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# STARS AND STRIPES

stripes.com

Volume 84 Edition 20 ©SS 2025 THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

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

## Army is now seeking out older recruits

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — Doniel Kennedy graduated from Texas State University in 2021 with plans for a career using his degree in digital media and cinematography. He'd done some acting in TV and film and landed his first job as a videographer for a production company in Austin.

Then he got laid off.

Kennedy said he struggled to replace his full-time job with another in the same field and thought he would see whether there was a place for a visual storyteller in the Army.

"My father [and] my grandfather did 20 plus years in the Army," he said. "I figured it could be a cool way to be a third-generation soldier. If there was a field that fit ... then I'd go ahead and take that leap as well."

Kennedy shipped off to boot camp after Christmas 2022 on a five-year enlistment and celebrated his 26th birthday in training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Now, at 27, he is a specialist assigned to Fort Carson, Colo., married and expecting his first child later this year.

The decision to enlist has given him stability and making the choice later as an adult gave him more perspective, thicker skin and the ability to better adapt to the military environment, he said.

Kennedy's story is part of a trend for the Army — older recruits. The average age of enlistees is slowly rising beyond 18-

SEE OLDER ON PAGE 7

## 13.1

The percentage of recruits enlisting during their senior year of high school in 2024, down from 20.5% in 2020.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani gestures to President Donald Trump during an official welcoming ceremony at the Amiri Diwan in Doha, Qatar, on Wednesday.

# Taking on Tehran

Trump tells Gulf leaders Iran must end support of proxy groups as part of a nuclear deal

By ZEKE MILLER,  
JON GAMBRELL  
AND AAMER MADHANI  
*Associated Press*

DOHA, Qatar — President Donald Trump said Wednesday he urgently wants "to make a deal" with Iran to wind down its nuclear program but Tehran must end its support of proxy groups throughout the Mideast as part of any potential agreement.

Trump, who is in the midst of a three-country visit to the region, also discussed Iran's rapidly advancing nuclear program in one-on-one talks with Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The American president expressed measured confidence that the U.S. effort with Tehran would "work out one way or another."

But in comments earlier in the

day, at a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Trump made clear he expected Tehran to end its role as the chief financial backer of the militant groups.

Iran "must stop sponsoring terror, halt its bloody proxy wars and permanently and verifiably cease pursuit of nuclear weapons,"

Trump told the GCC leaders. "They cannot have a nuclear weapon."

Al Thani did not directly address the Iran issue after his session with Trump in Doha. But the emir said U.S.-Qatar cooperation on a broad range of issues was lifting their partnership to "another level of relations."

SEE TEHRAN ON PAGE 8

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Microsoft to lay off about 3% of its workforce

Associated Press

Microsoft began laying off nearly 3% of its entire workforce Tuesday.

The tech giant didn't disclose the total amount of lost jobs, but it will amount to about 6,000 people.

Microsoft employed 228,000 full-time workers as of last June, the last time it reported its annual headcount. About 55% of those workers were in the U.S.

Microsoft, based in Redmond, Wash., said the layoffs will be across all levels and geographies

but will focus on reducing management levels.

Microsoft announced a smaller round of performance-based layoffs in January. But the 3% cuts will be Microsoft's biggest since early 2023, when the company cut 10,000 workers, almost 5% of its workforce, joining other tech companies that were scaling back their pandemic-era expansions.

The latest layoffs come just weeks after Microsoft reported strong sales and profits that beat Wall Street expectations for the

January-March quarter, which investors took as a dose of relief during a turbulent time for the tech sector and U.S. economy.

Microsoft's chief financial officer, Amy Hood, said on an April earnings call that the company was focused on "building high-performing teams and increasing our agility by reducing layers with fewer managers." She also said the headcount in March was 2% higher than a year earlier and down slightly compared to the end of last year.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 15)	0.88
British pound (May 15)	1.29
Japanese yen (May 15)	139.00
South Korean won (May 15)	1378.00

Switzerland (Franc)	0.8381
Thailand (Baht)	33.40
Turkey (NewLira)	38.7417

(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.)

#### Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Britain (Pound)	1.3317
Canada (Dollar)	1.3956
China (Yuan)	7.2064
Denmark (Krone)	6.6486
Egypt (Pound)	50.3906
Euro	0.8912
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8050
Hungary (Forint)	360.04
Israel (Shekel)	3.5422
Japan (Yen)	145.99
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3074
Norway (Krone)	10.3320
Philippines (Peso)	55.87
Poland (Zloty)	3.77
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2983
South Korea (Won)	1398.60

### INTEREST RATES

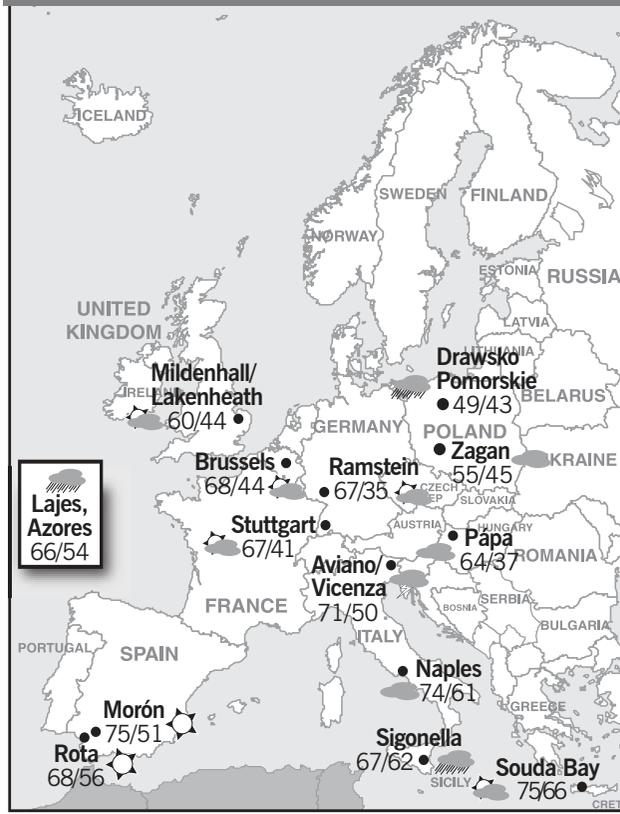
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Federal funds market rate	4.38
3-month bill	4.40
30-year bond	4.91

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



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## MILITARY

# Senate confirms Meink as Air Force secretary

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Troy Meink, an Air Force veteran who flew missions in the Gulf War and helped oversee America's spy satellites, was approved Tuesday to serve as the next Air Force secretary.

The Senate confirmed Meink for the post in a 74-25 vote. He most recently served as the principal deputy director of the National Reconnaissance Office and said space capabilities would be a top priority in his new job.

"We need to innovate faster," he told the Senate Armed Service Committee during his confirmation hearing in March.

Meink began his career in the Air Force in 1988 through the ROTC program at South Dakota State University and initially served as a navigator and instructor for the KC-125 refueling tanker.

He later flew more than 100 flights during the Gulf War in Iraq,

including eight combat and 29 combat-support missions.

After transitioning to the Air Force Reserve in 1994, Meink worked as the lead engineer for the design and evaluation of ballistic test vehicles for the Missile Defense Agency.

Meink served as the undersecretary of the Air Force for Space from 2013 to 2014 and in 2020 was appointed by President Donald Trump to help lead the federal government's spy satellite agency.

His tenure at the National Reconnaissance Office has come under scrutiny after Reuters reported Meink had tailored the requirements for a multibillion-dollar classified satellite contract in 2021 to benefit Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Two Democrats on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, expressed concern about Meink's ability to treat contractors fairly and "prioritize the Air Force's mission over Elon Musk's busi-

ness interests."

"These are incredibly serious allegations of misconduct and favoritism," the senators wrote in a February letter to Meink.

Meink has denied the allegations in the Reuters report. However, he confirmed in written answers to the committee that Musk was one of the people present during Trump's interview with Meink, though only the president asked questions.

"I have no relationship with SpaceX or Mr. Musk outside of a professional relationship in the execution of my current duties," Meink said, according to Politico.

Meink said he planned to focus on recruiting and retaining highly skilled personnel who are able to field the most complicated systems. One of his challenges will be a persistent shortage of pilots, including a deficit of more than 1,000 fighter pilots.

Meink said the Air Force has always struggled to keep enough pilots in its ranks and raising pay



ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

**Air Force Secretary Troy Meink testifies in March during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.**

will only go so far.

"We need to make sure, not just with pilots but across our highly skilled areas within our workforce, that they have the opportunity to do what they've been trained, what they love to do," he said during his confirmation hearing. "I think that could be a bigger impact on maintaining some of these highly technical skillsets."

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said Tuesday that Meink's 35 years of military and public service experience encompassed "the breadth of the Air Force's mission" and prepared him to lead the service branch "into the next frontier."

"I look forward to seeing him take the Air Force to even greater heights," he said.

## Navy: Officer tried to hide wife's death from hotel staff



Arguinzone family

**Jessica "Jesse" Arguinzone Olsen**

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Navy charge sheet released this week provides new details in the case of an officer accused of killing his wife while stationed in Japan, alleging he fatally beat and strangled her before attempting to conceal the crime from hotel staff.

Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Olsen — assigned to Sasebo Naval Base at the time — was charged with second-degree murder and obstruction of justice on May 7 following an Article 32 preliminary hearing at Naval Base San Diego.

The charges stem from the October death of his wife, Jessica "Jesse" Arguinzone Olsen, who was found dead in a hotel room in Fukuoka, about 80 miles northeast of Sasebo.

Olsen allegedly killed his wife "on or about Oct. 26" by "strangu-

lation and blunt force trauma to the head," according to a charge sheet released Tuesday. The document, though redacting the victim's name and the hotel's location, offers specific actions prosecutors say the sailor took afterward to avoid detection.

The following day, "on or about Oct. 27," Olsen allegedly extended his stay at Hotel SOL, and gave staff false information about his wife's condition, the charge sheet states. He also instructed hotel staff not to enter the room — actions prosecutors say were intended "to impede and obstruct the due administration of justice."

Fukuoka police discovered Jesse Olsen, 37, on the morning of Oct. 28 after hotel staff raised concerns. The location was confirmed by police at the time as a hotel room in the city's Chuo district.

Police did not identify the hotel at the time, but gave an address that matches Hotel SOL.

New allegations in the charge sheet match what Jesse Olsen's sister, Dominique Arguinzone, said the family was told by the prosecutor, Cmdr. Jennifer Luce. Olsen reportedly told the hotel front desk that his wife was ill and that he was late picking up her medication. He then took a two-hour train ride back to the couple's apartment and did not notify anyone about her condition until the next day, Arguinzone told Stars and Stripes by email Tuesday.

The family was also informed that Jesse Olsen suffered severe injuries to her head and face, including fractures to her jaw and hyoid bones.

Olsen has been held in pretrial confinement since Jan. 29, accord-

ing to the charge sheet. The family was informed he is being held in the consolidated brig at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Arguinzone said in an email May 6.

The Article 32 hearing is a preliminary step to determine whether probable cause exists to believe a crime was committed. The hearing officer will make a recommendation to the Navy's Office of Special Trial Counsel, which will decide whether to refer the case to a general court-martial.

Olsen's defense attorney, Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Phipps of the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, declined to comment Wednesday.

Luce, the prosecutor, referred questions to the spokesman for Naval Forces Japan, Cmdr. Paul Macapagal, who said by text message Wednesday there are no updates.

## Army app allows secure military account access from personal devices

BY LARA KORTE  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Army will roll out a new app this week that lets users securely tap into various Microsoft programs from personal devices.

The program, called Intune Mobile Application Management, is meant to offer flexibility and convenience without sacrificing security, according to a statement

Monday by Army Network Enterprise Technology Command.

Army 365 users who want to sign up for Intune, which is now available, can set up the connection using Apple, Samsung or Google Pixel devices. The app offers access to such programs as Microsoft Teams, Outlook, OneDrive, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Intune keeps government data

encrypted on personal devices and prevents the government from collecting any sensitive information from a user's personal cellphone or tablet, according to the statement.

"This initiative provides a secure and private environment, ensuring government data remains protected through robust app-level security policies while maintaining user privacy," the statement said.

The Army already has such access through the Hypori Halo mobile app and Azure Virtual Desktop from a computer.

Users can still access those programs for work on their personal devices, but signing up for Intune will limit their ability to get to Microsoft apps on Hypori or through the Defense Department's Mobility Unclassified System, which lets

users access unclassified DOD networks on mobile devices.

To set up Intune, a nonsecure internet protocol router network, better known as a NIPR connection, is required. Users then go to the military portal for the app download. More details are available from the Army Information Hub at <https://armyeitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/>.

## MILITARY

# Joint Chiefs boss steps into role at NATO

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTT GART, Germany — The top U.S. general is making his debut this week at NATO headquarters in Brussels, where defense chiefs are preparing for an upcoming leader summit in June that is expected to focus on deterrence and spending.

Gen. Dan Caine, the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was deliberating Wednesday with top U.S. and European commanders on plans for bolstering the alliance.

The meeting of allied generals and admirals coincides with a

separate gathering the same day in Turkey, where U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is meeting with NATO foreign ministers for two days of talks.

“We encourage all to do more, investing in capabilities that will allow us to face current threats and be fully prepared for the future,” Italian Adm. Giuseppe



Caine

Cavo Dragone, chairman of NATO's military committee, said as talks got underway.

The meetings in Belgium and Turkey are two of the final high-level conferences before a NATO summit in late June in the Netherlands, where President Donald Trump will be in attendance.

The high-stakes summit in The Hague is expected to put pressure on European and Canadian allies to boost their spending on defense.

NATO countries also are looking for more information about the Trump administration's

plans for the U.S. military presence in Europe.

Allies are currently anticipating possible American troop level reductions.

Regarding defense spending, Trump wants countries to boost investments in their respective militaries to 5% of gross domestic product rather than the current 2% benchmark.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte was asked last week about a possible plan that could call for allies to dedicate 3.5% of GDP to defense and 1.5% to military-related infrastructure.

Such a formula could be a way

to meet Trump's demand.

Speaking Friday during a news conference, Rutte declined to confirm those numbers but said internal discussions related to elevating spending requirements are taking place.

“I've always said this: If we stick at the 2%, we cannot defend ourselves,” Rutte said. “So we have to really increase defense spending.”

In Brussels on Wednesday, Dragone made the same argument.

“Preparing for war is our vaccine for maintaining peace,” he said.



U.S. Army

Artwork depicts a firing range in the Army's new field manual, which is available now after being in the works for over a year.

## Army unveils new field manual, 'more like a welcome letter'

By BRIAN ERICKSON

*Stars and Stripes*

A new Army field manual unveiled this week bills itself as a primer in the profession of arms, with easily understood language and assorted sketches that distill the essence of being a U.S. soldier.

The book is divided into 10 chapters and has four appendixes, which together cover 84 pages. The first three chapters refer to soldiers' roles as warriors, professionals and leaders.

Subsequent chapters cover the Army's mission, structure, soldiers and obligations. “To Our Civilian Leaders” and “To Our Fellow Citizens” are the titles of chapters 8 and 9, respectively.

The foreword was written by Gen. Randy George, the Army's chief of staff. The manual “touches on values and concepts

through stories” and is meant to be read from cover to cover, George said.

“While the stories may be of past battles and heroic actions, it also reflects the increasingly challenging times we live in,” George wrote. “It offers the reader a serious, solemn, and sober perspective of the Army's tasks ahead.”

The full title of the book is “FM 1, The Army: A Primer to Our Profession of Arms.” While its primary target audience is new lieutenants and sergeants, it will be a resource for junior leaders to explain where they fit in the “Big Army,” according to a statement issued Tuesday by the service.

Notably absent are tables or graphs, which are common in traditional field manuals. White space is filled by drawings of U.S. soldiers in action, from colonial to

contemporary times.

The manual is “more like a welcome letter to new leaders” as if to tell them “Hey, welcome to the team, get your stuff together. It's going to be an exciting ride, and here's what we expect of you,” Rich Creed, the head of the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate, said in Tuesday's statement.

The manual has been in the works for more than a year and was originally going to be combined with an existing Army publication, but George opted for a shorter standalone work instead, the statement said.

In addition to its Army readership, the manual also has an external audience including congressional leaders, members of other branches of the U.S. military and multinational partners, according to the statement.

## Senators eye controls on \$150B for Defense

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Senate Armed Services Committee is considering adding measures to its annual defense policy bill to prevent the Pentagon from using a proposed \$150 billion in extra funding as a slush fund, the highest-ranking Democrat on the panel said Wednesday.

The committee's Republican chairman, Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, has suggested putting constraints on the Defense Department if Congress passes a massive tax cut and spending bill aimed at implementing President Donald Trump's agenda, said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I.

The legislation includes a \$150 billion funding boost for the Pentagon in addition to its annual budget. The House Armed Services Committee advanced the measure last month, recommending the funds be spent on shipbuilding, a layered missile defense shield and other defense priorities.

