence their infuriating project currently scarring the epicenter of American democracy: more than 3 miles of seven-foot-tall fencing that is topped by razor wire and patrolled by soldiers. This seals off from a phantom menace the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress, symbols of liberty under law, and the reign of intelligence. On March 4, while Senate business proceeded, the House skedaddled, having suspended its session because of rumors, aka “intelligence reports,” of a second siege of the Capitol, supposedly scheduled for that day. Until 1933, March 4 had been the date for presidential inaugurations. This, some social media chatter indicated, electrified a smattering of lunatics who, for reasons too ludicrous to detain us, thought March 4 would bring the

second coming of their savior, the previous president. A tiny portion of the 330 million people in this country are stark raving mad, and their madness is reciprocated by those in charge of the national capital’s security. The security providers’ prescription for a better America is the same as every government agency’s prescription: Spend more on what we do. Is it, however, too much to ask that someone in power say aloud what everyone knows — that pursuit of the last possible increment of safety produces disproportionate measures that are embarrassing, or worse? Ron Suskind’s 2006 book “The One Percent Doctrine” reported that soon after 9/11, Vice President Dick Cheney said (this is Suskind’s paraphrasing), “If there was even a one percent chance of terrorists getting a weapon of mass destruction . . . the United States must now act as if it were a certainty.” So, it was on to Baghdad, spurred by intelligence reports as accurate as those about March 4. Those who could order the fence dismantled might want it there indefinitely as a prop in the security theatrics that heighten the drama surrounding Congress as it fails to perform such humdrum tasks of governing as keeping outlays and revenues within hailing distance of each other. There is, however, a cost paid in diminished national dignity and prestige, when the east end of one of the world’s great urban spaces, the National Mall, resembles the seat of a banana republic’s government that is suffering a nervous breakdown because of a restive tank regiment at the edge of town. And while we are speaking of the aes-

thetics of Washington: In December, Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., with no cliché left behind (“Today the Senate stands at the precipice of history”), accomplished the less-than-Herculean task of winning Senate approval for a National Museum of the American Latino. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, objected to yet another Smithsonian museum “based on group identity.” There already are the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of the American Indian, and in December Congress approved (in pandemic/stimulus legislation, naturally) an American Women’s History Museum, to be “on or near” the Mall. Would it not be preferable, Lee asked, to have all such stories told by the existing National Museum of American History? Lee, Menendez thundered, “stands in the way of the hopes and dreams and aspirations of seeing Americans of Latino descent having their dreams fulfilled in being recognized” as a part of the United States’ — you guessed it — “mosaic.” If the fulfillment of dreams requires that they be “recognized” with buildings on or near the Mall, near will not be near enough. In the ensuing nearer-than-thou competition, the Mall, hitherto a place of magnificent vistas, will become a moral pork barrel, a plaything of identity politics, congested with buildings erected to mollify factions who insist that the United States is not “inclusive” until their groups are included in the architectural clutter there. If such a subtraction from Washington’s beauty seems fanciful, go gaze at the Capitol through the fence.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Unlimited Digital Access

INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONE MONTH
FREE TRIAL

When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



Stars and Stripes content features

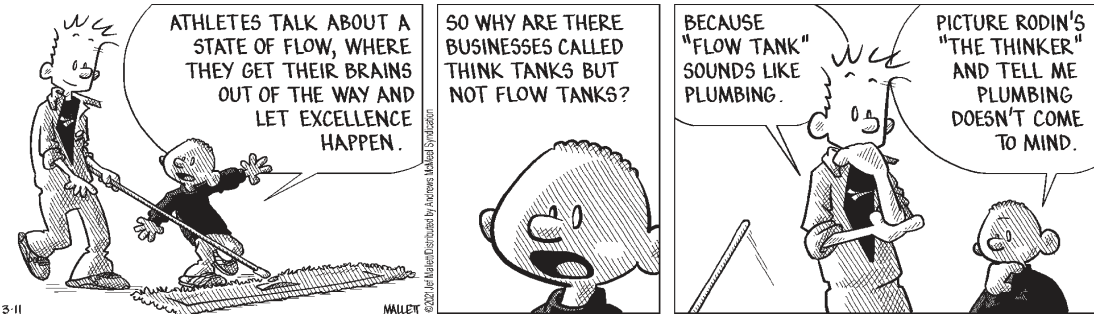
- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

Subscribe Today!