But because the bill is being pushed through Congress using a process called reconciliation, the Defense Department can essentially use the money however it sees fit, Reed said.

“I think it's an extraordinary mistake,” he told reporters at a Defense Writers Group event. “It surrenders congressional leverage and authority over the budget. Is it just a slush fund for the DOD to do what they want to do or is it something that we can say, ‘No, these are the priorities?’”

Wicker during a confirmation hearing on Tuesday asked three of the administration's nominees for posts in the Defense Department

to answer whether they would commit to follow spending recommendations from Congress. All three answered “yes.”

Reed said the “arcane rules” of the reconciliation process have created a “very complicated situation” for lawmakers and they are trying to understand what power they will have over the money.

One possible solution that the committee is considering is putting suggestions into the National Defense Authorization Act, an annual bill that sets priorities for the Pentagon, on how the military can spend the funds, Reed said.

But the senator said he doubted the military would abide by the recommendations and worried the bill could be used to preempt congressional directives.

“I think by default and particularly by the aggressive and, one could say, lawless behavior of the administration, they'll just consider the money their money and that could be very detrimental,” he said.

The House Armed Services Committee has laid out a detailed plan for how it wants the extra \$150 billion to be used.

It includes \$34 billion for growing the Navy's fleet and expanding capacity at shipyards, \$25 billion to develop a “Golden Dome” system that could defend the U.S. from ballistic missiles, and \$20 billion to develop and acquire munitions.

Sen. Tim Sheehy, R-Mont., on Tuesday announced the formation of a Golden Dome Caucus in the Senate to help champion the project and cautioned that the system will likely ultimately cost trillions.

Reed said the comprehensive missile shield is conceptual at the moment and believes it will be more of a warning system than a firing system, though firing units will eventually be developed for it.



Reed

## PACIFIC

# Admiral: Army fires key to deterring China

By WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

WAIKIKI BEACH, Hawaii — Adm. Samuel Paparo has a quick response when asked what he wants from the land forces under his command: firepower from field artillery, rockets and missiles.

“Fires is the capability from the Army — and from land forces — that I most treasure in this region,” Paparo, head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, said Tuesday in the keynote speech at the annual three-day Land Forces Pacific symposium on Waikiki Beach.

U.S. Army Pacific’s firepower, along with Army know-how in logistics and sustainment, are key to deterring and countering military aggression by China in the Indo-Pacific, Paparo told the packed

audience, which included representatives from 33 armies around the world.

Paparo, since taking command of INDOPACOM a year ago, speaks often of China’s threat to Taiwan.

Beijing is on a “dangerous course” with aggressive air and sea maneuvers around Taiwan that are “rehearsals” for invasion, he told the audience.

On a single day last year, China’s army deployed 152 warships, including three-quarters of its amphibious force, Paparo said.

“More concerning is the fact that China, Russia and North Ko-

rea, among others, have formed a transactional symbiosis that threatens regional stability,” he said. “The threat is particularly acute and increasingly interconnected across our global supply chains.”

All the services would bring firepower to bear in the event of a conflict in the Indo-Pacific, Paparo said.

“And every service is indispensable to success and to deterrence,” he said.

But Paparo lauded the Army’s strides in beefing up its fires dexterity in the past decade, crediting much of that success to its multi-domain task forces.

The task forces — three are operational with two more in the works — are designed to operate across land, air, sea, space and cy-

berspace and are key to countering China and Russia’s area denial strategy.

A case in point, Paparo said, would be preventing an invasion of Taiwan by Chinese forces via the narrow Taiwan Strait. Beijing maintains that the self-governed island is a renegade province that must be folded into the mainland — by force if necessary.

“We don’t necessarily need immediate maritime or air superiority in the Taiwan Strait,” he said. “We just must deny its use to the [Chinese army] ... and the Army’s fires capability, integrated with the other joint forces, is essential to deny that zone by imposing devastating costs across the [Chinese army].”

He described the U.S. Army’s anti-ship precision strike missiles,

or PrSM, as “a gamechanger that fundamentally alters China’s risk calculus.”

“PrSM does and will allow us to strike critical nodes within China’s anti-access, area-denial, bubble — radar sites, missile launchers, command centers — potentially neutralizing them before the conflict begins,” he said.

Paparo was on hand last summer when the 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force launched two PrSMs and sank a ship off Palau during the Valiant Shield exercise.

However, he said the Army’s sustainment capabilities are just as vital.

“Army logisticians demonstrate these capabilities in ensuring the joint force can rapidly transition from competition to crisis to conflict,” he said.



Paparo

## S. Korea: No drill with Japan planned

By DAVID CHOI

AND YOOJIN LEE

*Stars and Stripes*

South Korea’s Ministry of National Defense on Wednesday denied a report that its marines will participate in joint drills with Japanese forces for the first time at an upcoming multinational exercise in the Philippines.

The clarification came a day after Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported that Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers would train alongside South Korean marines during the annual Kamandag exercise in early June.

The purported drill would involve South Korean marines boarding Japanese vessels during a search-and-rescue operation, according to NHK.

The report is inaccurate, a spokesman for South Korea’s defense ministry said Wednesday by text message.

The spokesman, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity, said the ministry has no plans for South Korean marines to drill alongside Japanese troops during Kamandag.

The exercise, hosted by the United States and the Philippines, is scheduled to begin May 26 and run for 12 days across the Philippine archipelago.

Forces from South Korea, Japan and the United Kingdom are slated to participate in various components of the training, including amphibious landing operations and humanitarian assistance operations, according to a



YVONNE IWAE/U.S. Marine Corps

South Korean marines secure an area during Kamandag training Zambales, Philippines, in 2022.

Marine Corps news release this month.

South Korean and Japanese troops have trained at Kamandag before but not together.

Historical tensions between the two nations — rooted in Japan’s 35-year colonization of the Korean Peninsula — have long complicated any efforts at military cooperation.

Those tensions have resurfaced in recent years.

In 2022, South Korean lawmakers protested after Japanese navy personnel saluted the Rising Run

flag at Japan’s International Fleet Review.

The following year, a Japanese destroyer flying the same flag entered South Korea’s Busan port for a multinational exercise, drawing renewed criticism.

Although officially used by Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force since 1954, the flag remains a potent symbol of wartime atrocities to many South Koreans.

Despite these frictions, the two countries have taken steps to improve military ties amid shared

concerns about North Korea.

In 2023, South Korea reinstated a suspended military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, and the nations, alongside the U.S., held their first trilateral aerial drill, including an Air Force B-52H Stratofortress bomber escorted by fighter jets.

The three countries also launched a real-time data-sharing system in December to track North Korean missile launches.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

## Helicopter drops signal flares in Okinawa

By BRIAN McELHINEY

AND KEISHI KOJA

*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. Marine Corps and Okinawa Defense Bureau are searching for a 40-pound bag of signal flares that fell from a helicopter over northern Okinawa this week.

A UH-1Y Venom with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 on a routine training flight dropped the bag over Motobu Peninsula around 4 p.m. Tuesday, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing spokesman Joseph Butterfield said Wednesday.

No civilians were sighted in the area at the time and no injuries were reported, he said.

The bag is believed to have fallen somewhere between Nakijin village’s Wakugawa district and Nago city’s Goga district. The bag contained signal flares and accessory gear for an onboard life raft, Butterfield said.

Marine and Japanese authorities searched the area Tuesday evening and continued the search Wednesday, he said. The bag was inside the aircraft at the time, and the Marine Corps is investigating.

The Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based squadron has been attached to Marine Aircraft Group 36 at MCAS Futenma since last month under the Unit Deployment Program, Butterfield said.

The Venom utility helicopter performs close air support, search-and-rescue, casualty evacuation and combat-assault missions.

The Okinawa Defense Bureau is assisting with the search.

## PACIFIC

# US troops to perform with Japanese rockers

By JOSHUA L. DEMOTTS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An American Forces Network broadcast technician has spent the past three months preparing for his band's performance at the upcoming Friendship Festival on this airlift hub in western Tokyo.

Yu "Jay" Aoki and his band, Garage Crap, are making their third appearance at the annual, two-day open house, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors for static aircraft displays, flybys, food vendors and entertainment on multiple stages.

"I've been watching Friendship Festival performances as a listener since before I started Garage Crap — they always have great bands and big crowds," Aoki said in an interview Friday. "That stage was my dream, so I wanted to share this opportunity with more people."

Aoki said he founded the band 13 years ago, drawing inspiration from the Foo Fighters. The band's frontman, Dave Grohl, once said he recorded their seventh album in a garage.

"I love cars and motorcycles a lot," Aoki said. "So, the word 'garage' kinda fit my taste."

Garage Crap plays mostly original garage and indie rock, sprinkled with a couple of fun covers, such as the "Friends" sitcom theme.

Aoki said the band's mission is to share love, joy and respect through their music. That spirit was behind his decision to collaborate with several service members and friends and family on a performance of "This Is Me," from the film "The Greatest Showman."

Garage Crap is slated to take the Friendship Festival stage at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, with "This Is Me" closing out the set, Aoki said. Planning began in mid-March, and the group has held two rehearsals and three live perfor-

mances since April to prepare for the event.

Airman 1st Class Maria Washler, an AFN broadcaster and a member of the band Sick Nasties, is one of two guest vocalists performing with Garage Crap.

"Singing with Jay's band has been such a wonderful experience. Being able to have fun and share all of our passions for music together has been so memorable," she said Monday by Messenger. "I am so grateful to be a part of the growing friendship and love that Jay's band and the rest of the group brings."

Aoki said the idea to perform "This Is Me" came from his wife. He immediately agreed, as "The Greatest Showman" is one of his favorite movies.

"If everyone has love and respect, the world is going to be more beautiful," he said. "That movie and the song 'This Is Me' are powerful. Love, respect, friendship and family are good things and fit in the Friendship Festival."



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA L. DEMOTTS/Stars and Stripes

Yu "Jay" Aoki, an American Forces Network broadcast technician, performs with his band, Garage Crap, at the Chicken Shack near Yokota Air Base, Japan, on May 4.



Airman 1st Class Maria Washler, an American Forces Network broadcaster, performs with Garage Crap at the Chicken Shack.



Aoki performs with Garage Crap in Musashimurayama, near Yokota Air Base, on Sunday.

## US base warns public about roaming monkey with missing hand

By JUAN KING  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Japanese macaque, or snow monkey, recently spotted near the headquarters of U.S. Army Japan has prompted a public warning to keep a safe distance from the roaming primate.

The animal, missing its left hand, is "not friendly," according to a comment on Camp Zama's official Facebook page. A video posted in the comments section appears to show the monkey near Zama Station on Tuesday.

That day, a macaque sighting in Sagami-hara — a city adjacent to Zama, about 25 miles southwest of central Tokyo — led the base to issue a cautionary post on Facebook. Residents of the Army's Sagami-hara Housing Area were advised not to



Pixabay

**Japanese macaques are common throughout most of Japan and inhabit forested mountain slopes right down to the fringes of Tokyo.**

approach or feed the monkey.

"We did not receive any reports of anyone spotting the animal on our instal-

lation," base spokesman Dustin Perry told Stars and Stripes by email Wednesday. "We have not received any further information on whether the animal has been located."

Macaques are rarely a threat, but sightings in residential areas typically prompt quick warnings from authorities.

Though often associated with the snowy region of northern Japan, macaques are found in forested areas across Honshu, the country's largest island, and as far south as subtropical Kyushu. They occasionally wander into neighborhoods in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

The monkeys are not new to U.S. military installations in Japan.

In October 2021, a macaque was spotted near the dental clinic at Yokota Air Base,

north of Zama, and was seen roaming the installation's east side housing area for two days. Base authorities warned children walking to school to avoid the animal.

The following month, a macaque was reported in Ayase city, near Naval Air Facility Atsugi. Another monkey was also seen at Zama that month.

Although they often avoid humans, macaques may approach people, particularly if they associate them with food. They can become aggressive if they feel threatened.

Perry said the base would continue to share updates with the community.

The Zama community is encouraged to report any sightings to the directorate of public works at DSN 263-4613/4274 or 046-407-4613/4274.

## MILITARY

# Older: Pandemic led to new recruiting strategies

## FROM PAGE 1

year-olds who just graduated high school to young adults who have had a taste of college or the job market.

When the coronavirus pandemic took hold of the United States in 2020, the Army's average recruit was 21.4 years old. Five years later, the average age has increased to 22.7. Meanwhile, the percentage of recruits enlisting during their senior year of high school — traditionally the bread-and-butter of military recruiting — has gone from 20.5% in 2020 to 13.1% in 2024, according to the service.

The Army began seeking out older recruits during the pandemic, said Brig. Gen. Sara Dudley, deputy commander of operations for the Army Recruiting Command.

"It pushed us out into a broader market and into deeper sections of the community that had individuals who were still [interested] but maybe weren't getting that amount of attention from Army recruiters in the past," she said. "As that developed and it became fruitful for us, then it's just kind of kept on."

Military recruiting has struggled in the five years since the pandemic began, with all the services but the Marine Corps falling into a two-year enlistment slump from which they only began to emerge in 2024. Defense officials said all the services are on track for a positive end to fiscal 2025, which ends Sept. 30. The Army expects to meet its goal of 61,000 recruits for the year, Dudley said.

Sgt. Cody Kirkpatrick, 21, was part of that shrinking number of high school seniors ready to commit to an Army career. He had the opportunity — and strong urgency from his parents — to go straight into college but said he just didn't want to take that choice.

"I just wanted to start off serving my country," Kirkpatrick said. "I wanted to have the military be my career. And in my eyes, the earlier I joined, the more time I have to further my career."

Arriving at basic training more than two years ago, he said he was not expecting to see as many older trainees with him at boot camp. Now a cavalry scout at Fort Cavazos, Texas, he said there are soldiers more than five years his senior whom he outranks. Kirkpatrick said age differences have not bothered him.

"I've had prior work experience. When I was a ranch hand, I had a lot of older gentlemen with me ranching and roping and stuff. When I was a fry cook at Chicken

Express, I [worked with] people twice my age. At the time, I was 15," said the Blanco, Texas-native. "I can't really say too much about it because they were all regular people just like me with the same attitude of just trying to get through it."

But Kirkpatrick said he noticed younger trainees at boot camp had a more difficult time dealing with bouts of homesickness.

## Beyond the surge

Other services, too, have seen small increases in the age of recruits but not the full year leap of the Army, according to data provided by the services. The Air Force's and Navy's average age of recruits has moved from 21.2 in 2020 to 21.8 years old in 2024. Airmen enlisting while in high school has held relatively steady in the past five years with about 28% deciding to enlist as a senior.

The Marines are still enlisting the youngest recruits into the service, averaging just more than 19.5 years old in the past five years with more than 40% signing their contract and entering the delayed entry pool while a senior in high school. That is down from 46% at the start of the pandemic.

The Navy also has seen high school students taper off. In 2020, seniors made up 30% of enlistees. Last year that dropped to 21%, according to the service. The Navy has shifted to recruiting people who can ship in months beyond the summer enlistment surge following high school graduations, said Cmdr. Stephanie Turo, spokeswoman for the Navy Recruiting Command.

"The Navy has in no way reduced its focus on high school seniors but has expanded our scope to cover a wider swath of the population in the relentless search for the very best talent," she said.

Research on older recruits has shown they tend to perform better in basic training and their first enlistment, but are more likely to have a medical waiver, said Beth Asch, senior principal economist with the Rand Corp.

"A lot of what happens in the military is very team-oriented and maturity matters. You have to get along. You have to be able to follow instructions accurately and timely," she said.

## Parents seeking stability

In recruiting more people in their early to mid-20s, the Army has also found an increase in parents enlisting, some of whom require a waiver that proves someone can care for their child or children during boot camp and other times of separation.

The number of dependency waivers submitted for the Army



Robert Spaulding

**Sgt. Robert Spaulding, 40, a public affairs specialist at Fort Carson, Colo., chose to enlist in the Army to better care for his children.**

has nearly doubled in five years — from 487 in 2020 to 840 in 2024. The Air Force has seen a moderate increase over the same time from 457 to 623.

The Navy has seen more parents submit waivers to enlist than the Army, despite the service pausing submissions in 2022 to review the performance of those allowed to enlist with the waiver, Turo said. No concerns were found and waivers resumed later that year. The Navy received 889 last year — up from 724 in 2020.

Col. Lee Evans, director of market intelligence for Army Recruiting Command, said good recruiters are tailoring their messages to appeal to those young parents looking for steady employment.

"For 17 years old or 18 years old in high school ... they might be looking for adventure and excitement. If it's someone who's 24, 25, maybe married, maybe has a kid, two kids, then the message changes," he said. "Maybe it is some of the other benefits, the stability, the training, the experience and things that could help them further their career."

Spc. Joslin Willis, 33, is a mother with three children younger than 6 who decided this year to enlist in the Army. She spent eight years as a Marine, and said her husband fully supported her decision to get back into the military after a three-year hiatus. He stepped away from truck driving to be with their kids during her initial Army training.

"I just wanted a better life for my three children," she said, taking a break from her second week of combat engineer training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "It was mainly the schooling and the housing on post."

Willis chose the Army because it has a wider selection of duty stations than the Marine Corps. After her initial training, she's on her way to Fort Bliss, Texas.

"When I was in my 20s, I was just worried about myself. I didn't have anybody to look after," she said. "Now that I have a family, I have my kids looking up to me. I'm trying my best to make the right decisions."



Doniel Kennedy

**Spc. Doniel Kennedy, right, receives the Soldiers Leader of the Cycle Award during his graduation from basic training in 2023 at Fort Jackson, S.C.**

opinions about what Army service entails," he said. An in-person recruiter can share their personal Army story, Evans said.

Army recruiters visit between 8,000 and 10,000 events across the country each year, said Tim Blair, deputy director for marketing at the Army Recruiting Command. That can range from large air shows to small presentations to a classroom or volunteering to coach a sports team.

Though those high school seniors have tapered off — in part because more graduates go to college than did 20 years ago — Dudley said it is still important that students see a recruiter and get a familiarity with the military as early and as often as possible. It plants the idea of service, she said.

About 25% of students who started college since 2007 had not graduated by 2024, according to Rand. College enrollment peaked in 2010 at about 21 million students, according to the Department of Education. It too dipped during the pandemic and is now at about 19.2 million students.

"Most of the 17- and 18-year-olds who we talk to, they're just not sure what they want," Dudley said. "It's not too much for the formation to handle to talk to high schoolers and get out and find some individuals in the labor market and individuals who ... their situation didn't work out the way that they thought it would. The Army is a great opportunity to carry on and further develop skills that they have learned."

Kennedy didn't set any retirement goals when he made the decision to enlist for better job experience. Right now, he said he's enjoying the opportunity to tell visual stories for the Army. When his contract is over, he'll reassess what is right for him and his family.

"If I'm loving it, I'll stay in as long as I need to," he said. "If I'm not enjoying it as much, at a minimum, I'm going to have that stability for a few years. ... I'll have five years of professional experience on top of my degree to hop back into the job market and be a lot more competitive."

At kindergarten graduation, Willis said her daughter told the class she wanted to be a soldier "just like Mommy."

"That made me tear up and feel proud," Willis said.

Sgt. Robert Willis Spaulding, 40, said his family also weighed heavily in his choice to enlist a decade ago. He was separated from the mother of his two children and looking for a stable job to help him pay child support.

Raised in a military household, Spaulding had been avoiding enlistment for most of his adult life. He'd grown up having to roll his clothes boot-camp-style, scrubbing away any bit of grime or dirt and keeping everything in his room exactly in place.

"No matter how hard I tried, I was viewed as a deadbeat father, and in a lot of respects, I was," he said. "[The Army] was more of an honorably viewed job that included benefits to where I could both take care of myself and my family."

Enlisting was more of the logical choice over the right choice. In a perfect world, Spaulding would finish his engineering degree and work in the biomedical field.

When he reenlisted during the pandemic, he felt it was the best way to steer clear of the instability in the civilian job market. He is now assigned to Fort Carson.

## A tailored approach

The Army is always adjusting its recruiting strategy to those outside factors of the U.S. labor market, Evans said. The portrayal of the Army in films, TV and by the news media also play a part in how recruiters interact with potential enlistees.

"The most valuable tool that we have in recruiting is the recruiter on the ground because any time someone sees a bad news story or maybe it's a good news story... about a charitable organization for veterans, people are forming



Kirkpatrick

## NATION

# Trump meets with Syria's insurgent-turned-leader

By ZEKE MILLER,  
JON GAMBRELL  
AND AAMER MADHANI  
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—President Donald Trump met with interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the first encounter between the two nations' leaders in 25 years and one that could mark a turning point for Syria as it struggles to emerge from decades of international isolation.

The meeting, on the sidelines of Trump's get-together with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, marks a major turn of events for a Syria still adjusting to life after the over 50-year, iron-gripped rule of the Assad family.

Trump praised al-Sharaa to reporters after the meeting on Air Force One, saying he was a "young, attractive guy. Tough guy. Strong past. Very strong past. Fighter."

Under the nom de guerre Abu

Mohammed al-Golani, al-Sharaa had ties to al-Qaida and joined insurgents battling U.S. forces in Iraq before entering the Syrian war. He was even imprisoned by U.S. troops there for several years.

"He's got a real shot at holding it together," Trump said. "He's a real leader. He led a charge and he's pretty amazing."

Trump had announced the day before as he kicked off his three-nation Middle East tour in Riyadh that he would also move to lift U.S. sanctions imposed on Syria under the deposed autocrat Bashar Assad.

People across Syria cheered in the streets and set off fireworks on Tuesday night to celebrate, hopeful their nation — locked out of credit cards and global finance — might rejoin the world's economy when they need investments the most.

The meeting came even after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had earlier asked Trump

not to lift sanctions on Syria, again underscoring a growing discontent between the White House and the Israeli government as its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip rages on.

I am "ordering the cessation of sanctions against Syria to give them a fresh start," Trump told the Gulf Cooperation Council after his meeting with al-Sharaa. "It gives them a chance for greatness. The sanctions were really crippling, very powerful."

Trump said al-Sharaa had agreed to join the Abraham Accords and recognize Israel at some point, telling reporters, "I think they have to get themselves straightened up. I told him, 'I hope you're going to join when it's straightened out.' He said, 'Yes.' But they have a lot of work to do."

Trump said on Tuesday that he would meet al-Sharaa, who had flown in to the Saudi capital for the face-to-face.

Even before its ruinous civil war



BANDAR ALJALUD, SAUDI ROYAL PALACE/AP

President Donald Trump, right, shakes hands with Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday.

that began in 2011, Syria struggled under a tightly controlled socialist economy and under sanctions by the U.S. as a state-sponsor of terror since 1979.

The Trump-al-Sharaa meeting took place behind closed doors and reporters were not permitted to witness the engagement. The White House later said it ran for just over 30 minutes, making al-Sharaa the first Syrian leader to meet an American president since Hafez Assad met Bill Clinton in Ge-

neva in 2000.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan joined the meeting between Trump, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and al-Sharaa via a phone call. Turkey was a main backer to al-Sharaa and his rebel faction.

"I felt very strongly that this would give them a chance," Trump said of Syria. "It's not going to be easy anyway, so gives them a good strong chance. And, it was my honor to do so."

## Tehran: Qatari leader hopeful Trump can help end war in Gaza

### FROM PAGE 1

The two leaders, and others from their respective delegations, signed a series of agreements, including one between U.S. aircraft company Boeing and Qatar Airways. The White House said the deal was worth \$96 billion.

The U.S. and Iran have engaged in four rounds of talks since early last month, and Trump has said he believes brokering a nuclear deal is possible but that the window is closing. The Republican president's latest push on Iran to cease support of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen come as that proxy network has faced significant setbacks in the 19 months since Hamas launched its Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

In Iran, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called Trump's remarks "deceitful" but did not directly address Trump's demand.

Trump said that he also believed the moment was ripe "for a future free from the grip of Hezbollah terrorists." Hezbollah is severely weakened after its war last year with Israel in which much of its top leadership was killed, and after losing a key ally with the fall of former Syrian President Bashar Assad, a conduit for Iran to send arms.

Trump met with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, a face-to-face engagement with the onetime insurgent leader who spent years imprisoned by U.S. forces after



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump holds up a pen given by Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani as they exchange documents during a signing ceremony at the Amiri Diwan in Doha, Qatar, on Wednesday.

being captured in Iraq. Trump agreed to meet al-Sharaa at the end of his stay in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Sharaa was named president of Syria in January, a month after a stunning offensive by insurgent groups led by al-Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, stormed Damascus and ended the 54-year rule of the Assad family.

Trump said he decided to meet with al-Sharaa after being encouraged to do so by Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohammed and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He also pledged to lift yearslong sanctions on Syria.

Prince Mohammed joined Trump and al-Sharaa for the meeting, which lasted 33 minutes. Erdogan took part via video conference.

Formerly known by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammed al-Golani, al-Sharaa joined the ranks of al-Qaida insurgents battling U.S. forces in Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion. He still faces a warrant for his arrest on terrorism charges in Iraq. The U.S. once offered \$10 million for information about his whereabouts because of his links to al-Qaida.

Al-Sharaa returned to his home country of Syria after the conflict began in 2011 and led al-Qaida's branch called the Nusra Front. He changed the name of his group to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and cut links with al-Qaida.

The sanctions go back to the rule of Bashar Assad, who was ousted in December, and were intended to inflict major pain on his

economy.

In Qatar, Trump was greeted at the airport by Al Thani. Air Force One was escorted by Qatari F-15 jets as it neared Doha, the capital city.

As he sat down for talks at Amiri Diwan, the administrative office of the emir, Trump told the Qatari leader he was impressed with the "perfecto" marble as well as the camels that took part in the arrival ceremony.

Al Thani said he had high hopes for Trump's efforts with Iran and at ending the war in Gaza.

"I know that you are a man of peace," said Al Thani, who later on Wednesday was to honor Trump with a state dinner. "I know that you want to bring peace to this region."

Trump will head to the United Arab Emirates on Thursday for the final stop of his Mideast tour.

Qatar, like the other Gulf Arab states, is an autocratic nation where political parties are banned and speech is tightly controlled. The country has also played a central role in pay-to-play-style scandals around the globe.

In Israel, authorities are investigating allegations that Qatar hired close advisers to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to launch public relations campaigns to improve the Gulf nation's image among Israelis.

Two European Union lawmakers were accused of taking money from Doha in a scandal known as

"Qatar-gate." U.S. prosecutors in 2020 accused Qatar of bribing FI-FA executive committee members to secure the soccer World Cup tournament in the country in 2022.

In 2024, RTX Corp., the defense contractor formerly known as Raytheon, agreed to pay more than \$950 million to resolve allegations that it defrauded the U.S. government and paid bribes to secure business with Qatar. Doha always has denied wrongdoing.

But Qatar has also served as valuable partner to the U.S. Qatar is also home to Al-Udeid Air Base, a sprawling facility that hosts the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command.

It's a key mediator, particularly with Hamas.

The oil- and gas-rich country is also in the center of a controversy over its offer to provide Trump with the gift of a luxury Boeing 747-8 that the U.S. could use as Air Force One while new versions of the plane are under construction by Boeing. The Qatari government has said a final decision hasn't been made.

Trump has defended the idea even as critics argue it would amount to a president accepting a gift from a foreign government. He has indicated he would refurbish the aircraft and it would later be donated to his post-White House presidential library. He says he would not use the plane once he leaves office.

## NATION

# House GOP pushes ahead on Trump's big bill

BY LISA MASCARO  
AND KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tax breaks tallying more than \$5 trillion — but also sizable reductions in Medicaid health care, food stamps and green energy strategies to fight climate change — faced sharp debate as House lawmakers slogged through marathon overnight hearings on Republicans' "big, beautiful bill."

Tensions rose and emotions flared as the hours dragged on into early Wednesday morning. House Republicans are working to push President Donald Trump's signature legislative package through a gauntlet of committees and mounting opposition from Democrats, advocacy groups and even some Republicans themselves.

It's the biggest political and legislative debate for the Republicans leading Congress since

Trump's first term, setting up a career-defining clash over the nation's priorities, all coming at a time of economic unease with Trump's trade war and other uncertainties.

At its core, the goal for GOP lawmakers is to extend — and enhance — tax cuts approved in 2017, adding the president's 2024 campaign promises for no taxes on tips, Social Security income and car loan interest.

There's also a larger standard deduction, \$32,000 for couples, a boost to the Child Tax Credit and a potentially higher cap of \$30,000 on state and local tax deductions, known as SALT, that's still being negotiated.

That's offset by \$1.9 trillion in savings largely from the rollback of green energy tax credits, for a net tally of \$3.7 trillion in costs over the decade, according to the most recent estimates — along

with billions more in savings from the safety net cuts.

Additionally, the Republicans are boosting spending on their priorities, with \$350 billion for Trump's mass deportation plans and funding for the Pentagon.

At the same time, the Republicans are seeking to defray the lost tax revenue and avoid skyrocketing national deficits with another GOP goal, scaling back spending.

The Republicans are proposing cuts of nearly \$800 billion over the decade to the Medicaid health care program, which is used by 70 million Americans; \$290 billion to food aid in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP; and others.

Tucked into the package is a smattering of other provisions important to the White House — including one that would allow the Trump administration to yank the tax exempt status of groups it says

support terrorists, sending a chill through civil society organizations who warn it's a way to punish opponents.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries accused Republicans of "jamming another GOP tax scam" that benefits the wealthy at the expense of programs and services used by many Americans.

As the minority party in Congress, Democrats are unable to stop the bill on their own but used the procedural tools to slow down the process.

At the Ways & Means committee Democrats offered amendments into the night — to provide taxpayers relief from Trump's tariff policies, enhance a child tax credit and others that were all being turned back by Republicans.

As the Agriculture Committee began its work, CBO also told lawmakers the work requirements for

SNAP would reduce participation by roughly 3 million people in an average month.

Republicans are working to resolve dissent within their ranks, which shows the pressure ahead.

With the slimmest majority in the House, Johnson has just a few votes to spare and is running into resistance from his party, including lawmakers in the Senate, which also has thin GOP margins.

The lawmakers are racing for a July 4 deadline to have the whole package sent to Trump's desk in time to also avoid a dangerous debt default. The Treasury Secretary has said federal tax revenues are running short and Congress needs to raise the spending limit to keep paying the bills.

The package includes a \$4 trillion boost to the nation's now \$36 trillion debt limit, enough to fund operations past the 2026 midterm election.

## Schumer to hold up nominees over Qatari luxury plane

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday that he will hold up all Justice Department nominations on the Senate floor until he gets more answers about the free Air Force One replacement that President Donald Trump says would be donated by Qatar.

Trump said this week that he wants to accept the \$400 million plane and that it would later be donated to a presidential library. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News on Monday that the details of the donation are still being worked out.

The plan, Schumer said, "is not just naked corruption, it is also a grave national security threat."

Schumer said he wants answers from Attorney General Pam Bondi and the Trump administration about whether it is investigating activities inside the United States by Qatari foreign agents that could benefit Trump or his business. He also wants to know if Qatar will be responsible for adding security



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

**Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday.**

measures to the plane and how it will be built and paid for.

"The Attorney General must testify before both the House and Senate to explain why gifting Do-

nald Trump a private jet does not violate the emoluments clause — which requires congressional approval — or any other ethics laws," Schumer said.

The Constitution prohibits federal officials from accepting things of value, or "emoluments," from foreign governments without congressional approval.

In a post on his social media site Tuesday, Trump said it "is being given to the United States Air Force/Department of Defense, NOT TO ME! It is a gift from a Nation, Qatar, that we have successfully defended for many years."

Democrats have expressed uniform outrage about the potential foreign gift and many Republicans are uneasy about the plan, as well. Returning to Washington on Monday evening, senators in both parties questioned how the deal would work and stressed the importance of following federal law.

On Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., declined to give a direct opinion on the possible deal, but said that if it happens, "I can assure you there will be plenty of scrutiny."

In an interview with Fox News airing Tuesday night, Trump also questioned the criticism. "My attitude is, why wouldn't I accept a

gift?" Trump said.

Schumer's holds mean that the Senate can't quickly confirm any of Trump's Justice Department nominees. Many lower-level nominations, such as U.S. attorneys, are often approved in groups by voice vote.

Democratic Sens. Brian Schatz of Hawaii and Richard Blumenthal of Hawaii went to the Senate floor Tuesday afternoon and tried to force a vote on a resolution disapproving of the Qatari gift. But it was blocked by Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville, who said Democrats are "losing their mind over the situation" and the gift is not a done deal. If the Qatari government does donate the plane, "the only thing we should say is thank you," Tuberville said.

Schatz said that "it really should go without saying, but no president should be accepting a \$400 million gift from a foreign country. It is gross, it is reckless, it is corrupt, and the outrage and condemnation especially on the Republican side should be universal."

## Judge OKs use of Alien Enemies Act for some deportations

BY REBECCA BOONE

Associated Press

A federal judge says President Donald Trump can use the Alien Enemies Act to deport Venezuelan citizens who are shown to be members of the Tren de Aragua gang.

The ruling Tuesday from U.S. District Judge Stephanie Haines in Pennsylvania appears to be the first time a federal judge has signed off on Trump's proclama-

tion calling Tren de Aragua a foreign terrorist organization and invoking the 18th century wartime law to deport people labeled as being members of the gang.