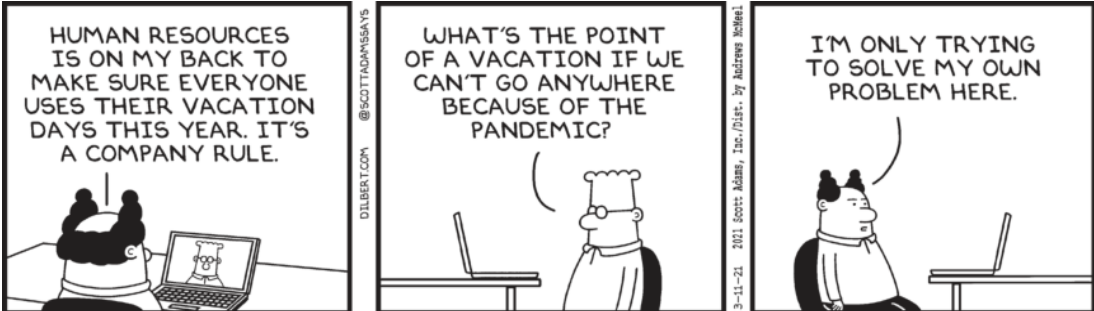


stripes.com/subscribe

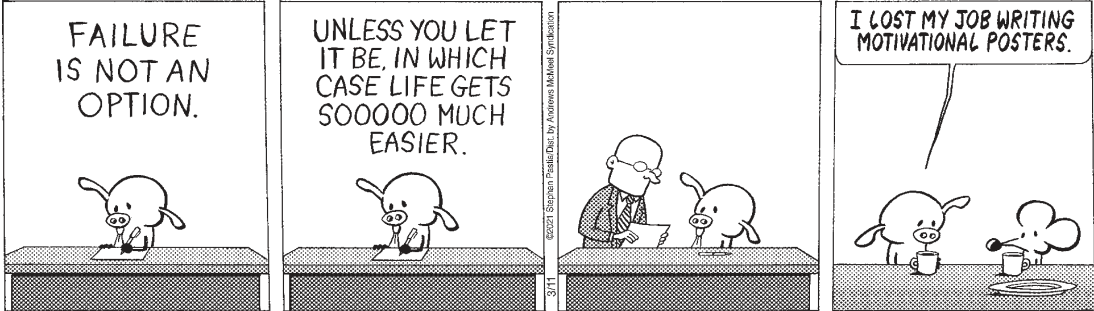
Frazz



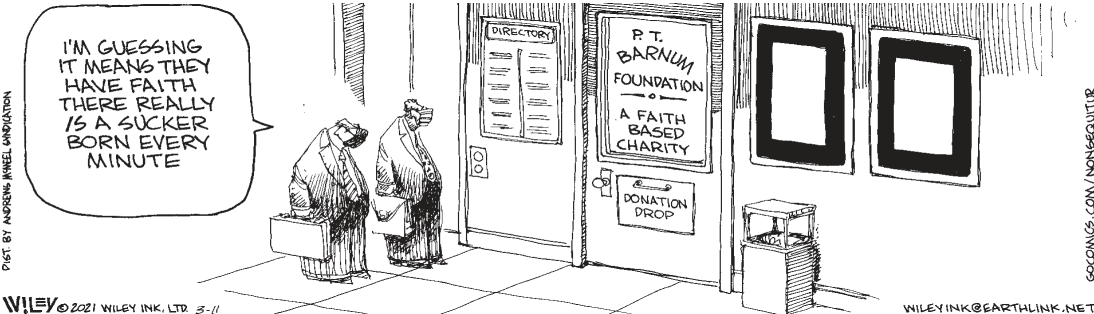
Dilbert



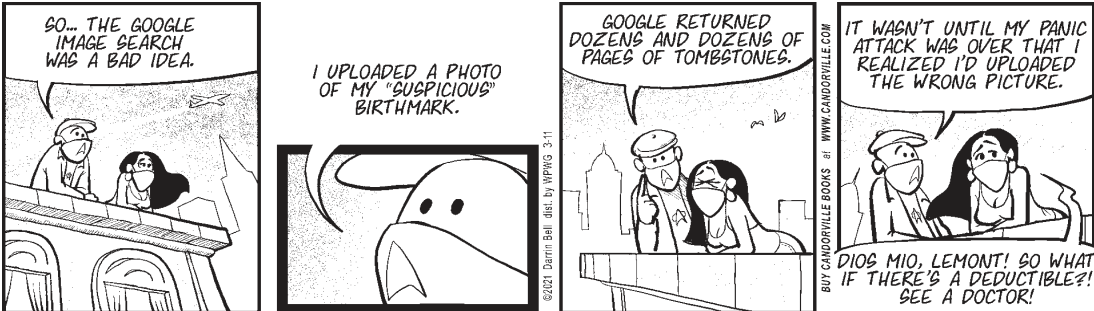
Pearls Before Swine



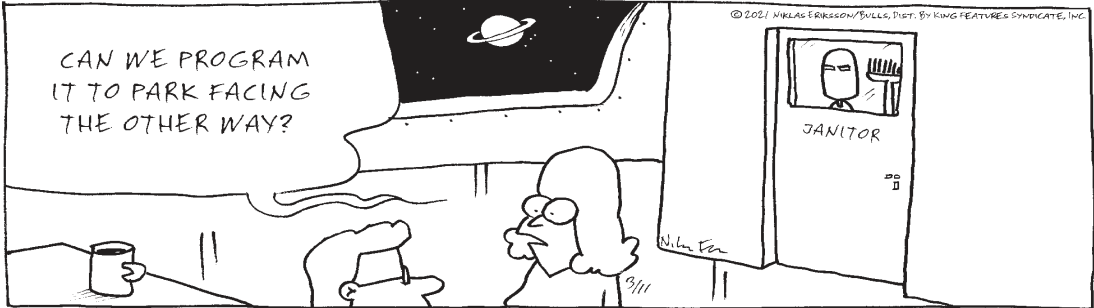
Non Sequitur



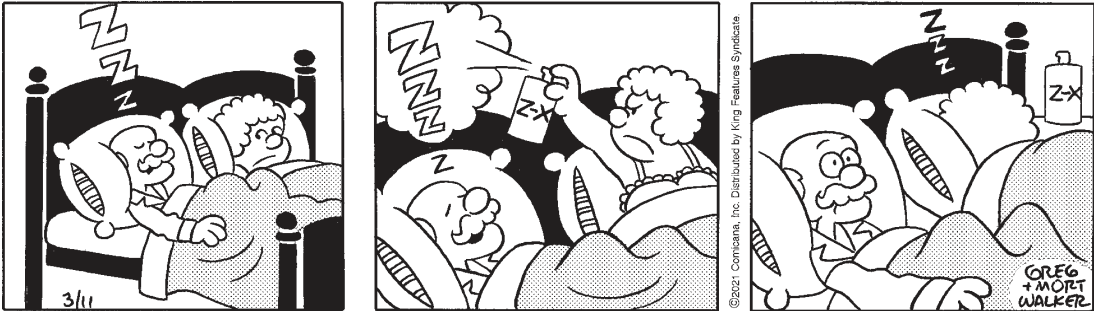
Candorville



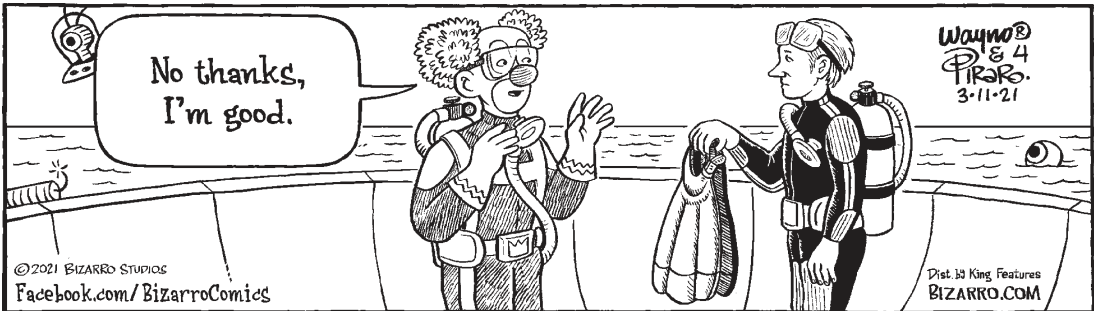
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22					23				
24	25	26			27	28	29				30	31
32					33					34		
35			36	37					38			
		39					40	41				
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

ACROSS

- 1 Rani's dress
5 Soda
8 Wild guess
12 Avocado dip, for short
13 Santa — winds
14 Give a hoot
15 Verifiable
16 Decks in the ring
17 "Downton Abbey" role
18 Deli meat
20 Walmart competitor
22 Auto fuel
23 Galley item
24 Just adorable
27 Computer screen features
32 Simile part
33 PC program
34 Roman 1051
35 Soho resident
38 Whispered "Hey!"
39 Wee bit
40 Shock partner
42 Trumpet's cousin
45 Primary color
49 Burden
50 Newt
52 Skater Lipinski
53 San —, Italy
54 Coach Parseghian
55 And others (Lat.)
56 Org.

- 57 Fall from grace
58 Shoulder muscle, for short

- 25 Mil. morale booster
26 Fits
28 Mimic
29 Sunless bronzer
30 "Treasure Island" monogram
31 Command to Fido
36 Ted of "Cheers"
37 Praise in verse
38 Hit with snowballs, say
41 You and I
42 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
43 Till bills
44 Afternoon affairs
46 Overdue
47 Like some vaccines
48 Poet Whitman
51 Calendar abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Boot camp VIPs
2 Mystique
3 Actor Julia
4 Glacial period
5 Islamabad's country
6 Yoko of music
7 Bygone days
8 Ornamental beetle
9 Geometric puzzles
10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
11 Tempo
19 Cellist Yo-Yo
21 Fine, at NASA
24 Western st.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	E	A	R		N	I	B		S	C	A	R
I	T	T	O		A	S	U		H	U	M	E
O	U	T	O	F	G	A	S		A	P	E	D
R	I	N	S	E				H	E	R	O	N
				T	E	A	R		D	E	F	
V	O	W	S		L	A	I	D		J	A	X
A	L	A		R	U	D	D	Y		O	R	E
T	E	D		A	M	A	L		S	E	T	S
			O	F	F			R	E	S	T	
B	E	F	I	T	S				N	I	E	C
E	R	G	S			T	U	G	O	F	W	A
T	A	U	T			A	S	A		L	E	I
A	T	M	S			Y	A	P		E	R	N

3-11

CRYPTOQUIP

“Z M U A P U A Z” K W U A U K M D A
P W N U B P U H Z W U X

U Z M N L G Z W G L S Z M A N Y D Z N I

S N N X B Q K Y: I B Q Y D Z Y H P U B Y D A.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU BROWSE THROUGH THE WEB PAGES OF A BIG MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE, ARE YOU SURFING THE MET?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals W

Get the news
that matters to you,
from the source you trust.



Daily Headlines | Veterans News | Military History | and more

Sign up now for Stars and Stripes FREE eNewsletters

STARS AND STRIPES® stripes.com/newsletters

FACES



Sisters, from left, Alana, Este and Danielle Haim of HAIM, shown Feb. 22 in Los Angeles, will be performing at Sunday’s Grammy Awards. The rock band is nominated for album of the year.

They’ll drink to that

Sisters of HAIM the first all-female rock band up for top Grammy prize

BY RAGAN CLARK
Associated Press

Este Haim’s birthday will look different this year from last. Her 34th birthday fell on Los Angeles’ first day of quarantine and she was alone in her apartment eating a sugar-free cupcake. This year, she’ll be finding out if she and her sisters, who make up the pop-rock trio HAIM, will be taking home their first Grammy Award. “Whether we win or lose, there will be a lot of tequila happening,” said Alana Haim, 29, the youngest of the three. HAIM is making history at Sunday’s show — the group is the first all-female rock band nominated for the Grammy’s top prize, album of the year, pitting them against heavyweights like Taylor Swift, Coldplay, Post Malone, Dua Lipa and more. They also join an all-female ensemble with their nomination for best rock performance, where nominees include Fiona Apple, Brittany Howard, Grace Potter, Phoebe Bridgers and Big Thief, the alternative band led by Adrianne Lenker. “(It’s) surreal and I also feel like it’s a long time coming,” Este Haim said of the female representation at the Grammys. HAIM’s Grammy nominations and upcoming performance at the awards show cap out an album experience they weren’t expecting. They say that first and foremost, they are a live rock band. So when they recorded “Women In Music Pt. III” — their third album released during the pandemic last June — they weren’t just thinking about how the music would sound on speakers and headphones, they were thinking about how it would sound live. “I mean, my body is ready to go on tour and to play live and to play these songs,” Alana Haim said. “We had a whole tour booked,” added Danielle Haim, 32. “It was bittersweet to bring the record out into the world when we couldn’t actually go out and tour it.” Unable to engage fans from the stage, they’ve made do by connecting online. The band’s Instagram page includes posts like a dance in Hanukkah hats, a satirical holiday music video featuring Grammy-winning musician Thundercat (whom Este Haim, as a fellow bassist, has a “not so secret” crush on) and even one post that

scared their mother. “The only time that it gets stressful is when our mom calls us and she’s like, ‘What were you doing on the internet today? I saw your underwear. Did you know that?’” said Este Haim. “It’s art, Mom,” she joked in response. While the three singers are mostly aiming to have fun on social media, they also try to keep it real — like when Este Haim, who has Type 1 diabetes, shows her insulin pump in photoshoots or in tweets. “I wear my pump like it’s a part of me,” said Este Haim. “I think that it’s important to raise awareness and normalize apparatuses that people with chronic illness have to wear.” Social media may have kept them partially entertained during the pandemic, but they were also busy at work creating music. They admit that the ease of collaboration improved. Following the release of “Women In Music Pt. III,” HAIM dropped an extended version last month with remixed songs featuring Swift and Thundercat. “We’ve jumped on a lot of people’s songs during our career, and it was always in person because there wasn’t a pandemic,” said Alana Haim. “It’s actually kind of exciting because I feel like we all, as musicians, kind of had to figure out all of our home studios pretty quickly.” This allowed for faster collaborations. After working with Thundercat on “3 AM,” Este Haim says they texted Swift, whom the group had opened for in 2015, and she responded immediately saying she’d record vocals for “Gasoline” from home the next day. “She just added such an amazing new facet to the song and it really is like a remix,” said Este Haim. “She really brought a whole new layer of imagery to the song as well.” HAIM also appears on Swift’s “no body, no crime” — from Swift’s second surprise 2020 album “evermore.” The murder mystery track marks HAIM’s first entry on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, peaking at No. 34, and the song even reached No. 2 on the country music chart. HAIM could see the popularity of remote recording staying after the pandemic. “It really did make it easy to collaborate with people that maybe usually were on tour,” said Alana Haim. “Maybe in the future, this is just what’s going to come out of it — more collaborations because we’ve figured out how to create.”

Piers Morgan quits British TV show after Meghan comments

Associated Press
Piers Morgan has taken himself off the air. The controversial British broadcaster quit his hosting gig at “Good Morning Britain,” ITV announced Tuesday. “Piers Morgan has decided now is the time to leave,” the network said in a statement. The news came shortly after U.K. broadcasting regulator Ofcom launched an investigation into Monday’s episode of the talk show, in which Morgan accused Meghan Markle of lying about racism within the royal family and her own suicidal thoughts. On Tuesday’s show, Morgan stormed off after “Good Morning Britain” weatherman Alex Beresford criticized him for his one-sided attacks of Markle. “Yes they had some great press around the wedding, but there was bad press around the engagement, before the engagement and everything that has followed since has been incredibly damaging quite clearly to Meghan’s mental health and also to Harry,” Beresford said. Morgan, 55, began his career at Fleet Street tabloids before going

on camera with “Piers Morgan’s Life Stories,” “Piers Morgan Live” and “Good Morning Britain.” He has frequently caused stirs for racist and sexist comments made on-air and off. In November 2019, Ofcom said it would not punish Morgan after receiving almost 1,000 complaints when the host said he identified as a “penguin” during a discussion about gender identity. ITV CEO Carolyn McCall said earlier Tuesday, before Morgan’s on-air scolding or resignation, that the network was “dealing with” him after he publicly questioned Markle. In the CBS interview that aired Sunday night, Markle told Oprah Winfrey that she “didn’t want to be alive anymore” while she was pregnant with Archie. “I don’t believe a word she says, Meghan Markle,” Morgan said Monday. “I wouldn’t believe her if she read me a weather report.”



Morgan

2 women nominated for the top Directors Guild of America award

From wire reports
After two consecutive years in which women were excluded from the feature film category entirely, this year’s lineup of Directors Guild Awards nominees included two women, a new record which also marks the first time two women will compete against each other in the category. Chloe Zhao (“Nomadland”) and Emerald Fennell (“Promising Young Woman”) are nominated this year alongside Lee Isaac Chung (“Minari”), David Fincher (“Mank”) and Aaron Sorkin (“The Trial of the Chicago 7”). Last month, Zhao took home the director prize at this year’s Golden Globes for “Nomadland,” which also won the award for best picture, drama. She was the first woman of Asian descent and just the second female director to do so. Zhao and Fennell also received Golden Globe nominations earlier this year, marking the first time multiple women were nominated in the Globes’ directing category. Fennell, who is also an actress, portrayed Camilla Parker Bowles for two seasons of Netflix’s “The Crown.” Receiving a directors guild nomination is considered a strong harbinger of Oscar nominations and wins. Fifteen of the past 17 winners of the DGA award have gone on to win the Oscar.

The Directors Guild Awards ceremony will take place virtually on April 20. Multiple writers added to Roddy Ricch’s ‘The Box’ Multiple writers have been added to the Grammy submission for Roddy Ricch’s No. 1 hit “The Box,” which is nominated for three honors including best rap song and song of the year, one of the show’s top prizes. When the Recording Academy announced its nominees in November, only Ricch and Samuel Gloade (aka 30 Roc) were listed as the writers of the mega hit. But later four additional writers — Larrance Dopson, Adarius Moragne (aka Datboisqueeze), Khi-rye Anthony Tyler and Aqeel Qadir Tate (aka Zentachi) — were added to the Grammy submission for “The Box.” The submission was altered a second time, with Zentachi removed as a co-writer and Eric Sloan added. Other news ■ Norton Juster, the celebrated children’s author who fashioned a world of adventure and punning punditry in the million-selling classic “The Phantom Toll-booth” in 1961 and such favorites as “The Dot and the Line” and “Stark Naked,” died Tuesday. He was 91.

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Men's conference tournaments

x-if necessary
ATLANTIC HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
First Round
(Campus sites, single elimination)
Sunday, March 7
Sacred Heart def. Holy Cross, forfeit
Monday, March 8
Niagara 3, Mercyhurst 2
Tuesday, March 9
Bentley 7, Air Force 3
Quarterfinals
(Best-of-three)
Friday, March 12
American International vs. Bentley
Army vs. Sacred Heart
Robert Morris vs. Niagara
Canisius vs. RIT
Saturday, March 13
American International vs. Bentley
Army vs. Sacred Heart
Robert Morris vs. Niagara
Canisius vs. RIT
Sunday, March 15
x-American International vs. Bentley
x-Army vs. Sacred Heart
x-Robert Morris vs. Niagara
x-Canisius vs. RIT
Semifinals
Friday, March 19
Highest-remaining east seed vs. lowest-remaining west seed
Highest-remaining west seed vs. low-est-remaining east seed
BIG TEN CONFERENCE
At Notre Dame
First Round
Sunday, March 14
Notre Dame vs. Penn St.
Minnesota vs. Michigan St.
Michigan vs. Ohio St.
Semifinals
Monday, March 15
Wisconsin vs. Notre Dame—Penn St. winner
Minnesota—Michigan St. winner vs. Michigan—Ohio St. winner
Tuesday, March 16
Semifinal winners

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Reassigned Cs Rol-dani Baldwin and Austin Rei, RHPs Seth Blair, Matt Carasiti, Raynel Espinal, Durbin Feltman, Franklin German, Zac Grotz, Ka-leb Ort, A.J. Politi, Thaddeus Ward and Josh Winckowski to minor league camp.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reassigned RHPs Danny Dopic, Kade McClure and Emilio Vargas, LHPs Jacob Lindgren, Ben-nett Sousa and Matt Tomshaw and C Car-los Pérez to minor league camp.
OAKLAND A'S — Named Amelia Schim-mel team's public address announcer.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with INF Eric Sogard on a minor league con-tract.
NEW YORK METS — Reassigned RHPs Matt Allen, Oscar De La Cruz, Ryley Gilliam, J.T. Ginn, Harol Gonzalez, Trevor Hilden-berger, Tyler Megill, Stephen Nogosek, Marcel Renteria and Jared Robinson and LHP Tom Windle. Reassigned Cs Francisco Alvarez, Nick Meyer and Hayden Senger. Reassigned OFs Pete Crow-Armstrong and Drew Ferguson and INFs Brett Baty, Ronny Mauricio and Mark Vientos. Op-tioned RHPs Franklyn Kilome and Sean Reid-Foley and LHP Thomas Szapucki to Syracuse(IL).
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Named Ste-phen Perkins executive vice president, marketing and fan engagement.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS — Recalled G Adam Mo-ko-ka.
HOUSTON ROCKETS — Waived G Mason Jones.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Recalled F Jon-tay Porter from Memphis Hustle.
NEW ORLEANS PELICANS —Recalled F Wenyen Gabriel.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Released G James Carpenter.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed the fran-chise tag on OL Taylor Morton.
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed the franchise tag on WR Allen Robinson II.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Released DE Adrian Clayborn.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Placed the fran-chise tag on QB Zak Prescott.
DENVER BRONCOS — Placed the fran-chise tag on S Justin Simmons.
DETROIT LIONS — Signed WR Tyrell Wil-liams.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Waived FB Cullen Gillaspia.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed the franchise tag on OL Cam Robinson.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Re-signed WR Marcus Kemp.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Released K Dan Bailey from contract.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Placed the franchise tag on S Marcus Williams.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Placed the fran-chise tag on DT Leonard Williams. Named Rob Sale offensive line coach, Pat Flaherty consultant, Freddie Kitchens senior offensive assistant, Derek Dooley tight ends coach and Jeremy Pruitt senior defensive assistant.
NEW YORK JETS — Placed the franchise tag on S Marcus Maye.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Released S Blake Countess and DT Treyvon Hester.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Re-signed LB