Also Tuesday, another federal judge in the western district of Texas temporarily barred the Trump administration from using the Alien Enemies Act to deport people in that region. At least three other federal judges have said Trump was improperly using

the AEA to speed deportations of people the administration says are Venezuelan gang members.

Haines, a Trump appointee, also said the administration hasn't been giving enough notice to people facing removal under the AEA. She ordered the administration to provide at least 21 days notice — far longer than the 12 hours that some have been given.

"This case poses significant issues that are deeply interwoven

with the constitutional principles upon which this Nation's government is founded," Haines wrote. "In approaching these issues, the Court begins by stressing the questions that it is not resolving at this time."

The ruling doesn't address whether the administration can remove people under other laws, nor does it address whether Trump can invoke the Alien Enemies Act to deport people who

simply migrated to the U.S. and who aren't members of a foreign terrorist organization, Haines wrote. She also did not weigh in on whether people suspected of being members of other gangs could be removed under the act.

But she did say the Act can be used to remove Venezuelan citizens who are at least 14 years old, who are in the U.S. without legal immigration status and who are members of Tren de Aragua.

## NATION

# Lawsuits: Trump tariffs exceed his authority

BY PAUL WISEMAN  
AND LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is waging a trade war without getting approval from Congress: He declared a national emergency to slap import taxes — tariffs — on almost every country on Earth.

The president is now facing at least seven lawsuits that argue he's gone too far and asserted power he does not have.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of International Trade, which deals specifically with civil lawsuits involving international trade law, held the first hearing on the challenges Tuesday morning in New York. Five small businesses are asking the court to block the sweeping import taxes that Trump announced April 2 — “Liberation Day,” he called it.

Declaring that the United States' huge and long-running trade deficits add up to a national emergency, Trump invoked the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act and rolled out 10% tariffs on many countries. He imposed higher — up to 50% — “reciprocal” tariffs on countries that sold more goods to the United States than the U.S. sold them. (Trump later suspended those higher tariffs for 90 days.)

Trump's tariffs rattled global markets and raised fears that they would disrupt commerce and slow U.S. and global economic growth.

Jeffrey Schwab, senior counsel and director of litigation at the nonprofit Liberty Justice Center, said the president is exceeding the act's authority. “That statute

doesn't actually say anything about giving the president the power to tariff,” said Schwab, who is representing the small businesses. “It doesn't say the word tariff.”

In their complaint, the businesses also call Trump's emergency “a figment of his own imagination: trade deficits, which have persisted for decades without causing economic harm, are not an emergency.” The U.S. has, in fact, run a trade deficit — the gap between exports and imports — with the rest of the world for 49 straight years, through good times and bad.

But the Trump administration argues that courts approved President Richard Nixon's emergency use of tariffs in a 1971 economic crisis. The Nixon administration successfully cited its authority under the 1917 Trading With Enemy Act, which preceded and supplied some of the legal language used in the 1977 emergency powers act.

The legal battle against Trump's tariffs has created unusual bedfellows, uniting states led by Democratic governors with libertarian groups — including the Liberty Justice Center — that often seek to overturn government regulation of businesses. A dozen states have filed suit against Trump's tariffs in the New York trade court. A hearing in that case is scheduled for May 21.

Kathleen Claussen, a professor and trade-law expert at Georgetown Law, said Tuesday's hearing and another scheduled for the states' lawsuit in the coming weeks will likely set the tone for legal battles over tariffs to come.

If the court agrees to block the

tariffs under the emergency economic-powers act, the Trump administration will certainly appeal. “It strikes me probably this probably is something that has to be decided by the Supreme Court,” she said.

And if the cases do go to the Supreme Court, legal experts say, it's possible the justices will use conservative legal doctrines they cited to rein in government powers claimed by Democratic President Joe Biden's administration to strike down or limit tariffs imposed by Trump, a Republican.

The U.S. Constitution gives the power to impose taxes — including tariffs — to Congress. But over the years lawmakers ceded power over trade policy to the White House, clearing the way for Trump's expansive use of tariffs.

Some lawmakers now want to reclaim some of the authority they've given up.

Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, for instance, have introduced legislation that would require presidents to justify new tariffs to Congress. Lawmakers would then have 60 days to approve the tariffs. Otherwise, they would expire.

But their proposal appears to stand little chance of becoming law, given most Republican lawmakers' deference to Trump and the president's veto power.

For now, many American businesses are struggling to cope with Trump's tariffs, which have lifted America's average tariff to the highest level since 1934 — even after a trade truce with China was announced Monday, according to Yale University's Budget Lab.



JOSHUA A. BICKEL/AP

Logan Feeney pours a water sample with forever chemicals, known as PFAS, into a container for research last year at a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lab in Cincinnati.

## EPA rolls back some limits on chemicals in US drinking water

*Associated Press*

The Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that it plans to weaken limits on some so-called forever chemicals in drinking water that were finalized last year, while maintaining standards for two common ones.

The Biden administration set the first federal drinking water limits for PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, finding they increased the risk of cardiovascular disease, certain cancers and babies being born with low birth weight. Those limits on PFAS, which are man-made and don't easily break down in nature, were expected to reduce their levels in drinking water for millions of people.

Limits on three types of PFAS, including so-called GenX substances found in North Carolina, will be scrapped and reconsidered by the agency, as will a limit on a mixture of several types of PFAS.

The Biden administration's rule also set standards for the two common types of PFAS, referred to as PFOA and PFOS, at 4 parts per trillion, effectively the lowest level at which they can be reliably detected. The EPA will keep those standards in place, but give utilities two extra years — until 2031 — to comply and treat for the chemicals.

“We are on a path to uphold the agency's nationwide standards to protect Americans from PFOA and PFOS in their water. At the same time, we will work to provide common-sense flexibility in the form of additional time for compliance,” said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin.

The development was first reported by The Washington Post.

It appears few utilities will be impacted by the withdrawal of limits for certain, newer types of PFAS. So

far, sampling has found nearly 12% of U.S. water utilities are above the Biden administration's limits. But the vast majority of utilities face problems with PFOA or PFOS.

Health advocates praised the Biden administration for the tight limits. But water utilities took issue with the rule, saying treatment systems are expensive to install and that customers will end up paying more for water. The utilities sued the EPA.

The EPA's actions align with some of the arguments utilities made in their lawsuit. They argued that the EPA lacked the authority to regulate a mixture of PFAS and said the agency didn't properly support limits on several newer types of PFAS

that are now rescinded. They also asked for the now-granted two-year extension.

Erik Olson, a senior strategic director of health at the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council, said the move is illegal. The Safe Water Drinking Act gives the EPA authority to limit contaminants in drinking water and it includes a provision meant to prevent new rules from being looser than previous ones.

“With a stroke of the pen, EPA is making a mockery of the Trump administration's promise to deliver clean water for Americans,” Olson said.

Manufactured by companies like Chemours and 3M, PFAS were incredibly useful in many applications — among them, helping clothes to withstand rain and ensuring that firefighting foam snuffed out flames. But the chemicals also accumulate in the body. As science advanced in recent years, evidence of harm at far lower levels became clearer.



MATT ROURKE/AP

A container ship is moored Monday at the port in Elizabeth, N.J. President Donald Trump is waging a trade war is facing a number of legal challenges.

## NATION

# Judge reduces sentences for Menendezes

By JAIMIE DING  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Erik and Lyle Menendez will have a new shot at freedom after 35 years behind bars for murdering their parents, a judge ruled Tuesday.

The ruling from Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Jesic reduced the brothers' sentences from life in prison without parole to 50 years to life, making them immediately eligible for parole. The state parole board must decide whether to release them.

The judge's decision followed months of pushback from prosecutors who opposed resentencing, arguing the brothers hadn't taken adequate responsibility for their crimes. Ultimately prosecutors did not call any witnesses, saying they had presented all of their evidence.

The defense turned to family members and those who knew the brothers since their conviction to speak to their character and rehabilitation. The brothers also addressed the court via video as family members listened on tearfully. Most of the brothers' family members, including aunts and uncles, have long supported their bid for freedom.

"On Aug. 20, 1989, I killed my mom and dad. I make no excuses and also no justification," Lyle Menendez said, choking up as he addressed the room. "The impact of



DAMIAN DOVARGANES / AP

Natasha Blasick holds a sign in support of Erik and Lyle Menendez outside the Van Nuys Courthouse during a hearing in the brothers' case Tuesday in Los Angeles.



CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS / AP

Erik Menendez, left, and Lyle Menendez.

my violent actions on my family ... is unfathomable."

Jesic issued his decision immediately after the brothers spoke. The hearing was slated to last two days, but Jesic made his decision in one, offering the brothers new hope after years of unsuccessful appeals in a case that captured public attention from the start.

The brothers were convicted in 1996 for murdering their father, Jose Menendez — a powerful record executive — and their mother, Kitty Menendez, in their Beverly Hills home in 1989. The brothers

were 18 and 21 at the time. While defense attorneys argued the brothers acted out of self-defense after years of sexual abuse by their father, prosecutors said the brothers killed their parents for a multi-million-dollar inheritance.

While the sentence reduction is a major win for the brothers, defense attorney Mark Geragos said he had been seeking to have their charges reduced to manslaughter, which would have allowed them to be immediately released. The judge

did not go that far.

"I'm not saying they should be released; it's not for me to decide," Jesic said. "I do believe they've done enough in the past 35 years, that they should get that chance."

The brothers have an appearance before the parole board on June 13 as part of a risk assessment report ordered by California Gov. Gavin Newsom to aid in his clemency decision.

Erik Menendez also spoke about taking responsibility for his actions and apologized to his family.

"You did not deserve what I did to you, but you inspire me to do better," he said.

The judge said he was especially moved by a letter from a prison official who supported resentencing, something the official had never done for any incarcerated person in the 25 years of his career.

The defense called several of the brothers' cousins, a former judge and a former fellow inmate to the witness stand to testify that the brothers were not only rehabilitated but helped others. Prosecutors cross-examined the witnesses but didn't call any of their own.

"We all, on both sides of the family, believe that 35 years is enough," said Anamaria Baralt, a cousin. "They are universally forgiven by our family."

"We have evolved," Geragos said. "This is not the '90s anymore. We have a more robust understanding of a lot of things."

## Jury indicts judge accused of helping man evade ICE arrest

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A federal grand jury indicted a Wisconsin judge Tuesday on charges she helped a man in the country illegally evade U.S. immigration authorities looking to arrest him as he appeared before her in a local domestic abuse case.

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan's arrest and ensuing indictment has escalated a clash between President Donald Trump's administration and local authorities over the Republican's sweeping immigration crackdown. Democrats have accused the Trump administration of trying to make a national example of Dugan to chill judicial opposition to the crackdown.

Prosecutors charged Dugan in April via complaint with concealing an individual to prevent arrest and obstruction. In the federal criminal justice system, prosecutors can initiate charges against a defendant directly by filing a com-

plaint or present evidence to a grand jury and let that body decide whether to issue charges.

A grand jury still reviews charges brought by complaint to determine whether enough probable cause exists to continue the case as a check on prosecutors' power. If the grand jury determines there's probable cause, it issues a written statement of the charges known as an indictment. That's what happened in Dugan's case.

Dugan faces up to six years in prison if she's convicted on both counts. Her team of defense attorneys responded to the indictment with a one-sentence statement saying that she maintains her innocence and looks forward to being vindicated in court. She was scheduled to enter a plea on Thursday.

Kenneth Gales, a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office in Milwaukee, declined to comment on the indictment Tuesday eve-



LEE MATZ, MILWAUKEE INDEPENDENT/AP

Hannah Dugan

ning.

Dugan's case is similar to one brought during the first Trump administration against a Massachusetts judge, who was accused of helping a man sneak out a courthouse back door to evade a waiting immigration enforcement agent. That case was eventually dismissed.

Prosecutors say Dugan escorted Eduardo Flores-Ruiz and his lawyer out of her courtroom through a back jury door on April 18 after learning that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were in the courthouse seeking his arrest.

## California governor mulls health care expansion halt

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Gavin Newsom wants California to stop enrolling more low-income immigrants without legal status in a state-funded health care program starting in 2026 and begin charging those already enrolled a monthly premium the following year.

The decision is driven by a higher-than-expected price tag on the program and economic uncertainty from federal tariff policies, Newsom said in a Wednesday announcement.

The Democratic governor's move highlights Newsom's struggle to protect his liberal policy priorities amid budget challenges in his final years on the job.

California was among one of the first states to extend free health care benefits to all poor adults regardless of their immigration status last year, an ambitious plan touted by Newsom to help the nation's most populous state to inch closer to a goal of universal health care.

But the cost for such expansion ran \$2.7 billion more than the administration had anticipated.

Newsom in March suggested to reporters he was not considering rolling back health benefits for low-income people living in the country illegally as the state was grappling with a \$6.2 billion Medicaid shortfall.

He also repeatedly defended the expansion, saying it saves the state money in the long run. The program is state-funded and does not use federal dollars.

Under Newsom's plan, low-income adults without legal status will no longer be eligible to apply for Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, starting in 2026.

Those who are already enrolled won't be kicked off their plans because of the enrollment freeze, and the changes won't impact children. Newsom's office didn't say how long the freeze would last.

Newsom's office estimated the changes will save the state \$5.4 billion by 2028-29.

"The state must take difficult but necessary steps to ensure fiscal stability and preserve the long-term viability of Medi-Cal for all Californians," his office said in an announcement.

## NATION

# US reaches over 1,000 measles cases

By DEVI SHASTRI  
Associated Press

Texas confirmed eight more measles cases over the span of four days, continuing a short streak of shrinking increases in a state that has been dealing with a large outbreak for nearly four months.

The U.S. surpassed 1,000 measles cases Friday, and Texas still accounts for the majority of cases in an outbreak that also spread measles to New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. Two unvaccinated elementary school-aged children died from measles-related illnesses in the epicenter in West Texas, and an adult in New Mexico who was not vaccinated died of a measles-related illness.

Other states with active outbreaks — which the CDC defines as three or more related cases — include Indiana, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

North America has two other ongoing outbreaks, all of which are the same measles strain. One outbreak in Ontario, Canada, has resulted in 1,440 cases from mid-October through May 6, up 197 cases in a week. And the Mexican state of Chihuahua had 1,094 measles cases and one death as of Tuesday, according to data from the state health ministry.

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that's airborne and spreads easily when an in-



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

A sign is seen outside of Seminole Hospital District offering measles testing, Feb. 21, in Seminole, Texas.

fecting person breathes, sneezes or coughs. It is vaccine preventable and has been considered eliminated from the U.S. since 2000.

As the virus takes hold in U.S. communities with low vaccination rates, health experts fear that spread could stretch on for a year. Here's what else you need to know about measles in the U.S.

In Texas, there are a total of 717 cases across 32 counties, most of them in West Texas, state health

officials said Tuesday. The state confirmed only eight more cases since its update Friday.

Fifty-seven percent of Texas' cases are in Gaines County, population 22,892, where the virus started spreading in a close-knit, undervaccinated Mennonite community. The county has had 405 cases since late January — just over 1.7% of residents.

The April 3 death in Texas was an 8-year-old child, according to

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Local health officials said the child did not have underlying health conditions and died of "what the child's doctor described as measles pulmonary failure." A unvaccinated child with no underlying conditions died of measles in Texas in late February; Kennedy said the child was 6.

New Mexico remained steady with 71 total cases Tuesday. An unvaccinated adult died of measles-related illness March 6. The person did not seek medical care.

Oklahoma held steady with a total of 14 confirmed and three probable cases as of Tuesday.

Kansas has a total of 48 cases across eight counties in the southwestern part of the state. Most of the cases are in Gray, Haskell and Stevens counties.

Indiana has eight cases, all of them in Allen County in the northeast part of the state. The cases have no known link to other outbreaks, the Allen County Department of Health has said.

Michigan has nine confirmed cases of measles, with an outbreak of four connected cases in Montcalm County in the western part of the state that state health officials say is tied to the Ontario outbreak.

Montana added three new measles cases in the last two weeks. The state's outbreak started in mid-April in Gallatin County.

North Dakota has 11 cases of

measles as of Sunday. The state hadn't seen measles since 2011, health officials said.

Ohio has 34 measles cases and one hospitalization, according to the Ohio Department of Health. That count includes only Ohio residents. The state has two outbreaks: Ashtabula County near Cleveland has 16 cases, and Knox County has 20. Allen, Cuyahoga, Holmes and Defiance counties have one case each.

Pennsylvania has 15 cases overall in 2025 as of Friday, including international travel-related cases in Montgomery County and one in Philadelphia. There were eight measles cases in Erie County in far northwest Pennsylvania in late April; the county declared an outbreak in mid-April.

Tennessee had six measles cases as of early May. Health department spokesman Bill Christian said all cases are the middle part of the state, and that "at least three of these cases are linked to each other" but declined to specify further. The state also did not say whether the cases were linked to other outbreaks or when Tennessee's outbreak started.

Measles cases also have been reported in Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

## Deadly flooding hits rural areas of Virginia, Maryland

Associated Press

The body of a 12-year-old boy has been found after he was swept away by rushing water on a Virginia roadway, while a dozen students stayed overnight at a Maryland high school as heavy rains led to flooding in several states, officials said.

A 911 caller reported Tuesday night that the boy was walking outside when he was swept away by water that overtook the roadway from a nearby creek, Albemarle County Fire Rescue said in a social media post.

The body of what is believed to be Jordan Sims was found by crews searching for him about 8:45 a.m. Wednesday, the county agency stated. The body will be taken a medical examiner's office in Richmond for positive identification.

"This is a heartbreaking outcome, and our hearts are with the Sims' family and loved ones," Albemarle County Fire Rescue Chief Dan Eggleston said in statement. "We are incredibly grateful to our local and regional partners who supported this search effort with urgency, professionalism,

and care."

In Maryland's Allegany County, officials said about 150 students and 50 adults were evacuated Tuesday afternoon from Westernport Elementary School, one of three county schools that were evacuated. Allegany County Public Schools said 12 students stayed overnight at Mountain Ridge High School before being picked up Wednesday morning. County schools were closed Wednesday.

There were no reports of injuries or missing persons, the Allegany County Department of Emergency Services said in a Wednesday morning update. Officials urged residents to stay home, warning that several secondary roads have been washed out. Emergency crews from surrounding counties in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania were helping, officials said.

The Potomac River remained within its banks, with only minor flooding reported in the Mexico Farms area, and conditions were generally improving, officials said. Crews were assessing damage after water receded in the



ALLEY AND TIM WADE / AP

In this photo provided by Alley and Tim Wade, cars can be seen in floodwaters in Westernport, Maryland, on Tuesday.

Georges Creek area.

Maryland's Department of Emergency Management activated its emergency operations center to coordinate the state's response. Roads in both Allegany and Garrett counties were closed because of flooding, according to state officials. Allegany County officials reported that floodwaters have caused washouts and

gas line leaks.

"We remain in close contact with local officials and continue to coordinate resources as the rain continues to fall," Gov. Wes Moore said in a press release. "I urge all Marylanders to remain vigilant, heed warnings from local officials, and prioritize safety during this time."

In West Virginia, Gov. Patrick

Morrissey declared a state of emergency Tuesday night in Mineral County, near Maryland, because of heavy rains and flash flooding, allowing the state to send resources.

Allegany County spokesperson Kati Kenney said responders used rescue boats to safely evacuate Westernport Elementary School. About 150 students and 50 adults were evacuated during 15 boat trips.

Aaron Stallings, rushed to Westernport Elementary to pick up his little sister earlier Tuesday afternoon, but he soon realized his car wouldn't make it. Stallings said he hopped a fence and made his way on foot through the shallow water.

"I knew my car was not going to get through, so I had to find an alternate route," he said.

Stallings said children were being kept on the second and third floors when he made his way inside. Minutes after he located his sister with the help of the principal, the water level on the first floor had already risen again to his knees and was rushing under the school doors.

NATION

# Man linked to ISIS planned to attack Army site, US says

19-year-old a former National Guard soldier

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

A 19-year-old former Michigan National Guard soldier was arrested Tuesday outside a Detroit-area military installation that he planned to attack in the name of the Islamic State, according to the Justice Department.

Ammar Abdulmajid-Mohamed Said was charged with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and distributing information related to a destructive device after his arrest near the Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command facility — known as TACOM — at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Mich., federal officials said Wednesday.

He faces a maximum of 20 years in prison for each of those charges. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force is continuing its investigation into Said's actions, according to DOJ.

"The defendant allegedly tried to carry out an attack on a military facility in support of ISIS, which was disrupted thanks to the good work of the FBI and our partners," said Donald Holstead, the assistant director of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division. "The FBI is steadfast in our commitment to detect and stop terrorist

plans aimed at the American homeland or at U.S. interests overseas."

Said spent months planning a mass shooting on the installation, which is responsible for managing the Army's ground equipment supply chain — roughly 60% of all the Army's gear.

The teenager unknowingly planned his attack with two undercover FBI agents, who he had directed to use Molotov cocktails and small arms to help him carry out the assault. The attack was planned for Tuesday, DOJ said.

Officials said Said provided all the materials — including armor-piercing ammunition and magazines — to the two FBI agents. Said also provided them training on constructing Molotov cocktails, using firearms and advised them of his plan of attack, including how to enter the installation and which building to target, according to DOJ.

He was captured Tuesday after launching a drone near TACOM, which he planned to use for reconnaissance before initiating the attack. Said in April told the undercover agents that he had been directed by ISIS to carry out the assault.

"ISIS is a brutal terrorist organization which seeks to kill Amer-



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

An M1 Abrams tank is displayed outside the Tank-Army Automotive and Armaments Command in Warren, Mich.

icans. Helping ISIS or any other terrorist organization prepare or carry out acts of violence is not only a reprehensible crime — it is a threat to our entire nation and way of life," said U.S. Attorney Jerome Gorgon Jr. of the Eastern District of Michigan. "Our office will not tolerate such crimes or threats, and we will use the full weight of the law against anyone who engages in terrorism."

DOJ did not detail when Said began communicating with ISIS.

Said was expected to face a judge on Wednesday for the first time in the case. DOJ officials said they would recommend he be held in jail until a trial "because of his danger to the community and the risk that he will flee."

Said's time in the National Guard was brief. He enlisted in September 2022 and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Ben-

ning, Ga.

He was discharged in December 2024, according to the DOJ.

Army Brig. Gen. Rhett Cox, who leads the service's Counterintelligence Command, said Said's arrest proved the importance of using counterintelligence practices to uncover potential plots, even from former service members.

"I commend the tireless work of our special agents and FBI partners who worked together to investigate and apprehend this individual," Cox said in a statement. "We will continue to collaborate with our partners to prevent similar incidents in the future. We urge all soldiers to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to their chain of command, as the safety and security of our Army and our nation depends on our collective efforts to prevent insider threats."

# Overdose deaths fell by 27% last year

Associated Press

There were 30,000 fewer U.S. drug overdose deaths in 2024 than the year before — the largest one-year decline ever recorded.

An estimated 80,000 people died from overdoses last year, according to provisional Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data released Wednesday. That's down 27% from the 110,000 in 2023. The CDC has been collecting comparable data for 45 years. The previous largest one-year drop was 4% in 2018, according to the agency's National Center for Health Statistics.

All but two states saw declines last year, with Nevada and South Dakota seeing small increases. Some of the biggest drops were in Ohio, West Virginia and other states that have been hard-hit in the nation's decades-long overdose epidemic.

Experts say more research needs to be done to understand what drove the reduction, but they mention several possible factors. Among the most cited:

- More availability of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone.
- Expanded addiction treatment.
- Shifts in how people use drugs.
- The growing impact of billions of dollars in opioid lawsuit settlement money.
- The number of at-risk Americans is shrinking, after waves of deaths in older adults and a shift in teens and younger adults away from the drugs that cause most deaths.

STARS AND STRIPES

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The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market




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## WORLD

# Pope meets Sinner: Top-ranked tennis star visits fan Leo XIV

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV has made peace with Jannik Sinner.

The top-ranked tennis player visited the new pope on Wednesday, gave him a tennis racket and offered to play, during an off day for Sinner at the Italian Open.

Leo, the first American pope, is an avid tennis player and fan and had said earlier this week that he would be up for a charity match when it was suggested by a journalist.

But at the time, Leo joked “we can’t invite Sinner,” an apparent reference to the English meaning of Sinner’s last name.

By Wednesday, all seemed forgotten.

“It’s an honor,” Sinner said in Italian as he and his parents arrived in a reception room of the Vatican’s auditorium. Holding one of his rackets and giving Leo



VATICAN MEDIA/AP

**Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner shares a light moment with Pope Leo XIV on the occasion of their meeting at the Vatican, on Wednesday.**

another and a ball, Sinner suggested a quick volley. But the pope

looked at the antiques around and said, “Better not.”

# Mexican security chief: Deal let cartel family members enter US

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico’s security chief confirmed Tuesday that 17 family members of cartel leaders crossed into the U.S. last week as part of a deal between a son of the former head of the Sinaloa Cartel and the Trump administration.

Mexican Security Secretary Omar García Harfuch confirmed a report by independent journalist Luis Chaparro that family members of Ovidio Guzmán López, who was extradited to the United States in 2023, had entered the U.S.

Guzmán López is one of the brothers left running a faction of the Sinaloa Cartel after notorious capo Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán was imprisoned in the U.S. Video showed the family members walking across the border from Tijuana with their suitcases to waiting U.S. agents.

Rumors had circulated last week that the younger Guzmán would

plead guilty to avoid trial for several drug trafficking charges in the U.S. after being extradited in 2023.

García Harfuch confirmed the family members’ crossing in a radio interview and said it was clear to Mexican authorities that they were doing so after negotiations between Guzmán López and the U.S. government.

He believed that was the case because the former cartel boss, whose lawyer said in January he had entered negotiations with U.S. authorities, had been pointing fingers at members of other criminal organizations likely as part of a cooperation agreement.

“It is evident that his family is going to the U.S. because of a negotiation or an offer that the Department of Justice is giving him,” García Harfuch said.

He said that none of the family members were being pursued by Mexican authorities and that the

government of President Donald Trump “has to share information” with Mexican prosecutors, something it has not yet done.

The confirmation by García Harfuch comes the same day that the U.S. Attorney General’s Office announced it was charging a number of top cartel leaders with “narcoterrorism” for the first time since the Trump administration declared a number of cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

While prosecutors declined to comment on the video of the family, U.S. Attorney Adam Gordon for the Southern District of California and other officials sent a warning to cartel members.

“Let me be direct, to the leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel, you are no longer the hunters, you are the hunted. ... You will ultimately find yourself and your face here in a courtroom in the Southern District of California,” Gordon said.

# Chancellor’s plan is to keep US on board on Ukraine

BY GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN — New German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Wednesday he will work to bring Europe and the U.S. together in their approach to Ukraine, enable his country to build Europe’s strongest conventional army and make Europe’s biggest economy a “locomotive of growth” again.

The conservative leader took office a week ago after winning election in February, ending a six-month period in which the European Union’s most populous member lacked a government with a parliamentary majority. He has already made a flurry of trips to EU allies and visited Kyiv with his French, Polish and British counterparts.

“Europe expects something from us,” Merz said in his first policy speech to parliament, and promised that “we will offer our partners and friends reliability and predictability.”

The new chancellor said that “the times in which Germany simply abstained on significant questions of European policy should be over,” an apparent reference to internal divisions that bedeviled predecessor Olaf Scholz’s three-party coalition before it collapsed in November.

The new government brings together Merz’s center-right Union bloc with Scholz’s center-left Social Democrats.

Merz emphasized his desire to keep the Trump administration on board with support for Ukraine, adding that he spoke with President Donald Trump twice recently and was grateful for his support for an unconditional 30-day ceasefire.

“Anyone who believes Russia would be content with a victory over Ukraine or parts of Ukraine, or the annexation of parts of the

country, is wrong,” Merz said. He pointed to various Russian destabilization efforts and rejected the idea of a “dictated peace” or the “subjugation” of Ukraine.

“We hope, and we all are working hard for this, that this clear position will not just be held everywhere in Europe but also by our American partners,” Merz said,

adding: “It is of paramount importance that the political West not let itself be divided, so I will continue to make every effort to produce the greatest possible unity



Merz

between the European and American partners.”

Even before taking office, the new governing coalition pushed plans through parliament to enable higher defense spending by loosening strict rules on incurring debt, and to set up a huge infrastructure fund that’s aimed at boosting the stagnant economy.

“The government will in the future provide all the financing the Bundeswehr needs to become the strongest conventional army in Europe,” Merz said. “Our friends and partners expect this of us; more than that, they are really demanding it of us.”

The German military suffered from years of neglect before Scholz, shortly after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, pledged to increase Germany’s defense spending to the current NATO target of 2% of gross domestic product and announced the creation of a 100-billion-euro special fund to modernize the military.

Germany met that target thanks to the fund, but it will be used up in 2027.

# Airstrikes in Gaza kill dozens after Israel vowed escalation of force

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli airstrikes pounded northern and southern Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 70 people, including almost two dozen children, according to local hospitals and health officials, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there was “no way” he would halt Israel’s offensive in the Palestinian territory before Hamas is defeated.

At least 50 people, including 22 children, were killed in strikes

around Jabaliya in northern Gaza alone, according to hospitals and Gaza’s Health Ministry.

The strikes came after Hamas on Monday released an Israeli American hostage, a gesture that some thought could lay the groundwork for a ceasefire, and as U.S. President Donald Trump is in Saudi Arabia during a multi-day visit to Gulf countries.

Israel’s military refused to comment on the strikes. It warned Jabaliya residents to evacuate late Tues-

day, citing militant infrastructure in the area, including rocket launchers.

In Jabaliya, rescue workers smashed through collapsed concrete slabs using hand tools, lit by the light of cellphones, to remove children’s bodies.

In comments released by Netanyahu’s office Tuesday, the prime minister said Israeli forces were days away from a promised escalation of force and would enter Gaza “with great strength to complete the

mission. ... It means destroying Hamas.”

There had been widespread hope that Trump’s visit to the Middle East could usher in a ceasefire deal or renewal of humanitarian aid to Gaza. An Israeli blockade of the territory is now in its third month.

The war began when Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people in a 2023 intrusion into southern Israel. Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed over 52,928 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry,

which does not say how many were combatants. Almost 3,000 have been killed since Israel broke a ceasefire on March 18, the ministry said.

Israel’s offensive has obliterated vast swathes of Gaza’s urban landscape and displaced 90% of the population, often multiple times.

International food security experts warned earlier this week that Gaza will likely fall into famine if Israel doesn’t lift its blockade and stop its military campaign.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

**Kansas City Chiefs fan “ChiefsAholiC” was sentenced to 32 years in state prison for bank robbery.**

## ‘ChiefsAholiC’ sentenced in bank robbery

**OK** TULSA — A Kansas City Chiefs superfan known as “ChiefsAholiC” was sentenced Monday in an Oklahoma courtroom to serve 32 years in state prison for robbing a Tulsa-area bank, a sentence that will be carried out after he finishes serving time in federal prison.

Xaviar Babudar, 30, appeared in a Tulsa courtroom and apologized to the court and to the victims of the December 2022 robbery of the Tulsa Teachers Credit Union in Bixby, Okla., said Babudar’s attorney, Jay-Michael Swab.

Babudar already was serving more than 17 years in federal prison for a string of 11 bank robberies across seven states where he stole nearly \$850,000 to finance his social media stardom. Swab said the robberies also were the result of a gambling addiction.

Babudar developed a following on his @ChiefsAholiC account on the social platform X after attending games dressed as a wolf in Chiefs gear.

## 3 climbers die in North Cascades park fall

**WA** NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK — Three climbers from suburban Seattle were killed in a fall over the weekend in North Cascades National Park, sheriff’s officials said.

Sheriff’s personnel and county search and rescue volunteers responded to the accident late Sunday morning about 16 miles west of Mazama in an area of rock formations that are popular with climbers, the Okanogan County Sheriff’s Office said in a social media post Monday.

A party of four climbers from Renton was descending a steep gully near North Early Winters Spire. The post said three people, ages 36, 47 and 63, died at the scene.

The fourth person sustained internal bleeding and a traumatic



JERRY JACKSON, THE BALTIMORE BANNER/AP

## Mattress warehouse burns

**Baltimore firefighters battle a blaze Monday evening at a mattress warehouse in West Baltimore that eventually grew to a 7-alarm fire. About 30 residents of nearby homes were temporarily evacuated and Amtrak and commuter rail service was affected Tuesday amid fears the building could collapse onto the nearby railroad tracks. There were no injuries reported.**

brain injury in the fall but freed himself, walked to his car and drove to a pay phone to call for help, Okanogan County Under-sheriff David Yarnell told The Seattle Times. The man was then taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

Anchor failure while rappelling is the presumed cause of the accident, the post said.

## Rotarian: Congressman hit man with a clipboard

**DC** WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards said he was the victim of a drunken man’s belligerence on Saturday night, but a Rotarian who helped organize the event where Edwards spoke said the congressman was the aggressor — striking a man in anger with a clipboard after finishing his speech.

Guy Gooder says he heard, but didn’t see, Edwards hit the man and couldn’t tell where the blow landed. Edwards’ body was between Gooder and the other man, blocking his view, Gooder said.

Edwards’ staff did not return a phone call Monday. Apart from saying no one was injured and no one was arrested, police have not provided an official version of events that night.

Edwards addressed Rotarians gathered in Asheville, N.C., at a conference held Saturday evening

by Rotary District 7670.

Gooder said Edwards used his speech to defend President Donald Trump’s administration, including on tariffs and cuts to federal agencies.