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST
Drexel 63, Elon 56
Fairfield 59, Manhattan 58, OT
Iona 72, Quinnipiac 48
Miami 79, Pittsburgh 73
Mount St. Mary's 73, Bryant 68
SOUTH
Duke 86, Boston College 51
SE Louisiana 71, McNeese St. 68
MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 80, Oakland 69
Notre Dame 80, Wake Forest 77
Oral Roberts 75, N. Dakota St. 72
SOUTHWEST
Houston Baptist 80, Incarnate Word 68
Rice 61, Southern Miss. 52
FAR WEST
BYU 82, Pepperdine 77
Cal Poly 87, Cal St.-Fullerton 82
Gonzaga 88, BYU 78
Long Beach St. 85, CS Northridge 63

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST
Rider 44, Monmouth (NJ) 41
Siena 74, Niagara 65
SOUTH
Old Dominion 83, W. Kentucky 77, OT
South Florida 48, Wichita St. 44
Tulane 83, Temple 73
UAB 80, UTSA 66
UCF 53, Cincinnati 43
MIDWEST
Illinois 67, Wisconsin 42
South Dakota 66, Nebraska-Omaha 43
Wright St. 53, IUPUI 41
SOUTHWEST
Houston 73, East Carolina 63
FAR WEST
Cal St.-Fullerton 55, UC Riverside 51
Fresno St. 77, New Mexico 72
Gonzaga 43, BYU 42
Idaho 67, N. Arizona 53
Idaho St. 66, Portland St. 50
Montana St. 66, Sacramento St. 55
N. Colorado 63, S. Utah 59
Wyoming 53, Boise St. 38

Marcus Allen to a one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Placed the franchise tag on WR Chris Godwin.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Named Gary Treangen vice president of corporate partnerships and activation, Shannon Myers vice president of finance and Adam Nuse vice president of business operations. Agreed to terms with WR Marcus Johnson.
WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Placed the franchise tag on OL Brandon Scherrf.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
BUFFALO SABRES — Recalled D Henri Jo-kiharju from taxi squad. Loaned D Brandon Davidson to taxi squad.
BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled Ds Steven Kampf, LW Trent Frederic, Urho Vaaka-nainen and C Jack Studnicka from minors from taxi squad.
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled G Alex Nedeljkovic and D Jake Bean from taxi squad.
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled D Nicolas Beaudin, RW Reese Johnson and D Lucas Carlsson from the taxi squad.
DALLAS STARS — Recalled C Rhett Gardner and RW Joel Kiviranta from taxi squad.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled C Rem Pitlick, RW Mathieu Oliuvier and D Jeremy Davies from taxi squad.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Recalled C Mi-chael McLeod from the taxi squad.
NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled G Keith Kinkaid, D K'Andre Miller and RW Kaapo Kakko from minors from taxi squad.
OTTAWA SENATORS — Designated LW Matthew Peca for assignment taxi squad.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Recalled RW Anthony Angello from minors from taxi squad.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Signed F Da-niel Walcott to a two-year two-way con-tract.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
ATLANTA UNITED FC — Signed LB An-drew Gutman to a three-year contract with an additional option year from Celtic FC and loaned him to New York Red Bulls in exchange for third round selection in the 2024 MLS SuperDraft.
COLUMBUS CREW SC — Promoted Chris Shenberger to head of sport science & medicine and David Brauzer to manager of equipment operations. Named Daniel Hicker director of performance, Chris Rumsey head athletic trainer and Blair Gavin first team video coach analyst.
D.C. UNITED — Acquired F Jovanny Bolivar on a one-year loan with the option for a permanent transfer.
FC DALLAS — Acquired LAFC's 2022 MLS SuperDraft third round pick in exchange for college protected list rights to F Cal Jennings.
LOS ANGELES FC — Signed F Cal Jennings from Indy Eleven of the USL Champion-ship.
NASHVILLE SC — Extended contract of D Eric Miller through 2021 with an option for 2022.
SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Announced that its assistant coaches have all been signed to contract extensions heading into the 2021 MLS season. Assistant Coaches Gon-zalo Pineda, Preki and Djimi Traore, in ad-dition to Club Director of Goalkeeping Tom Dutra and High Performance Director & Technical Advisor Adam Owen are all set to return.
VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC — Acquired FB Bruno Gaspar on loan from Sporting CP.

TENNIS

ASB Classic

Wednesday
At ASB Tennis Centre
Auckland, New Zealand
Purse: \$251,750
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
Round of 16
Jessica Pegula, United States, def. Tam-ara Zidansek, Slovenia, 6-2, 6-3.
Alize Cornet, France, def. Petra Martic (2), Croatia, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.
Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, def. Car-oline Garcia (8), France, 6-4, 6-4.
Amanda Anisimova (3), United States, def. Daria Kasatkina, Russia, 6-2, 6-4.

Dubai Duty Free Championships

Tuesday
At Aviation Club Tennis Centre
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Purse: \$1,835,490
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
Round of 32
Anastasia Potapova, Russia, def. Madi-son Keys (11), United States, 6-4, 6-3.
Coco Gauff, United States, def. Marketa Vondrousova (12), Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.
Karolina Pliskova (2), Czech Republic, def. Anastasija Sevastova, Latvia, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2.
Belinda Bencic (6), Switzerland, def. Ve-ronika Kudermetova, Russia, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.
Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, def. Kiki Bertens (5), Netherlands, 6-1, 6-4.
Jessica Pegula, United States, def. Kristi-na Mladenovic, France, 6-1, 6-2.
Aryna Sabalenka (3), Belarus, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-2, 6-4.
Anett Kontaveit (15), Estonia, def. Sora-na Cirstea, Romania, 6-4, 7-5.
Caroline Garcia, France, def. Martina Trevisan, Italy, 6-2, 6-4.
Barbora Krejickova, Czech Republic, def. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 6-3, 6-1.
Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, def. Elina Svitolina (1), Ukraine, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Iga Swiatek (8), Poland, def. Misaki Doi, Japan, 6-2, 6-4.
Elise Mertens (10), Belgium, def. Shelby Rogers, United States, 6-3, 6-3.
Jil Teichmann, Switzerland, def. Petra Kvitova (4), Czech Republic, 6-2, 3-4, ret.
Garbine Muguruza (9), Spain, def. Aman-da Anisimova, United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, def. Elena Rybakina (14), Kazakhstan, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-2.

Qatar Open

Tuesday
At Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex
Doha, Qatar
Purse: \$787,930
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Men's Singles
Round of 32
Vasek Pospisil, Canada, def. Christoph-er O'Connell, Australia, 6-3, 6-4.
Daniel Evans, Britain, def. Jeremy Char-dy, France, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

PRO BASEBALL

Spring training

Tuesday's games
Tampa Bay 11, Boston 3
Minnesota 1, Baltimore 0
Pittsburgh 10, Atlanta 1
Detroit 6, N.Y. Yankees 5
Toronto 4, Philadelphia 1
N.Y. Mets 5, St. Louis 3
Chicago Cubs 9, Oakland 8
Cleveland 9, Texas 2
San Diego 4, Chicago White Sox 2
Seattle 6, Kansas City 3
Milwaukee 13, San Francisco 7
Colorado 11, Arizona 4
Washington 4, Houston 4
L.A. Dodgers 5, Cincinnati 3
Wednesday's games
St. Louis vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla.
Toronto vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.
Minnesota vs. Tampa Bay at Port Char-lotte, Fla.
Detroit vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.
Atlanta vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
L.A. Angels vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.
Cincinnati vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.
Chicago Cubs vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.
Milwaukee vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz.
Texas vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.
San Diego vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.
Houston vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla.
Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.
Arizona vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.
Thursday's games
Washington vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla.
Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.
Tampa Bay vs. Atlanta at North Port, Fla.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Philadelphia at Clear-water, Fla.
Detroit vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
Oakland vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.
Cleveland vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
Kansas City vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix
Chicago Cubs vs. Colorado at Scotts-dale, Ariz.
San Francisco vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
N.Y. Mets vs. Houston at West Palm Beach, Fla.
Chicago White Sox vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.
Seattle vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.

BRIEFLY

Heat say Leonard will be away from team after slur

MIAMI — The Miami Heat said Tuesday night that Meyers Leo-nard will be away from the team indefinitely, sharply criticizing his use of an anti-Semitic slur while playing a video game that was being livestreamed.

Leonard apologized for using the term, insisting he did not know what it meant when he used it Monday. The Heat learned of the matter Tuesday, and Leonard's future with the team is now in seri-ous doubt.

“The Miami Heat vehemently condemns the use of any form of hate speech,” the team statement said. “The words used by Meyers Leonard were wrong and we will not tolerate hateful language from anyone associated with our fran-chise. To hear it from a Miami Heat player is especially disap-pointing and hurtful to all those who work here, as well as the larger South Florida, Miami Heat and NBA communities.”

The team also said it will coop-erate with the NBA's investiga-tion.

NFL sets salary cap at \$182.5 million

The NFL's salary cap will be \$182.5 million per team in the up-coming season, a drop of 8% from 2020.

The league's loss of revenues due to the coronavirus pandemic caused the first decrease in the cap since 2011, which followed an uncapped season.

Free agency begins next Wednesday, though the “legal tampering” period starts Monday.

The NFL is close to agreement on extensions of its broadcast con-tracts, but those deals will not af-fect the 2021 season.

Last summer, the players' union and league agreed to a cap mini-mum of \$175 million, but that number jumped by \$5 million in February and was set at \$182.5 million on Wednesday.

Bach reelected as IOC president until 2025

GENEVA — Thomas Bach was reelected as president of the Inter-national Olympic Committee on Wednesday for a final four-year term with his immediate focus on this year's delayed Tokyo Games.

The German lawyer was unop-posed and won the vote 93-1, with four members abstaining, follow-ing an opening eight-year man-date dominated by the Russian doping scandal and the first Olym-pics to be postponed in peacetime.

Bach said Tokyo was “the best prepared Olympic city ever” and reiterated the games would open on July 23 despite restrictions im-posed during the pandemic.

Associated Press

NHL

Caps blow lead, beat Devils in OT

Vrana scores 2 goals, including game-winner in overtime, for Washington

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Something happened on the way to the Washington Capitals’ sixth victory in seven games. They hope it’s a lesson and not a troubling pattern that could hurt them down the road.

The Capitals blew a three-goal lead to the New Jersey Devils with a horrendous third period Tuesday night before Jakub Vrana’s second goal of the game in overtime gave them a 5-4 win. They’ll gladly accept the two points to keep pace with the East Division-leading New York Islanders but don’t want to sweat out too many more like this.

“That is not acceptable, what we showed there in the third period,” said Vrana, who scored in the second period at 4-on-4 and now has 10 goals this season. “We did not play even close to what we can play. That was disappointing, but at the end of the day, we won the game and we take that.”

The Devils, who lost eight of their previous 10 games, tilted the ice and outshot the Capitals 16-5 in the third. Miles Wood, Yegor Sharangovich and Damon Severson scored three goals in un-



Washington Capitals right wing Garnet Hathaway, right, scuffles with New Jersey Devils left wing Miles Wood, center, defenseman Dmitry Kulikov, back, and right wing Nathan Bastian during the second period of the Capitals’ 5-4 overtime win Tuesday in Washington.

der seven minutes to tie it and force overtime.

“I loved their fight,” coach Lindy Ruff said. “One heck of a point.”

Washington isn’t jockeying for positioning with New Jersey, so squandering the chance to wrap it up in regulation won’t be a problem in the standings. But

veteran players want this memory to linger in the middle of this shortened, 56-game season and mean something positive later on.

“We can’t think things are going to be easy,” said T.J. Oshie, who scored in the first to end the team’s 0-for-12 power-play drought. “The New Jersey Devils

aren’t going to come into D.C. and take a night off. That’s just not the way it’s going to happen.”

The Capitals showed they have the firepower to overcome a rough 20 minutes. They built a lead on goals by Oshie, Vrana, Dmitry Orlov and Daniel Sprong, and got another perfect shot by Vrana to end it.

Scoreboard

East Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Islanders	26	16	6	4	36	75	57	
Washington	25	15	6	4	34	84	80	
Pittsburgh	25	15	9	1	31	81	77	
Boston	23	13	6	4	30	66	56	
Philadelphia	23	13	7	3	29	76	73	
N.Y. Rangers	24	10	11	3	23	68	67	
New Jersey	22	8	11	3	19	55	71	
Buffalo	24	6	14	4	16	56	80	

Central Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	24	18	4	2	38	87	51	
Carolina	25	18	6	1	37	88	66	
Florida	25	16	5	4	36	84	72	
Chicago	27	13	9	5	31	83	86	
Columbus	27	10	12	5	25	71	89	
Nashville	26	11	14	1	23	63	85	
Dallas	21	8	8	5	21	62	55	
Detroit	27	7	16	4	18	57	91	

West Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	22	16	5	1	33	70	47	
St. Louis	26	14	8	4	32	83	82	
Minnesota	23	14	8	1	29	71	60	
Colorado	23	13	8	2	28	70	58	
Arizona	25	12	10	3	27	68	75	
Los Angeles	24	10	8	6	26	73	71	
Anaheim	26	8	12	6	22	61	81	
San Jose	23	9	11	3	21	66	88	

North Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Toronto	27	18	7	2	38	93	67	
Winnipeg	25	16	8	1	33	83	72	
Edmonton	27	16	11	0	32	86	82	
Montreal	24	11	6	7	29	79	68	
Vancouver	29	12	15	2	26	83	94	
Calgary	26	11	12	3	25	71	80	
Ottawa	28	9	18	1	19	76	108	

Monday’s games
Minnesota 2, Vegas 0
Edmonton 3, Ottawa 2
Arizona 3, Colorado 2
San Jose 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Anaheim 6, Los Angeles 5, OT
Vancouver 2, Montreal 1, SO

Tuesday’s games
Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Rangers 2
Winnipeg 4, Toronto 3
Florida 4, Columbus 2
N.Y. Islanders 2, Boston 1, SO
Philadelphia 5, Buffalo 4, SO
Washington 5, New Jersey 4, OT
Carolina 3, Nashville 2, OT
Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 3, OT
Dallas 6, Chicago 1

Wednesday’s games
Vegas at Minnesota
Ottawa at Edmonton
Arizona at Colorado
Los Angeles at Anaheim
Montreal at Vancouver

Thursday’s games
Florida at Columbus
N.Y. Rangers at Boston
Nashville at Carolina
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
Washington at Philadelphia
Winnipeg at Toronto
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Chicago at Dallas
Montreal at Calgary

Friday’s games
Arizona at Minnesota
Vegas at St. Louis
Los Angeles at Colorado
Ottawa at Edmonton
San Jose at Anaheim

Saturday’s games
N.Y. Rangers at Boston
Dallas at Columbus
Montreal at Calgary
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
Washington at Philadelphia
Nashville at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Florida
Winnipeg at Toronto
Vegas at St. Louis
Edmonton at Vancouver
San Jose at Anaheim

Scoring leaders				
Through Tuesday				
	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	27	15	30	45
Patrick Kane, CHI	26	11	27	38
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	27	11	26	37
Mitchell Marner, TOR	26	10	24	34
Mark Scheifele, WPG	24	11	22	33
Auston Matthews, TOR	23	18	13	31
Anze Kopitar, LA	24	6	24	30
Jonathan Huberdeau, FLA	24	10	19	29
David Perron, STL	26	10	18	28
Brock Boeser, VAN	29	13	15	28
Alex DeBrincat, CHI	22	14	14	28

ROUNDUP

Islanders slip past Bruins in shootout

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Anthony Beauvillier scored the deciding goal in the shootout and the New York Islanders beat the Boston Bruins 2-1 on Tuesday night for their sixth straight win.

Brock Nelson scored in regulation for the Islanders, and Semyon Varlamov stopped 32 shots as Barry Trotz became the third coach in NHL history to reach 1,700 games behind the bench. New York beat Boston for the fourth time in four meetings this season.

“In a shortened season you want to come away with points and we’ve found a way to do that last couple of weeks here,” said Nelson. “Nice to get this one in a shootout and just a good feeling in the room.”

The Islanders also improved to 11-0-2 at Nassau Coliseum, remaining the league’s only team without a regulation loss at home.

David Pastrnak scored for the Bruins, who lost their second straight and fell to 3-5-2 in their last 10 games. Jaroslav Halak finished with 26 saves.

Beauvillier beat Halak top shelf with a backhand in the third round of the tiebreaker. Varlamov then denied Brad Marchand to preserve New York’s first win in five games beyond regulation this season.

“You never know what he’s going to do — he’s a skilled guy,” Varlamov said of Marchand. “He has a lot of moves. He tried to beat me five-hole

The Islanders’ Jordan Eberle, left, scores on Boston Bruins goaltender Jaroslav Halak during the shootout period of the Islanders’ 2-1 win Tuesday in Uniondale, N.Y.

and I stopped that one.”

Jordan Eberle scored for the Islanders, and Pastrnak converted for Boston in the first round.

Penguins 4, Rangers 2: Kasperii Kapanen got his fourth goal in his last five games and surging Pittsburgh held off visiting New York.