Gooder said while Edwards said he might try to restore funding to the State Department to help the Rotarians’ cause of polio eradication, he also spent his speech “insulting” the federal agencies the Rotarians work with most closely.

When Edwards wrapped his speech, he walked down a center aisle between tables of Rotarians to get out the back door.

A man sitting at a table in the aisle addressed Edwards.

“The Rotarian basically said that was a load of B.S.,” Gooder said.

Edwards, he said, “hit the guy with his clipboard” while the man was still seated.

Gooder said the two men left the room and continued arguing out of view of the Rotarians.

## Manatee at state park drowned as pool drained

**FL** TAMPA — A 1,000-pound female manatee that was recovering at a Florida state park from a boat strike drowned earlier this year after employees left her unattended and she became trapped, accord-

ing to a federal inspection report.

On Jan. 23, an employee at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park began draining the manatee’s pool to give her care. Staff left the manatee, who was named Shantay, unattended as the pool was draining, checking in on her periodically, according to the report.

The pool drained faster than anticipated when nobody was watching, and because of how Shantay was positioned, she became trapped and died, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s inspection report dated March 5.

## School districts sue to ban transgender athletes

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — A Colorado school district banned transgender athletes from playing on teams that match their gender identities last week, then filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn policies and state law that stand in the way.

District 49 named CHSAA, the Colorado Civil Rights Division and Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser in the lawsuit. The district, which is located in the Colorado Springs area, said that the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act and CHSAA’s bylaws allowing transgender athletes to compete put D49 in an “untenable posi-

tion.”

The lawsuit seeks a court ruling declaring rules on prohibiting transgender athlete bans by CHSAA and CADA to be unconstitutional. CHSAA Bylaw 300 “recognizes the right of transgender student-athletes to participate in interscholastic activities free from unlawful discrimination based on sexual orientation.”

## FBI director wants more jobs in Kansas City

**MO** KANSAS CITY — The Federal Bureau of Investigation is eyeing the possible relocation of about three dozen positions to Missouri as it looks to move more than 1,000 jobs out of Washington, D.C., into field offices across the country, FBI Director Kash Patel testified to Congress last week.

Patel said the move would help address an “explosion of violent crime” in the Midwest.

In all, the FBI might move approximately 33 positions to the Kansas City field office, two to Springfield, Mo., and one each to Topeka, Kan.; Wichita, Kan.; and Jefferson City, Mo.; Patel said during a U.S. House appropriations subcommittee hearing concerning his agency’s fiscal year 2026 budget request.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) published daily (except Saturday, Sunday, 25 December and 1 January) for 50 cents (Monday through Thursday) and one dollar on Friday by Stars and Stripes Pacific, OPC 706 BOX 7, APO AP 96301-9001. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, OPC 706 BOX 7, AP 96301-9001.

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## OPINION

## Truth's a casualty in Indo-Pakistan fighting

BY RANA AYYUB

Special to The Washington Post

In the long and bloody history of India-Pakistan relations, ceasefires have often come with silence — a manufactured quiet that drowns out dissent, suppresses journalism, and blurs the line between narrative and truth. The most recent truce between the two nuclear neighbors, following the April 26 terrorist attack on tourists in Kashmir and the retaliatory strikes that followed, is no exception. While fighter jets retreated and shelling quieted along the line of control, a fierce battle raged online and in the media — not for peace, but for control of the story.

On May 8, as shelling continued between India and Pakistan, with villages bombarded, sirens blaring, civilians injured and killed, the social media platform X announced that the Indian government had demanded it take down more than 8,000 accounts, “subject to potential penalties including significant fines and imprisonment of the company’s local employees. The orders include demands to block access in India to accounts belonging to international news organizations and prominent X users.”

“In most cases, the Indian government has not specified which posts from an account have violated India’s local laws,” the statement said. “For a significant number of accounts, we did not receive any evidence or justification to block the accounts. ... We disagree with the Indian government’s demands. Blocking entire accounts is not only unnecessary, it amounts to censorship of existing and future content, and is contrary to the fundamental right of free speech.”

The censorship extended beyond X. A statement released by the Wire, an independent Indian news website, said its website had been blocked on government orders for running a story on an Indian fighter jet allegedly downed by Pakistan, which was based on a CNN video report. Pakistan claimed it had shot down five Indian planes, and The Washington Post confirmed debris consistent with two.

Meanwhile, people in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, where 15 civilians lost their lives during the shelling, had few takers for their stories. A prominent local journalist, Hilal Mir, was arrested on charges of “disseminating content on social media to disturb peace,” according to police, while senior Kashmiri journalists Muzamil Jaleel and Anuradha Bhasin had their handles blocked. An Indian Muslim teacher who lost his life in the Pakistani shelling was labeled a “top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander” by one of India’s leading news channels, although people in his town called him a 20-year high school instructor and religious figure who “had no affiliation with any terror outfit,” according to local police.

As jingoism and chest-thumping became the norm, voices of reason that supplied accurate information were censored. What the public got instead was a fire hose of unverified claims and nationalist posturing. Indian and Pakistani news channels took turns airing footage of fighter jets and fiery studio debates, peddling brazen disinformation under the guise of breaking news. Among the claims: that India had destroyed the port of Karachi and captured Islamabad and that the Pakistani army leader had been replaced during an internal coup. The fact-checking site Boom “concluded that the reports aired by many Indian news outlets were not based on facts, lacked official confirmation, and contributed to the spread of misinformation during a sensitive time.”

In Pakistan, too, news channels played their own version of victory while sharing years-old images of the war in Gaza as evidence that Pakistan had bombed India.

With deliberate obfuscation from both sides, news coverage devolved into a theater of conjecture, where propaganda wore the costume of reporting. The press in India and Pakistan, both ranked at the bottom of the World Press Freedom Index, has often become an accomplice in stoking hostility.

Indians and Pakistanis may never learn how many lives have been lost in the conflict or even the terms and conditions of the ceasefire.

And the people of Kashmir, the victims of cross-border terrorism, are again living in fear with little reliable information.

Both countries claimed to have won the battle, or the battle of narratives. Pakistani army chief Asim Munir, whose popularity was on the decline because of his harsh command, became a hero of the masses. Meanwhile Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party released an advertisement on its X account mocking former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of the opposition Congress Party for cowardice and hailing Modi as a hero for delivering a befitting reply to Pakistan. The party has announced a nationwide rally to convey the success of India’s military operation to the nation.

As critical questions started seeping in, in the form of tweets and questions by independent journalists, a spokesperson for the ruling party in India, Amit Malviya, tweeted, “Make no mistake: in the days ahead, various arms lobbies, funded by foreign agencies, will go in to overdrive, planting stories through pliable journalists willing to act against India’s interests. This will be part of a globally coordinated campaign aimed at influencing public opinion, either to promote their preferred military hardware or to undermine India’s defense preparedness.” This broadside came in response to a journalist asking straightforward questions about the downing of Indian fighter planes.

In all this, one voice remained notably absent: the voice of truth. Instead of independent verification, we got victory laps. Instead of accountability, we got algorithms suppressing journalists. If a ceasefire becomes a pretext for stifling dissent and rewriting events in real time, then it is peace in name only. Until both India and Pakistan allow the truth — however inconvenient — to emerge alongside diplomacy, real peace will remain elusive. The ultimate casualty in this conflict is not just human lives but the truth itself.

Rana Ayyub is an Indian journalist and author of “Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover Up.”

## Dems’ new platform: We’re not the law and order party

BY JOE BATTENFELD

Boston Herald

It’s official: Democrats have decided to become the party of protecting illegal criminal migrants and gang members — and that is their key to regaining power.

The left elements of the party now control Democrats and they are the ones who could be responsible for destroying the party.

The Democrats are not the party of law and order. They are the new “no respect for law and order” party. That’s the issue they’re going to plant their flag on.

It’s not a winning strategy for Democrats and it’s not resonating with voters. They need to take control from the left wing elements of the party to regain the American people’s trust, or suffer even more setbacks in the midterm election.

If the narrative is, President Donald Trump is trying to deport criminals and gang members, then Trump wins.

Trump is just fulfilling his campaign promise. Voters wanted this. It’s become his signature issue and most Americans support it.

The newest Democratic tactic is to go to

the scene of ICE detentions and operations and disrupt the situation — the latest example being in New Jersey when three members of Congress allegedly stormed the place. Massachusetts Reps. Ed Markey and Ayanna Pressley must have missed the memo on being there.

The Democrats’ intent is to get arrested and become martyrs, but initial body camera footage shows them starting the altercations with ICE agents.

These are the images going across the country, making Democrats look deranged and affecting ICE agents’ safety.

The problem is they’re not exactly freeing Nelson Mandela — it’s rapists and gang members who are among the detainees in the ICE facility in New Jersey.

The disruptions also occurred in Worcester, Mass., where police put out a mealy-mouthed statement saying they were not there to assist ICE — bending over backward to distance themselves from the immigration officers there because they are so kowtowed by the left.

Their message was “we’re not helping law enforcement even though we’re with the police department.”

Acton, Mass., police did the same thing

when Democrats put out social media messages about ICE activities in that town.

“During the course of the operation, conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Acton Police were asked to respond solely for the purpose of maintaining public safety and managing crowd control,” Police Chief James Cogan said in a statement. “At no point did Acton Police officers take part in any enforcement actions related to immigration.”

He went on to say police were only there to “help ensure that the situation remained peaceful and that everyone’s rights — including the right to protest — were respected. ... In keeping with well established select board and town policies, and in consultation with the town’s legal counsel, we do not ask anyone we interact with about their immigration status.”

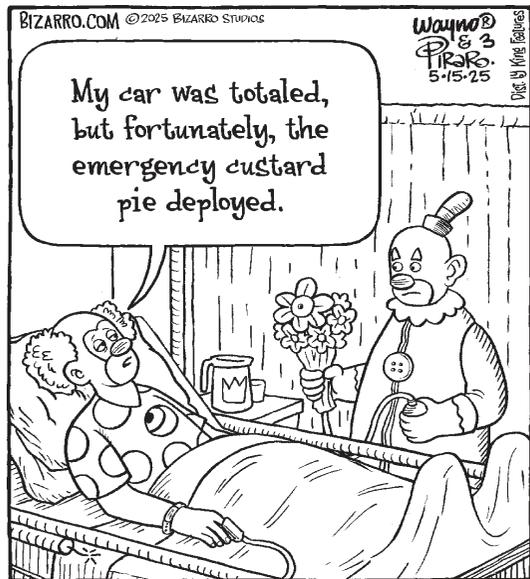
Phew, that’s good to know, Chief Cogan. State Sen. Jamie Eldridge, a liberal Democrat, wrote that ICE agents were in Acton “trolling and traumatizing the community.”

He also added that he is trying to contact those detained by ICE with lawyers.

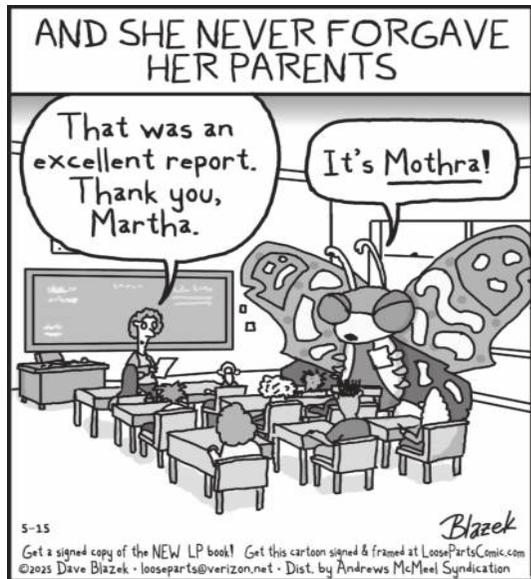
This is the Democratic Party of today.

Joe Battenfeld is a Boston Herald columnist.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbers 1-55 and blacked-out cells.

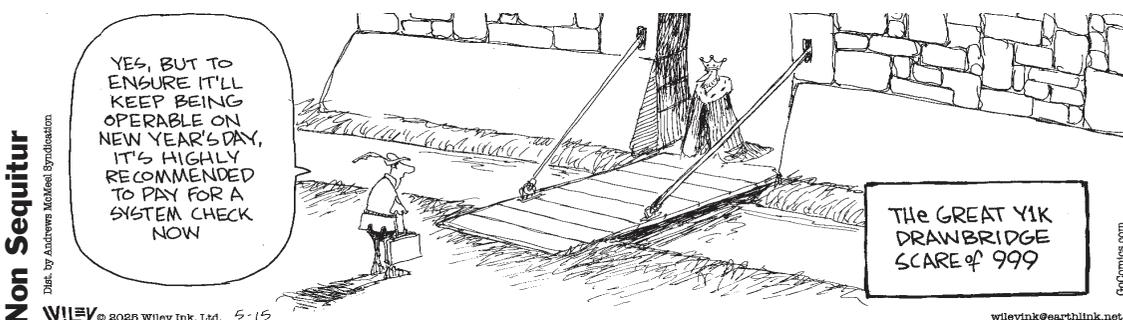
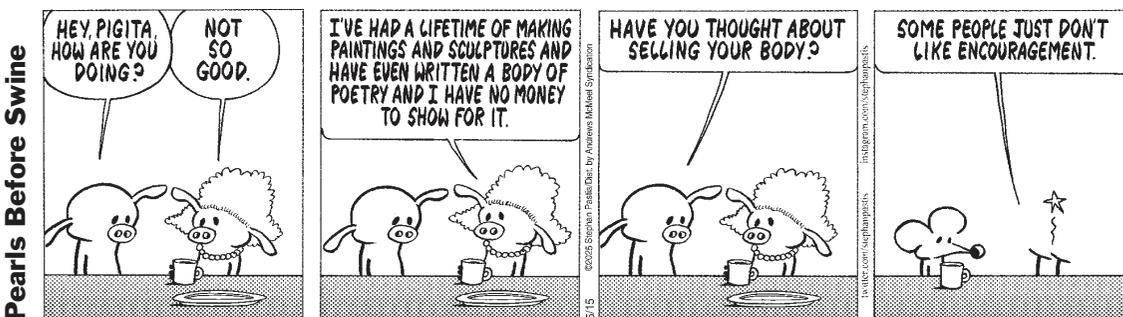
ACROSS

- 1 Cold War initials
5 Tree fluid
8 At the summit of
12 Soccer legend
13 Pie — mode
14 Vitriol
15 "Frozen" character
16 Sass
17 Warning sign
18 "Gomer Pyle" star
20 Staffer
22 Race-starting call
26 Muscle woe
29 Cartesian conclusion
30 Mouths (Lat.)
31 Statutes
32 Some fridges
33 Culture medium
34 Khan title
35 Pants part
36 Goats
37 Phone plan type
40 Bankrolls
41 Designer Ralph
45 Tavern order
47 A gazillion years
49 Missile shelter
50 Othello's betrayer
51 Genetic letters

DOWN

- 23 Muralist Rivera
24 Diploma recipient
25 Galley supply
26 Applaud
27 Sitarist's music
28 "Start moving!" attractions
32 Yellowstone
33 Stirs up
35 "Acid"
36 Links org.
38 Yankees slugger Judge
39 Arm bones
42 "Casablanca" role
43 K thru 12
44 Lunch hour
45 Iota
46 Hearing thing
48 Undivided

Answer to Previous Puzzle



5-15

CRYPTOQUIP

KTWLXT QULXU XJE HTEHT UPQ
GMXU XPMVJZT JEK VTHLBLETEXT
ATPABT UJWT: J GTFFBT
KTFTXFPV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW DID THE TREE BRANCH FEEL WHEN SOMEBODY ABRUPTLY SEPARATED IT FROM ITS TRUNK? HACKED OFF!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals P

## FACES



BBC STUDIOS/DISNEY/BAD WOLF/AP

On Saturday, a Season 2 episode of “Doctor Who,” starring (above left) Varada Sethu and Ncuti Gatwa, will involve the fictional Interstellar Song Contest, above right (with Christina Rotondo). Viewers can tune into a live broadcast of the Eurovision Song Contest the same night.

# ‘Doctor Who’ meets Eurovision

Popular sci-fi show frames episode around intergalactic version of same-night song contest

By HILARY FOX  
Associated Press

“Doctor Who” and Eurovision unite for an evening of music and intergalactic adventure on Saturday — all thanks to Russell T Davies.

Before fans tune in for the annual song contest, they can enjoy Ncuti Gatwa’s Doctor and Varada Sethu’s Belinda Chandra attending the Interstellar Song Contest in an episode of the sci-fi series.

In real life, the Eurovision Song Contest is an annual musical competition and TV event that sees 37 countries compete for a crystal microphone trophy over a four-hour live broadcast. In the interstellar version, aliens from 40 different worlds vie to win, also by singing.

“Doctor Who” showrunner Davies said it took three years to pull off the doubleheader because the show had to work with the BBC to set the schedule and storylines in stone to ensure a perfect alignment.

Gatwa will read out the U.K.’s jury scores during the song contest’s grand finale, held this year in Basel, Switzerland.

In a recent interview with the Associated Press, Davies said that both Eurovision and “Doctor Who” share the DNA of old-fashioned Saturday night television, making the combination “irresistible.”

**Associated Press: Do you feel that Eurovision and “Doctor Who” naturally share a kind of fandom?**

**Davies:** I almost think every episode of “Doctor Who” is a great big celebration, sort of noise and color and spectacle, and that sums up Eurovision as well. In pitching this to Disney+ as well it’s like, “Look we’re going out in 60 of your territories” and Eurovision itself has a viewing figure that some years is bigger than the Super Bowl. There’s not many shows that can say that on planet Earth.

**How much fun did you have with the lore of Eurovision?**

It’s enormous fun. It could be said if you’ve never seen a single Eurovision Song Contest in your life, you can still come along and watch this. It’s the kind of thing we’d have made up for a “Doctor Who” story anyway.

One day I’ll do that “ABBA Voyage” story where the holograms come to life and start killing people. That’s the best idea ever. We’ve got to do that one then. Can you imagine? That would be just amazing. I think there might be some copyright problems with that, but we’d overcome them.

The actual pitch for the story to Juno (Dawson), who wrote it, was Eurovision meets “Die Hard.” So as you will see, the moment it starts,

there’s trouble; someone’s out to sabotage it. There are villains behind the scenes trying to disrupt the program. All chaos is let loose and the rest of the episode is spent saving people’s lives after that.

**How about the songs?**

I think there’s four songs in total (by Murray Gold). Obviously we don’t get to all 40 planets with their songs, but it was a very big production. We had to hive this off into its own production unit. There are scenes in the television gallery, where 40 different monitors have output of 40 different screens. And that’s all been fed in live. ... Crowds, acts, rehearsals, backstage, presenters, all of that stuff, playing onto that set, so it’s terribly complicated.

**Is this the most expensive episode of “Doctor Who”?**

Frankly, they’re all expensive. It was a lot, yes. It had to be planned very far in advance, more than any.

**Are you going to watch Eurovision this year?**

Yes. This will be a great night. ... I know people who have Eurovision parties, which I’ve never gone to, actually. Look at my life; it’s devoted to television. I can’t bear other people talking over it. That would just be a nightmare. So I will be sitting in. I’ll get some nice dinner. I’ll be a very happy man.

## ‘The Office’ spinoff to stream this fall

From wire reports

The eagerly anticipated spinoff of the TV juggernaut “The Office” will begin streaming this fall.

Titled “The Paper,” the half-hour sitcom will follow staffers of a struggling, historic Toledo, Ohio, newspaper, named The Truth Teller, and shot in the documentary-crew style of its predecessor.

Created by Greg Daniels and Michael Koman, who adapted “The Office” from the U.K. show of the same name, the new series was unveiled Monday at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

“It’s about this struggling Midwestern newspaper that’s much reduced from its glory days. A lot of the story lines are about how this guy... is trying to restore this paper and he just doesn’t have the budget for hiring reporters, and he has to use all the staff that work there on a volunteer basis to be reporters,” Daniels said.

“They’re completely untrained and don’t know what they’re doing. It’s a fruitful premise. ... The villain here is the internet and the ability to look at everybody’s news for free, and all the add revenue going to Google.”

Domhnall Gleeson leads the cast, which also includes Emmy-nominated actress Sabrina Impacciatore (of “The White Lotus”) and Oscar Núñez, who played accountant Oscar Martinez in “The Office.”

## Spanish-language albums top Billboard 200 chart

Bad Bunny and Fuerza Regida just made history for Spanish-language music. This week, the Puerto Rican artist’s “Debí Tirar Más Fotos” and the San Bernardino, Calif., group’s “11XPANTIA” became the first-ever Spanish-language albums to simultaneously sit at Nos. 1 and 2 on the Billboard 200 album chart.

Fuerza Regida’s album, which dropped May 2, debuted in the No. 2 spot on the chart. According to Billboard, it became the highest-charting música regional album and Spanish-language album by a group or duo.

Bad Bunny’s wide-spanning love letter to his beloved Puerto Rico — “Debí Tirar Más Fotos” — regained the top spot in the charts after he released a vinyl edition of the album. It was previously in the seventh position on the Billboard 200 and has lingered in the top 10 since it debuted on Jan. 5.

## Other news

■ **Robert Benton**, the Oscar-winning filmmaker who helped reset the rules in Hollywood as the co-creator of “Bonnie and Clyde” in 1967, and later received mainstream validation as the writer-director of “Kramer vs. Kramer” and “Places in the Heart,” died Sunday at his home in Manhattan of natural causes. He was 92.

# Cannes tips hat to Charlie Chaplin, ‘The Gold Rush’

JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

One hundred years after Charlie Chaplin made dinner rolls dance and ate his shoe like it was a fine meal, “The Gold Rush” has been vividly brought back to life in a new restoration that premiered Tuesday at the Cannes Film Festival.

On the opening day of its 78th edition, Cannes debuted a 4K restoration of “The Gold Rush,” one of Chaplin’s most beloved silent masterpieces. The screening, held just before the festival’s official opening ceremony, was part of a new day-one tradition for restored films, festival director Thierry Frémaux said Tuesday at Cannes’ Debussy Theatre.

Years in the making, this “Gold Rush” pristinely restores Chaplin’s Tramp to all his downtrodden glory. The 1925 Alaskan frontier comedy may be marking its centenary, but it looks bracingly fresh in the restoration carried

out by La Cineteca di Bologna.

In 1942, Chaplin edited the film and rereleased it with sound effects, music and narration. That version landed two Oscar nominations, but the restoration sought to get as close to the 1925 original as possible.

In “The Gold Rush,” Chaplin’s lone prospector ambles through the snowy Alaskan wilds in pursuit less of gold than some food and perhaps companionship. His antic, cliff-dangling struggles make up much of the film’s deft slapstick, but the Little Tramp’s humble, sweet hopes for romance greatly exceed his strike-it-rich ambitions.

The film’s premiere drew two grandchildren of Chaplin: Kiera Chaplin and Spencer Chaplin.

“What to say about “The Gold Rush?” said Spencer Chaplin. “It was his biggest production to date. He built the set — it was almost like a tourist attraction in LA at the time. He built



Actor Charlie Chaplin appears in the 1925 film “The Gold Rush,” which has been restored and is returning to theaters soon.

the mountains.”

“The Gold Rush” will roll out in theaters worldwide on June 26.

# SCOREBOARD/NHL PLAYOFFS

## DEALS

### Tuesday's transactions

#### BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

**ATHLETICS** — Reinstated RHP Michel Otanez from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Jason Alexander Las Vegas (PCL). Placed LHP T.J. McFarland on the 15-day IL, retroactive to May 12. Optioned RHP Elvis Alvarado to Las Vegas.

**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — Sent RHP Jesse Scholtens on a rehab assignment to Charlotte (IL). Sent RF Austin Slater on a rehab assignment to Charlotte. Agreed to terms LHP Tommy Sheehan to a minor league contract.

**CLEVELAND GUARDIANS** — Sent CF Lane Thomas on a rehab assignment to Columbus (IL). Placed RHP Ben Lively on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Zak Kent from Columbus.

**DETROIT TIGERS** — Recalled RHP Keider Montero from Toledo (IL). Optioned RHP Chase Lee to Toledo. Sent RHP Sawyer Gipson-Long on a rehab assignment to West Michigan (ML). Sent C Jake Rogers on a rehab assignment to Toledo.

**KANSAS CITY ROYALS** — Agreed to terms with LHP Rich Hill on a minor league contract.

**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Sent RHP Sam Bachman on a rehab assignment to Salt Lake (PCL).

**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Sent RHP Michael Tonkin on a rehab assignment to St. Paul (IL).

**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Placed UTL Oswaldo Cabrera on the 10-day IL. Reinstated INF DJ LeMahieu from the 10-day IL. Agreed to terms with RHP Anthony DeSclafani on a minor league contract.

**SEATTLE MARINERS** — Agreed to terms with OF Tomo Otosaka on a minor league contract.

**TAMPA BAY RAYS** — Placed 1B Yandy Diaz on the restricted list. Recalled 2B Coco Montes from Durham (IL).

**TEXAS RANGERS** — Placed SS Corey Seager on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 11. Reinstated C Kyle Higashioka from the 10-day IL.

#### National League

**ATLANTA BRAVES** — Sent RF Ronald Acuña Jr. on a rehab assignment to FCL Braves.

**CHICAGO CUBS** — Selected the contract of C/DH Moises Ballesteros from Iowa (IL). Placed OF Ian Happ on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 10. Transferred RHP Tyson Miller from the 60-day IL.

**LOS ANGELES DODGERS** — Recalled RHP J.P. Feyereisen. Placed RHP Roki Sasaki on the IL.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES** — Agreed to terms with 1B Seth Beer on a minor league contract. Sent RHP José Ruiz on a rehab assignment to Lehigh Valley (IL).

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Reinstated LF Tommy Phan.

**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS** — Sent 1B Casey Schmitt on a rehab assignment to Sacramento (PCL). Sent 2B Tyler Fitzgerald on a rehab assignment to Sacramento.

**WASHINGTON NATIONALS** — Agreed to terms with LHP Tommy Kane and RHP Bryce Conley on minor league contracts. Placed 2B Luis García Jr. on the paternity list. Recalled 3B Trey Lipscomb from Rochester (IL).

#### BASKETBALL

##### Women's National Basketball Association

**INDIANA FEVER** — Waived G Jaelyn Brown.

**NEW YORK LIBERTY** — Suspended the contract of F Annika Soltau for the season.

**SEATTLE STORM** — Exercised their contract option with F Jordan Horston.

#### FOOTBALL

##### National Football League

**BALTIMORE RAVENS** — Signed OLB Kai-Mon Rucker to a rookie contract.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS** — Signed RB Trevor Etienne to a rookie contract.

**DETROIT LIONS** — Signed DL Keith Cooper. Waived OL Leif Fautanu.

**HOUSTON TEXANS** — Signed DT Folorunso Fatukasi to a contract. Waived CB Gregory Junior.

**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** — Signed EDGE Ashton Gillotte and WR Jalen Royals to rookie contracts.

**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS** — Signed CB Darien Porter to a rookie contract.

**LOS ANGELES CHARGERS** — Signed LB Kana'i Mauga to a contract. Waived LB Jeremiah Jean-Baptiste.

**MIAMI DOLPHINS** — Claimed DT Matthew Butler off waivers from the Las Vegas Raiders. Waived DT Tre'vonn Rybka.

**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** — Signed DT Vernon Broughton to a rookie contract.

**NEW YORK JETS** — Released P Thomas Morstead. Signed P Kai Kroeger to a rookie contract.

**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** — Signed CB Derrick Canteen to a rookie contract. Waived S Quindell Johnson.

**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Signed CB Amani Oruwariye to a contract. Signed DL Carlos Watkins to a contract. Claimed LB Amari Burney off waivers from the Las Vegas Raiders. Released DL Abdullah Anderson. Waived CB Garnett Hollis Jr.

#### HOCKEY National Hockey League

**DALLAS STARS** — Activated D Miro Heiskanen from the long-term injured reserve.

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

#### Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	8	3	1	25	17	14
Columbus	7	1	4	25	20	12
Philadelphia	7	3	2	23	23	12
Inter Miami CF	6	2	3	21	21	15
Nashville	6	4	2	20	22	15
Charlotte FC	6	5	1	19	19	14
New York	5	4	3	18	19	13
Orlando City	4	2	6	18	21	15
New England	5	4	2	17	12	10
NYC FC	5	5	2	17	13	14
Chicago	4	4	4	16	20	23
D.C. United	3	6	3	12	13	25
Toronto FC	2	6	4	10	10	16
Atlanta	2	6	4	10	13	22
CF Montréal	1	8	3	6	6	16

#### Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	8	1	3	27	24	10
Minn. United	6	2	4	22	19	11
Portland	6	3	3	21	22	19
San Diego FC	6	4	2	20	23	16
Seattle	5	3	4	19	20	14
LAFC	5	4	3	18	19	18
San Jose	5	6	1	16	26	20
Austin FC	5	6	1	16	8	15
Colorado	4	4	4	16	15	18
FC Dallas	4	4	4	16	15	20
Real Salt Lake	4	7	1	13	13	18
Sporting KC	3	8	1	10	17	22
St Louis City	2	6	4	10	9	14
Houston	2	6	4	10	11	19
LA Galaxy	0	9	3	3	8	28

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Wednesday's games

New York City FC at D.C. United  
Columbus at CF Montréal  
Charlotte FC at Orlando City  
LA Galaxy at Philadelphia  
Cincinnati at Toronto FC  
Atlanta at Austin FC  
Minnesota at Houston  
New York at Nashville  
Sporting Kansas City at St Louis City  
Portland at Real Salt Lake  
Seattle at Los Angeles FC  
Colorado at San Diego FC  
Miami at San Jose

#### Saturday's games

Toronto FC at CF Montréal  
New York at New York City FC  
Cincinnati at Columbus  
Philadelphia at Atlanta  
Chicago at Charlotte FC  
San Jose at New England  
Vancouver at Austin FC  
Houston at FC Dallas  
St Louis City at Minnesota  
D.C. United at Nashville  
Real Salt Lake at Colorado  
Seattle at Portland  
Sporting Kansas City at San Diego FC

#### Sunday's games

Orlando City at Miami  
Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy

### NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	6	2	0	18	18	6
Orlando	5	2	1	16	15	6
Washington	5	3	0	15	13	12
San Diego	4	2	2	14	15	10
Angel City	4	2	2	14	15	14
Portland	3	2	4	13	12	10
Gotham FC	3	3	3	12	12	9
Seattle	3	3	2	11	7	7
Louisville	3	3	2	11	9	13
Houston	3	4	1	10	7	10
North Carolina	2	3	3	9	9	10
Bay FC	2	4	2	8	8	12
Utah Royals FC	1	6	1	4	4	13
Chicago	1	6	1	4	5	17

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Friday's games

San Diego at Gotham FC  
Seattle at Louisville  
Portland at Houston  
Kansas City at Orlando

#### Saturday's games

Chicago at North Carolina  
Utah Royals FC at Washington  
Angel City at Bay FC

#### Friday, May 23

Orlando at Utah Royals FC  
Washington at Seattle



GARETH PATTERSON/AP

Stars center Mikael Granlund celebrates after scoring a power-play goal against the Winnipeg Jets in the first period of Game 4 of a second-round playoff series in Dallas on Tuesday.

# Granlund's 1st career playoff hat trick lifts Stars past Jets

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
*Associated Press*

DALLAS — Mikael Granlund had his first career playoff hat trick, Jake Oettinger stopped 31 shots and the Dallas Stars beat Winnipeg 3-1 on Tuesday night, taking a 3-1 series lead over the top-seeded Jets in the second round of the Western Conference playoffs.

Mikko Rantanen, upped his NHL-leading playoff total to 19 points (nine goals) with the primary assist on Granlund's second goal that broke a 1-1 tie with 2:08 left in the second period and put Dallas ahead to stay.

Granlund did a double fist pump from his knees, then popped up to his skates after his third goal, his fourth in these playoffs, on a power play with 12:37 left in the game. The 33-year-old forward had scored multiple goals only one time in his previous 69 playoff games, for Minnesota in 2014.

"What he does on the ice is one thing, but the guy oozes leadership," coach Pete DeBoer said. "Our Finnish group there, he's in kind of the elder statesman of that group."

The Stars acquired Granlund and Rantanen, both forwards from Finland, through trades during the season.

"Obviously Mikko, he's been playing in such an incredible level and I'm sure he's going to keep doing that. But obviously we need some help and, and hopefully that in the next game it might be someone else," Granlund said. "But all that matters is trying to get these wins."

## Scoreboard

### Second Round

**Best-of-seven  
x-if necessary  
EASTERN CONFERENCE  
Carolina 3, Washington 1**  
Carolina 2, Washington 1, OT  
Washington 3, Carolina 1  
Carolina 4, Washington 0  
Carolina 5, Washington 2  
**Thursday:** at Washington, **AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Friday CET, 9 a.m. Friday JKT**  
**x-Saturday:** at Carolina  
**x-Monday:** at Washington  
**Toronto 2, Florida 2**  
Toronto 5, Florida 4  
Toronto 4, Florida 3  
Florida 5, Toronto 4, OT  
Florida 2, Toronto 0  
**Wednesday:** at Toronto  
**Friday:** at Florida, **AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Saturday CET, 9 a.m. Saturday JKT**  
**x-Sunday:** at Toronto  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE  
Edmonton 3, Vegas 1**  
Edmonton 4, Vegas 2  
Edmonton 5, Vegas 4, OT  
Vegas 4, Edmonton 3  
Edmonton 3, Vegas 0  
**Wednesday:** at Vegas  
**x-Friday:** at Edmonton, **AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Saturday CET, 11:30 a.m. Saturday JKT**  
**x-Sunday:** at Vegas  
**Dallas 3, Winnipeg 1**  
Dallas 3, Winnipeg 2  
Edmonton 4, Dallas 0  
Dallas 5, Winnipeg 2  
**Tuesday:** Dallas 3, Winnipeg 1  
**Thursday:** at Winnipeg, **AFN-Sports2, 4 a.m. Friday CET, Noon Friday JKT**  
**x-Saturday:** at Dallas  
**x-Monday:** at Winnipeg

games because of a knee injury. That came soon after Oettinger's kick save on Kyle Connor's short-handed attempt in the first half of a double-minor penalty against Haydn Fleury. Granlund scored just before the end of the four-minute penalty.