Teddy Blueger and Jake Guentzel also scored for the Penguins, who went 4-1 on their homestand to gain ground in the hyper-competitive East Division. Sidney Crosby’s empty-net goal with 32 seconds to go helped the team escape with a win.

Tristan Jarry finished with 33 saves — in-

FRANK FRANKLIN II / AP

MLB



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Trevor Bauer throws against the San Diego Padres during spring training.

ROSS D. FRANKLIN / AP

Blue bloods playing for new teams

Bauer, Springer, Lindor among the All-Stars plying their trade in new locales

BY ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

George Springer, Trevor Bauer and Francisco Lindor are wearing blue now. Springer received the biggest contract in the offseason from the Toronto Blue Jays. Bauer got the most money per season from the Los Angeles Dodgers. Lindor was traded to the New York Mets in a six-player deal.

The three star players headline the list of big names on new teams.

Springer, a three-time All-Star outfielder and 2017 World Series MVP with Houston, signed a team-record \$150 million, six-year contract with the Blue Jays in January. He joined a roster that includes young sluggers Vladimir Guerrero and Bo Bichette, plus Cavan Biggio, Teoscar Hernandez and Lourdes Gurriel Jr.

“I really like the blue. It’s a good color,” Springer said after his first spring training game with Toronto. “It was a little weird but I’m over it. It’s fun and I enjoy it.”

Bauer, who won the NL Cy Young Award last season with Cincinnati, signed a \$102 million, three-year deal with the Dodgers last month. The reigning World Series champions already had a pair of Cy Young Award winners in Clayton Kershaw and David Price.

“This uniform is special,” Bauer said in a two-minute video announcing his decision to sign with Los Angeles. “It’s more than clothing. It’s a lifestyle.”

Lindor, a four-time All-Star shortstop in Cleveland, was traded along with right-hander Carlos Carrasco to the Mets in January for young infielders Andrés Giménez and Amed Rosario, and two minor league prospects: right-hander Josh Wolf



Springer

and outfielder Isaiah Greene.

He arrived to spring training with his hair dyed blue, something he also did during his time with the Indians.

“You can see that I am all blue-dyed out,” Lindor said. “Everything is blue in my life right now — blue and orange.”

Here are five more well-known players in different places:

Nolan Arenado

The five-time All-Star third baseman was traded from Colorado to the St. Louis Cardinals for five players. Arenado, who won a Gold Glove in each of his eight seasons with the Rockies, joined a team that reached the postseason seven times in the past 10 years. The Cardinals last won a World Series in 2011.

Arenado hit .300 with a .937 OPS and averaged 40 homers and 124 RBIs between 2015-19. He led the league in homers three times in that span.

Blake Snell

The 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner was traded from the Tampa Bay Rays to the San Diego Padres for four players in December. The left-hander left the mound with a 1-0 lead in the sixth inning of Game 6 of the World Series but the bullpen blew it and the Dodgers clinched the title with a 3-1 win.

Snell had a 3.24 ERA in 11 starts last season. He was 21-5 with a 1.89 ERA in 2018. The Padres had the second-best record in the NL in 2020, snapping a 13-year postseason drought. But they were swept in

the NL division series by the Dodgers.

Snell will anchor a rotation that features newcomers Yu Darvish and Joe Muro.

Yu Darvish

The four-time All-Star right-hander was traded to the Padres from the Chicago Cubs in a seven-player deal on the same day San Diego acquired Snell. Darvish has twice finished runner-up for a Cy Young Award, including last season when he was 8-3 with a 2.01 ERA in 12 starts.

Darvish has three years and \$59 million left on the \$126 million, six-year deal he signed with the Cubs before the 2018 season.

Jon Lester

The six-time All-Star left-hander signed a \$5 million, one-year deal with the Washington Nationals. Lester is a three-time World Series champion, winning twice with Boston and once with the Cubs.

He’s part of a rotation led by three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, 2019 World Series MVP Stephen Strasburg and lefty Patrick Corbin.

Jackie Bradley Jr.

The former All-Star center fielder signed a 24 million, two-year deal with Milwaukee last week after spending his first eight seasons in Boston.

Bradley was a Gold Glove winner in 2018 when the Red Sox won the World Series. He was an All-Star in 2016 when he set career highs with 26 homers and 87 RBIs.

Milwaukee, which has reached the postseason three straight seasons, also has Christian Yelich and Lorenzo Cain in its outfield.

ROUNDUP

Strasburg fans 4 of 6 batters in his first outing

Associated Press

Stephen Strasburg pronounced his fast-ball command better than it was before his carpal tunnel surgery and said his first game action in nearly seven full months essentially was the same as any Grapefruit League debut after throwing 1 2/3 innings Tuesday night against the Houston Astros.

“It didn’t really feel any different than it has in past springs, so I guess, in a way, that’s a relief,” said the 2019 World Series MVP, who made just two starts and pitched only five innings in 2020.

In 2019, he led the NL with 209 innings and 18 wins, then went 5-0 in the postseason — no pitcher ever had done that — while helping the Nationals win the franchise’s first championship.

“This isn’t my first rodeo when it comes to injuries and stuff,” Strasburg said on a video conference with a chuckle, knowing he has made more than 10 trips to the injured list over the years and had Tommy John surgery in 2012. “So I’m kind of at a point where I’m going to go out there and give it everything I have and roll with the punches.”

The 32-year-old righty hadn’t faced opposing hitters since Aug. 14, when he left an appearance against the Baltimore Orioles after 16 pitches. He went on the IL the following day, was shut down a week after that and soon enough was having an operation to fix what was causing his thumb and, eventually, entire pitching hand to go numb.

Yankees’ Britton needs surgery

The Yankees failed to make it out of spring training without a significant injury.

Left-hander Zack Britton needs arthroscopic surgery to remove a bone chip from his pitching elbow, and New York’s No. 2 reliever behind closer Aroldis Chapman seems certain to miss the start of the season.

Rangers’ Hernandez has strain

The Texas Rangers will be without one of their top relievers to start the season after hard-throwing Jonathan Hernandez was shut down from pitching for at least four weeks because of a ligament sprain in his right elbow.



LYNNE SLADKY / AP

Washington Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg warms up in the bullpen before his outing Tuesday.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



DAVID BECKER / AP

BYU center Richard Harward, left, defends against Gonzaga forward Drew Timme during Gonzaga’s 88-78 win Tuesday in the West Coast Conference championship in Las Vegas.

ROUNDUP

No. 1 Gonzaga rallies past BYU for WCC title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS—Gonzaga was out of sorts for one of the few times this season, falling into its biggest half-time deficit in three years.

Corey Kispert got the Bulldogs back in it. Jalen Suggs finished it off.

The undefeated season is intact. The NCAA Tournament is next.

Suggs hit two late three-pointers and scored 23 points, helping top-ranked Gonzaga survive its biggest test of an undefeated season to beat Brigham Young 88-78 in the West Coast Conference Tournament title game on Tuesday night.

“We needed a game like that,” Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. “We had some adversity and got punched in the face. We got together at halftime and the guys just stuck with the plan.”

Gonzaga (26-0) had been unstoppable all season, winning all but one of its games by double digits as it advanced to the WCC title game for the 24th straight year.

The Cougars (20-6) made the lopsided losses list twice, but exposed the Bulldogs’ lone weakness in the first half at Orleans Arena: their defense.

Notre Dame 80, Wake Forest 77: Trey Wertz hit a deep three-pointer at the buzzer to cap a 17-2 closing run and the No. 11-seeded Fighting Irish rallied past the 14th-seeded Demon Deacons in the first round of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament in Greensboro, N.C.

Tied at 77, Wake Forest’s Dai-

vien Williamson drove the lane but his floater was blocked by Cormac Ryan, who dribbled the other way to find a trailing Wertz for a winning three. Wertz celebrated by finding Ryan in the corner for a chest bump before getting mobbed by teammates.

Notre Dame moves on to face sixth-seeded North Carolina.

Duke 86, Boston College 51: DJ Steward scored 17 points, Mark Williams added 13 points and the 10th-seeded Blue Devils began their quest of winning five straight games in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

No team has won five ACC tournament games in five days — but Duke (12-11) likely must do so to avoid missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1995.

Miami 79, Pittsburgh 73: Isaiah Wong scored 20 points to lead five Hurricanes starters in double figures in a win over the Panthers in the opening game of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

Drexel 63, Elon 56: Mate Okros scored 14 points with four three-pointers and the sixth-seeded Dragons are headed to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 25 years after defeating the eighth-seeded Phoenix in the championship game of the Colonial Athletic Association tournament.

Drexel, whose last NCAA appearance came in 1996 as a member of the America East Conference, was 10-for-17 from three-point range and went 29-for-51 in their three wins.

Conference tournaments

America East Conference Semifinals Saturday, March 6 UMass Lowell 79, UMB 77 Hartford 71, Vermont 65	American Athletic Conference First Round Thursday, March 11 Temple vs. South Florida Tulane vs. Tulsa East Carolina vs. UCF
Quarterfinals Friday, March 12 Temple-South Florida winner vs. Wichita St. Cincinnati vs. SMU Tulane-Tulsa winner vs. Houston East Carolina-UCF winner vs. Memphis	Championship Saturday, March 14 UMass Lowell vs. Hartford
Atlantic Coast Conference First Round Tuesday, March 9 Miami 79, Pittsburgh 73 Duke 61, Boston College 51 Notre Dame 80, Wake Forest 77	Second Round Wednesday, March 10 NC State vs. Syracuse Miami vs. Clemson Duke vs. Louisville Notre Dame vs. North Carolina
Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 NC State-Syracuse winner vs. Virginia Miami-Clemson winner vs. Georgia Tech Duke-Louisville winner vs. Florida St. Notre Dame-North Carolina winner vs. Virginia Tech	Championship Sunday, March 7 Liberty 79, North Alabama 75
Atlantic Sun Conference Championship Sunday, March 7 Liberty 79, North Alabama 75	Atlantic 10 Conference Semifinals Saturday, March 6 St. Bonaventure 71, Saint Louis 53 VCU 64, Davidson 52
Championship Sunday, March 14 St. Bonaventure vs VCU	Big East Conference First Round Wednesday, March 10 Marquette vs. Georgetown Butler vs. Xavier DePaul vs. Providence
Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Marquette-Georgetown winner vs. Villanova Seton Hall vs. St. John's Butler-Xavier winner vs. Creighton DePaul-Providence winner vs. UConn	Big Sky Conference First Round Wednesday, March 10 Sacramento St. vs. N. Colorado N. Arizona vs. Portland St. Idaho vs. Montana
Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Sacramento St.-N. Colorado winner vs. S. Utah Montana St. vs. Idaho St. N. Arizona-Portland St. winner vs. E. Washington Idaho-Montana winner vs. Weber St.	Big South Conference Championship Sunday, March 7 Winthrop 80, Campbell 53
Big Ten Conference First Round Wednesday, March 10 Minnesota vs. Northwestern Nebraska vs. Penn St.	Second Round Thursday, March 11 Michigan St. vs. Maryland Minnesota-Northwestern winner vs. Ohio St. Indiana vs. Rutgers Nebraska-Penn St. winner vs. Wisconsin
Quarterfinals Friday, March 12 Michigan St.-Maryland vs. Michigan Minnesota-Northwestern—Ohio St. winner vs. Purdue Indiana-Rutgers winner vs. Illinois Nebraska-Penn St.-Wisconsin winner vs. Iowa	Big 12 Conference First Round Wednesday, March 10 Kansas St. vs. TCU Iowa St. vs. Oklahoma
Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Oklahoma St. vs. West Virginia Kansas St.-TCU winner vs. Baylor Iowa St.-Oklahoma winner vs. Kansas Texas Tech vs. Texas	Big West Conference First Round Tuesday, March 9 Long Beach St. 85, vs. CS Northridge 63



GERRY BROOME / AP

Duke forward Henry Coleman III, left, blocks the shot of Boston College guard Jay Heath during Duke’s 61-51 win Tuesday in the ACC tournament.

Cal Poly 87, Cal St.-Fullerton 82	Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Long Beach St. vs. UC Santa Barbara CS Bakersfield vs. UC Davis Cal Poly vs. UC Irvine Hawaii vs. UC Riverside
Colonial Athletic Association Semifinals Monday, March 8 Elon 76, Hofstra 58 Drexel 74, Northeastern 67	Championship Tuesday, March 9 Drexel 63, Elon 56
Conference USA First Round Tuesday, March 9 Rice 61, Southern Miss. 52 FIU vs. Middle Tennessee, FIU forfeits (COVID)	Second Round Wednesday, March 10 Charlotte vs. UTSA Rice vs. Marshall UTEP vs. FAU Middle Tenn. vs. N. Texas
Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Charlotte vs. UTSA winner vs. W. Kentucky Rice—Marshall winner vs. UAB UTEP-FAU winner vs. Louisiana Tech Middle Tennessee-N. Texas winner vs. Old Dominion	Horizon League Semifinals Monday, March 8 Cleveland St. 71, Milwaukee 65 Oakland 69, N. Kentucky 58
Championship Tuesday, March 9 Cleveland St. 80, Oakland 69	Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference First Round Monday, March 8 Rider 78, Canisius, 76
Quarterfinals Wednesday, March 10 Iona 72, Quinnipiac 48 Fairfield 59, Manhattan 58, OT	Thursday, March 11 Rider vs. St. Peter's Niagara vs. Marist
Mid-American Conference Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Ball St. vs. Toledo Ohio St. vs. Kent St. Miami vs. Buffalo Akron vs. Bowling Green	Missouri Valley Conference Championship Sunday, March 7 Loyola Chicago 75, Drake 65
Mountain West Conference First Round Wednesday, March 10 San Jose St. vs. Wyoming	

Air Force vs. UNLV New Mexico vs. Fresno St.	Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 San Jose St.-Wyoming winner vs. San Diego St. Nevada vs. Boise St. Air Force-UNLV winner vs. Utah St. New Mexico-Fresno St. winner vs. Colorado St.
Northeast Conference Championship Tuesday, March 9 Mt. St. Mary's 73, Bryant 68	Ohio Valley Conference Championship Saturday, March 6 Morehead St. 86, Belmont 71
Pacific-12 Conference First Round Wednesday, March 10 Washington St. vs. Arizona St. Washington vs. Utah California vs. Stanford	Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Wash. St.-Arizona St. winner vs. Oregon Oregon St. vs. UCLA Washington-Utah winner vs. USC California-Stanford winner vs. Colorado
Patriot League Semifinals Wednesday, March 10 Loyola (Md.) vs. Army Bucknell vs. Colgate	Championship Sunday, March 14 Semifinal winners
Southeastern Conference First Round Wednesday, March 10 Texas A&M vs. Vanderbilt	Second Round Thursday, March 11 Mississippi St. vs. Kentucky Texas A&M-Vanderbilt winner vs. Florida
Quarterfinals Friday, March 12 Miss. St.-Kentucky winner vs. Alabama Texas A&M-Vanderbilt—Florida winner vs. Tennessee Georgia-Missouri winner vs. Arkansas S. Carolina-Mississippi winner vs. LSU	Southern Conference Championship Monday, March 8 UNC-Greensboro 69, Mercer 61
Southland Conference First Round Tuesday, March 9 SE Louisiana 71, McNeese 68 Houston Baptist 80, Incarnate Word 68	Second Round Wednesday, March 10 SE Louisiana vs. New Orleans, Houston Baptist vs. Lamar
Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 SE Louisiana—New Orleans winner vs. Northwestern St. Houston Baptist-Lamar winner vs. Sam Houston	Southwestern Athletic Conference Quarterfinals Wednesday, March 10 Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Jackson St. Mississippi Valley St. vs. Prairie View
Thursday, March 11 Alcorn St. vs. Texas Southern Southern vs. Grambling St.	Summit League Semifinals Monday, March 8 Oral Roberts 90, South Dakota St. 88 South Dakota 27 North Dakota St. 55
Championship Tuesday, March 10 Oral Roberts 75, South Dakota 72	Sun Belt Conference Championship Monday, March 8 Appalachian St. 80, Georgia St. 73
West Coast Conference Semifinals Monday, March 8 Gonzaga 78, Saint Mary's, 55 BYU 82, Pepperdine 77, OT	Championship Tuesday, March 9 Gonzaga 88, BYU 78
Western Athletic Conference Quarterfinals Thursday, March 11 Seattle vs. Cal Baptist Texas Rio Grande Valley vs. New Mexico St.	Semifinals Friday, March 12 Seattle-Cal Baptist winner vs. Grand Canyon Texas Rio Grande Valley-New Mexico St. winner vs. Utah Valley

NBA

Title chase shifts to offense

Nets want to prove it once the playoffs start

By BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Defense wins championships is one of the oldest clichés in sports. It’s mostly been true, too. Now, even coaches who preached defense before look around an NBA where the pace is quicker, the shots come from deeper, and can come to only one conclusion. “It seems like offense wins,” Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. That’s what the Brooklyn Nets are looking to prove with an NBA title. Perhaps no team has ever packed so much offensive punch. Kevin Durant is a four-time NBA scoring champion. James Harden has won three. They’ve both been league MVPs. Kyrie Irving is a perennial All-Star who hit the winning shot to cap the biggest NBA Finals comeback ever.

“You look at Kyrie, Durant, Harden. (Spencer) Dinwiddie’s out, he’s a terrific player. He’s an All-Star-caliber talent,” Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. “So, they’re up there with the best of them.” Stopping one is possible. Stopping two is doable. Stopping all three the four times it would require to beat Brooklyn in a series is a mighty ask for any team, no matter how well it defends. The Nets average 121.1 points, 30 more than the league average when Popovich’s Spurs won their first title in 1999. Now, the Cleveland Cavaliers score 104.6 per game, last in the NBA with an average that would have led the league in 2011-12. “The rules are tilted toward the offense obviously and that makes it a little bit easier for a talented player to have his way,” said Popovich, whose early Spurs won with a methodical



Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving shoots around Rockets forward P.J. Tucker on March 3 in Houston. Irving is one of the stars that has Brooklyn averaging 121.1 points per game.

style that helped influence rules changes that opened up the game. “Defense can keep you in games and if you don’t play defense, it’s going to be an ugly night. But to actually win the game, offense has become more important than it ever has in the past.” That’s apparently what Nets general manager Sean Marks, who played and worked under Popovich, realized when he assembled his roster. The Nets favored skill and shooting over size and strength, and hired Steve Nash to coach them. Nash hired Mike D’Antoni as one of his assistants, reuniting the point guard and coach of the Phoenix Suns squads of 15 years ago that were the predecessors of today’s wide-open offenses. Brooklyn started slowly and had to adjust in January after the blockbuster deal to acquire

Harden, but the Nets’ torrid stretch before the All-Star break even without the injured Durant showed they might just have the perfect team for the times. “I think in our whole league right now, if you look at offensive numbers overall, there’s just possessions where against every team when you’re watching the film and you’ll say, that’s not because it’s bad defense,” Orlando coach Steve Clifford said. “There’s just so much skill and offense on the floor for a lot of teams and these guys obviously would be at the top of that.” That was before the Magic held the Nets to a better-than-respectable 24 points in the first quarter of their Feb. 25 game in Brooklyn. The Nets then poured in 41 in the second quarter on 16-for-22 shooting (72.7%), blowing by the Magic on their way to a 129-92 rout.

Back: Teams used to having players unavailable

FROM PAGE 24
our roster at this point in the season,” Nets general manager Sean Marks said.

Brooklyn comes out of the break a half-game behind Philadelphia. Embiid has been a force this season and become a leading MVP candidate, but he and Simmons were ruled out of the All-Star Game on Sunday morning because they got haircuts from a barber who tested positive for COVID-19. They may not be cleared to return until the weekend, after the Sixers have played their first two games of the second half. “We start on the road, back-to-back games, with one practice. That’s a challenge in itself, right?,” Sixers coach Doc Rivers said. “Then, obviously, not having those guys, that’s a lot of points, our two best defenders. So, obviously, it would hurt.” Teams are used to it after a first half in which the unavailability of

“You don’t know as far as what the restrictions and with COVID and things of that nature if you’re going to have all your guys.”

LeBron James
Lakers forward

players and coaches because of health and safety protocols forced 31 games to be called off. For every team, the first big test of the second half is the coronavirus one that will determine who is good to go upon returning from break. Once that’s finished, teams can look ahead to a busy and exciting stretch run. With many clubs bunched in the standings and another play-in tournament opening up additional paths to the postseason, even teams that weren’t as sharp as they hoped in the first half have reason for hope. That includes teams such as Miami and Boston — last season’s Eastern Conference finalists — plus Dallas and Golden State, all at or barely above .500 but perhaps just one hot streak from a nice leap up the standings. Or maybe Milwaukee, which was running away with the best record in the East last year when the season stopped but has been inconsistent this season, can discover its old form. The Bucks will be fearsome again if Giannis Antetokounmpo shoots anywhere near the way he did in the All-Star

Game, when he went 16-for-16 en route to MVP honors. “I’ve got to keep working hard and I’ve got to keep enjoying the game of basketball, and hopefully more important things can come, and hopefully my goal is to be a champion one day,” the two-time regular-season MVP said. “Hopefully we can hold the big trophy.” A number of teams could have a shot. The Lakers may have looked like a solid favorite to repeat when the season started, but Davis’ health throws that into question. Perhaps the Jazz can capitalize. They were the team whose coronavirus issues caused the season to stop last March 11. Now, they have three All-Stars and a league-leading 27-9 record. “It’s definitely been rewarding but at the end of the day, we’re not here to celebrate and act like we’ve done something and it’s only March,” Donovan Mitchell said. “I think we’ve got to continue to get better.”

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	24	12	.667	—
Brooklyn	24	13	.649	½
Boston	19	17	.528	5
New York	19	18	.514	5½
Toronto	17	19	.472	7
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	18	18	.500	—
Charlotte	17	18	.486	½
Atlanta	16	20	.444	2
Washington	14	20	.412	3
Orlando	13	23	.361	5
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	22	14	.611	—
Chicago	16	18	.471	5
Indiana	16	19	.457	5½
Cleveland	14	22	.389	8
Detroit	10	26	.278	12
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	18	14	.563	—
Dallas	18	16	.529	1
Memphis	16	16	.500	2
New Orleans	15	21	.417	5
Houston	11	23	.324	8
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	27	9	.750	—
Portland	21	14	.600	5½
Denver	21	15	.583	6
Oklahoma City	15	21	.417	12
Minnesota	7	29	.194	20
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	24	11	.686	—
L.A. Lakers	24	13	.649	1
L.A. Clippers	24	14	.632	1½
Golden State	19	18	.514	6
Sacramento	14	22	.389	10½
Tuesday's games				
No games scheduled				
Wednesday's games				
Washington at Memphis San Antonio at Dallas				
Thursday's games				
Detroit at Charlotte Atlanta at Toronto Boston at Brooklyn Minnesota at New Orleans New York at Milwaukee Orlando at Miami Philadelphia at Chicago Dallas at Oklahoma City Golden State at L.A. Clippers Houston at Sacramento Phoenix at Portland				
Friday's games				
Cleveland at New Orleans Denver at Memphis Philadelphia at Washington Miami at Chicago Orlando at San Antonio Houston at Utah Indiana at L.A. Lakers				
Saturday's games				
New York at Oklahoma City Detroit at Brooklyn Milwaukee at Washington Toronto at Charlotte Sacramento at Atlanta Portland at Minnesota Dallas at Denver Indiana at Phoenix				
Leaders				
Through March 9				
Scoring				
	G	FG	FT	PTS AVG
Beal, WAS	32	368	243	1053 32.9
Embiid, PHI	30	285	298	905 30.2
Lillard, POR	34	315	237	1013 29.8
Curry, GS	35	343	184	1039 29.7
Antetokounmpo, MIL	35	368	240	1015 29.0
LaVine, CHI	34	350	156	976 28.7
Doncic, DAL	32	319	193	916 28.6
Irving, BKN	26	269	94	708 27.2
Jokic, DEN	36	379	163	977 27.1
Leonard, LAC	30	287	165	799 26.6
Young, ATL	34	262	288	897 26.4
James, LAL	36	350	144	930 25.8
Williamson, NO	34	335	194	870 25.6
Harden, BKN	31	250	183	784 25.3
Tatum, BOS	31	279	134	773 24.9

SPORTS



Still unbeaten

No. 1 Gonzaga finishes regular season with WCC title » College basketball, Page 22



JEFF CHIU, ABOVE, AND MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ, RIGHT / AP

The Nets added another piece when they signed forward Blake Griffin, above, who negotiated a buyout of his contract with the Pistons and cleared waivers. The defending champion Lakers looked like the team to beat when the season started, but with forward Anthony Davis, right, sidelined with a calf injury, they've lost six of eight games and dropped 3½ games behind surprising West leader Utah.

SECOND HALF LOOKAHEAD

Back at it

NBA cranking up again, but virus still has a say

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

While LeBron James was largely resting through the All-Star Game, the Brooklyn Nets were adding another piece for a run at his title.

With James still near the top of his game and the Nets on top of the league in scoring, it's easy to envision a coast-to-coast NBA Finals when a champion is crowned in July.

But, when most teams resume play Thursday — the same date last season was suspended — the leaders in the Eastern Conference will be doing so without their two best players.

As proven again when Philadelphia's Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons had to sit out the All-Star Game, the coronavirus still has a say on this season, making uncertainty a sizable obstacle in the title chase. Both players will also miss the 76ers' game Thursday in Chicago.

"You're playing every other day. You don't know when you're going to have practice time. You don't know as far as what the restrictions and with COVID and things of that nature if you're go-



Embiid



Simmons

ing to have all your guys," James said. "So it's very challenging for all teams, not just us."

The bigger problem for the Lakers has been the absence of All-Star Anthony Davis because of a right calf injury. The defending champions have struggled without him, dropping six of eight to end the first half and falling 3½ games behind surprising West leader Utah.

The Nets have also been without an All-Star, though they've hardly missed Kevin Durant because of the brilliance of James Harden and Kyrie Irving. Blake Griffin agreed to join them Sunday night after the six-time All-Star cleared waivers after securing his buyout from Detroit.

"We're fortunate to be able to add a player of Blake's caliber to

SEE BACK ON PAGE 23



Strasburg fans 4 of 6 in first spring game » MLB Page 21