Granlund got his first goal after skating down the middle over both blue lines, and a nifty move around Brandon Tanev near mid-ice, before snapping a 38-foot shot past Connor Hellebuyck.

Hellebuyck, who stopped 21 shots, has now lost nine consecutive playoff road games since winning Game 1 at Vegas in 2023, before the Golden Knights won four in a row. The two-time Vezina Trophy winner, and the odds-on favorite to win the top goalie award again this season, has allowed 24 goals in the five road losses.

"I leave it all out there every night. I'm doing my best," Hellebuyck said. "Sometimes it's a heartbreak, but all it takes is one little change, one little bounce and things can start going our way."

Winnipeg began the second period with a minute left on a power play and the Stars technically killed the tripping penalty. But Ehlers scored from a severe angle while Tyler Seguin was coming out of the box.

"I thought we played a good hockey game. We had 70 shot attempts and scored one goal," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "If we can't find more than one goal, we're not going to win hockey games, especially against this hockey team. I liked a lot of what we did 5 on 5."

## AP SPOTLIGHT

### May 15

**1941** — Joe DiMaggio starts his record-setting 56-game hitting streak.

**1953** — In his first world heavyweight title defense, Rocky Marciano KO's former champion Jersey Joe Walcott in the first round at Chicago Stadium.

**1973** — Nolan Ryan throws his first of seven no-hitters as the California Angels beat the Kansas City Royals 3-0.

**1981** — Len Barker of Cleveland pitches the first perfect game in 13 years.

## PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

## Scheffler looks back on arrest a year ago

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Scottie Scheffler is not someone who likes to rate anything over the other, whether it's a tournament he won or a round he played or a shot he hit.

He can let the facts speak for themselves on the craziest day of his career, which occurred at the PGA Championship last year.

Scheffler was handcuffed and placed in the back of a police car outside the gates of Valhalla Golf Club in the morning darkness. He had his fingerprints taken, stared into a camera wearing an orange jumpsuit for his mug shot and was put in a jail cell. He got out of jail and arrived back at the golf course 56 minutes before his tee time.

All this in just over three hours. He shot 66.

"Pretty good," Scheffler said with a smile. "It was definitely one of my best performances, for sure. I think it would have been a really easy scenario to get frustrated with the situation or have a 'Woe is me' type of moment and be like, 'I can't believe this has happened.'

"Hit a few balls, got on the course, birdied the first hole and got into the round," he said. "I used whatever I had in the tank for good."

One year later, the scene is no less surreal.

The red-and-blue lights from police cars flashing like strobes in the dark rain. The images on ESPN — courtesy of reporter Jeff Darlington, who was also stuck in traffic — showing the Masters cham-



MATT YORK/AP

**Scottie Scheffler is greeted by fans wearing shirts marking his arrest after the second round of the PGA Championship at the Valhalla Golf Club on May 17, 2024, in Louisville, Ky.**

pion and No. 1 player in handcuffs being led away.

Police were investigating a traffic fatality involving a pedestrian, 69-year-old tournament volunteer John Mills. Scheffler was arrested for not following police instructions. The felony charge for assaulting a police officer and three misdemeanors were later dropped.

Scheffler said when his round was over, "I feel like my head is still spinning."

Also in disbelief were Brian

Harman and Wyndham Clark, who played alongside him. Harman figured an icebreaker was in order.

"I said: 'Yesterday was your first round as a father. Today it's your first round as a convict,'" Harman said. "He laughed. We poked some fun to lighten the mood. When something like that happens, I can't imagine how stressful it is. It's bizarre."

He might not have seen a 66 coming from Scheffler.

"It was a clean 5 under, too,"

Harman said. "Got him back in contention."

In the four hours since his arrest, which included a rain delay, some spectators already were wearing "Free Scottie" shirts. The best player in golf, Scheffler had never had this much attention or heard so much support.

"He was visibly shaking on the first tee," Clark said. "And then perfect Scottie fashion, he pipes it down the middle and birdies the first hole. I just remember Harman and I — because we're bud-

dies with Scottie and we knew it was a crappy situation — we said: 'Let's get it out of the way. What happened?' He told us down the 10th hole. I think it calmed the nerves for him.

"That was a crazy day for golf."

Scheffler crashed the next day, which was to be expected. He fell back with a 73 and eventually tied for eighth.

Scheffler is fond of saying what happened in the past has no bearing on what he does today, though that's usually related to scores and results. He can only hope for a smooth week in Charlotte.

A year ago, he came into the PGA Championship having won four of his last five tournaments, including The Players Championship and the Masters. But he had taken three weeks off before Valhalla to be home for the birth of his first child, a boy named Bennett.

This year is entirely different on so many levels — the freak hand injury on Christmas Day, not winning until after the Masters. But he at least arrives at Quail Hollow coming off a victory — instead of a three-week break — when he won by eight shots in Dallas two weeks ago.

"It will definitely be different in terms of preparation," he said. "I would not want to take that much time off before a big tournament like that, especially in the middle of the year. My preparation will be more in my normal routine this year."

Normal. After last year at Valhalla, that's all he should want at this PGA Championship.

## Grand: Spieth looking for first major win since 2017 to finish career slam

FROM PAGE 24

harder than anybody maybe ever to win a Masters," Spieth said. "To be that far from his most recent major as well, and then to go and do it, I mean, it was very inspiring."

Spieth hasn't attracted nearly as much attention, mainly because he hasn't won any tournament in three years while coping with a wrist injury that finally led to surgery last August. But then he shot 62 in the final round in Dallas, a subtle reminder he hasn't disappeared and is still more than capable.

Gary Player completed the Grand Slam in the 1965 U.S. Open. Jack Nicklaus followed a year later in the British Open. But then it was 34 years until Woods joined them, and 25 years before McIlroy finally got it done.

"Could you just imagine if we get to the weekend and we have a possibility to have two players do this in the same year after having wait-

ed so long?" said Trevor Immelman, a former Masters champion and lead analyst for CBS. "My goodness, every eyeball in the world that loves sport and loves golf will be enthralled by that."

Such is the backdrop going into the PGA Championship, the major that rarely lacks for drama but often gets overlooked compared with the other three.

Not this year. Not with so many players at the top of their games.

Scottie Scheffler showed off his No. 1 form by matching the PGA Tour record for 72 holes at 253 with an eight-shot victory in the CJ Cup Byron Nelson, his first win of a season that started slowly because of a freak injury.

And then there's Bryson DeChambeau. He played in the final group at four straight tournaments before he broke through with a LIV Golf win in South Korea. In three of the last four majors, DeChambeau finished one behind

in the PGA Championship, won the U.S. Open and was in the last group with McIlroy at the Masters.

In between, Justin Thomas — he won the PGA Championship the last time it was at Quail Hollow in 2017 — got back on track by winning a playoff at the RBC Heritage. At stake for Thomas is a chance to join Woods as the only players to win the PGA Championship twice on the same course. Woods won at Medinah in 1999 and 2006.

Quail Hollow is a rare major championship course that breeds familiarity, at least for PGA Tour players. It has been on the PGA Tour schedule since 2003 except for years it has hosted the PGA Championship or the Presidents Cup.

It's a big course at 7,626 yards playing to a par 71, though the par 5s are reachable and there's a par 4 on each nine where players can try to drive the green. The closing



GARETH PATTERSON/AP

**Jordan Spieth lines up his putt on the fifth green during the first round of the CJ Cup Byron Nelson tournament in McKinney, Texas, on May 1.**

stretch starts on the reachable par-4 14th with water down the left side, followed by a par 5 and then the "Green Mile" — two long par 4s with water hazards and a peninsula-green in between at the par-3 17th.

"You really have to be in play to be successful on that property," said Schauffele, the defending

PGA champion. "It's a hard place to scramble ... if you're not hitting many fairways and in the rough and trying to work your way up to holes. I don't know if you'd call it a second-shot golf course or predominately a tee-shot golf course.

"But it does feel like you have to do everything really well around that property."

MLB

ROUNDUP

# Hoerner, Turner hits in 9th lift Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Nico Hoerner had an RBI single and Justin Turner followed with a two-run double, all in the ninth inning, as the Chicago Cubs rallied to beat the Miami Marlins 5-4 on Tuesday night.

Kyle Stowers hit a solo homer in the second and Connor Norby went deep in the seventh for Miami. Javier Sanoja knocked in a run with a ground out and Jesus Sanchez added an RBI single for the Marlins, who carried a 4-2 lead into the bottom of the ninth.

Chicago's comeback started when Hoerner hit a line drive to center that cut the deficit to one run. Two pitches later, pinch-hitter Turner doubled into the left field corner, scoring Vidal Bruján and Hoerner.

Pete Crow-Armstrong and Carson Kelly each had two hits for the Cubs. Crow-Armstrong hit his 11th homer in the third inning.

Chris Flexen (1-0) allowed one hit over the final two innings and earned his first victory.

Miami's Jesus Tinoco (2-1) blew the save opportunity, allowing two hits, three runs — two earned — and a walk while recording just one out in the ninth.

**Mariners 2, Yankees 1 (11):** J.P. Crawford hit an RBI single down the left-field line in the 11th inning as host Seattle ended its four-game losing streak by beating New York.

With runners at the corners and nobody out, Crawford poked a single off Tim Hill (3-1) that just barely stayed fair to plate Leody Taveras and end a game in which both starting pitchers were brilliant.

Bryan Woo tossed 6⅓ scoreless innings and was close to perfect while dueling Yankees left-hander Max Fried, who had a 1.05 ERA entering the contest.

Fried was similarly stellar across five innings of one-run ball, yielding only four hits, but one of them was an RBI double from Mariners catcher Cal Raleigh.

**Athletics 11, Dodgers 1:** Rookie Jacob Wilson hit a pair of two-run homers and the visiting Athletics pounded out a season-high 18 hits in beating Los Angeles to open a three-game series.

Wilson went 4 for 5 and had four RBIs, boosting his batting average to .363. His 58 hits are second in the majors behind Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees.

The 23-year-old shortstop from LA had his eighth multihit game in his last 12. Wilson had his first career four-hit game last week against Seattle.

**Braves 5, Nationals 2:** Drake Baldwin hit a two-run homer, Spencer Schwellenbach pitched seven strong innings and host Atlanta improved to .500 for the first time this season with a win over



ERIN HOOLEY/AP

The Cubs' Justin Turner, right, celebrates with teammates after hitting a walk-off, two-run double to beat the Miami Marlins on Tuesday in Chicago. The Cubs were down 4-2 in the 9th before coming back to win 5-4.

skidding Washington.

The Braves (21-21), who began the season 0-7, handed the Nationals their seventh straight loss.

Baldwin was 3-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs scored. Austin Riley was 2-for-4 with an RBI.

**Giants 10, Diamondbacks 6:** Christian Koss hit a grand slam for his first home run in the majors, and host San Francisco beat Arizona to snap a four-game losing streak.

Jung Hoo Lee added a three-run drive and Willy Adames had a two-run homer to pace the Giants in their opener of a season-high, nine-game homestand.

Robbie Ray (6-0) had a season-high nine strikeouts in six innings, allowing seven hits and three runs to remain unbeaten.

**Padres 6, Angels 4:** Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a two-run, 430-foot walk-off home run to give host San Diego a comeback victory over Los Angeles.

Tatis dropped the bat emphatically and watched the ball fly after he connected on a cutter against Angels closer Kenley Jansen (0-2), who took the loss.

Padres reliever Jason Adam (4-0) earned the win with a scoreless ninth.

**Tigers 10, Red Sox 9 (11):** Javier Baez hit his second go-ahead, three-run homer of the game in the 11th inning, giving host Detroit a dramatic, walk-off win over Boston.

The AL-leading Tigers were ahead in the first, third, fourth and

sixth innings and lost the lead each time.

After falling behind in each of the two extra innings, they came back to win a second straight game against the Red Sox and 10th in 13 games.

**Guardians 2, Brewers 0:** José Ramírez hit his seventh homer, Logan Allen allowed three hits in six innings, and host Cleveland shut out Milwaukee for the second consecutive game.

Kyle Manzardo drove in the Guardians' other run with his second triple this season, a short fly ball that got past a diving Jackson Chourio in center field to score Ramírez in the eighth inning.

**Mets 2, Pirates 1:** Brett Baty hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and host New York held off punchless Pittsburgh.

Brandon Nimmo had an early RBI double off hard-luck loser Mitch Keller for the NL East-leading Mets (28-15), who have won five of six to move a season-best 13 games over .500.

**Rangers 4, Rockies 1:** Josh Jung hit a first-inning three-run home run and an eighth-inning solo shot while Jack Leiter (3-2) allowed only one run on two singles over a career-high six innings as host Texas beat struggling Colorado.

Jung's first homer followed singles by Sam Haggerty and Wyatt Langford for the Rangers (22-21), who have won four consecutive games to move above .500 for the first time since April 30. Jung's

second homer gave him his fifth career multihomer game and was his third homer in three games.

**Rays 11, Blue Jays 9:** Junior Caminero hit a tiebreaking grand slam during a five-run ninth inning, Danny Jansen homered against his former team and visiting Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Daulton Varsho homered twice for the Blue Jays, and his three-run shot in the eighth against Edwin Uceta (3-1) put Toronto ahead 7-6. After Chandler Simpson's RBI single and Caminero's 419-foot shot to the upper deck in left made it 11-7 in the ninth, the Rays survived run-scoring doubles by Bo Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. in the bottom half.

**Astros 2, Royals 1:** Isaac Paredes hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the ninth inning to lift host Houston to a victory over Kansas City.

The game was tied at 1 after a home run by Jeremy Peña in the sixth inning when Paredes led off the bottom of the ninth against John Schreiber (1-2). Paredes sent Schreiber's second pitch to left-center field for his fifth homer this season.

**White Sox 5, Reds 1 (10):** Miguel Vargas hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning, and visiting Chicago beat Cincinnati in a game delayed nearly two hours at the start because of rain.

The Reds' Elly De La Cruz hit a 435-foot solo homer, his seventh, to tie the game in the bottom of the ninth.

## Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	24	18	.571	—
Boston	22	22	.500	3
Toronto	20	21	.488	3½
Tampa Bay	19	22	.463	4½
Baltimore	15	24	.385	7½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	28	15	.651	—
Cleveland	25	17	.595	2½
Kansas City	25	19	.568	3½
Minnesota	21	20	.512	6
Chicago	13	29	.310	14½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	23	18	.561	—
Athletics	22	20	.524	1½
Texas	22	21	.512	2
Houston	21	20	.512	2
Los Angeles	17	24	.415	6

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	28	15	.651	—
Philadelphia	24	17	.585	3
Atlanta	21	21	.500	6½
Washington	17	26	.395	11
Miami	15	26	.366	12

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	25	18	.581	—
St. Louis	23	19	.548	1½
Cincinnati	20	23	.465	5
Milwaukee	20	23	.465	5
Pittsburgh	14	29	.326	11

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	27	15	.643	—
San Diego	26	15	.634	½
San Francisco	25	18	.581	2½
Arizona	22	21	.512	5½
Colorado	7	35	.167	20

**Tuesday's games**  
 Chicago Cubs 5, Miami 4  
 Seattle 2, N.Y. Yankees 1, 11 innings  
 Athletics 11, L.A. Dodgers 1  
 Atlanta 5, Washington 2  
 San Francisco 10, Arizona 6  
 San Diego 6, L.A. Angels 4  
 Detroit 10, Boston 9, 11 innings  
 Cleveland 2, Milwaukee 0  
 N.Y. Mets 2, Pittsburgh 1  
 Texas 4, Colorado 1  
 Tampa Bay 11, Toronto 9  
 Houston 2, Kansas City 1  
 Chicago White Sox 5, Cincinnati 1, 10 innings  
 St. Louis at Philadelphia, p.p.d.  
 Minnesota at Baltimore, p.p.d.

**Wednesday's games**  
 Minnesota at Baltimore, 2  
 St. Louis at Philadelphia, 2  
 Milwaukee at Cleveland  
 Arizona at San Francisco  
 N.Y. Yankees at Seattle  
 Boston at Detroit  
 Tampa Bay at Toronto  
 Pittsburgh at N.Y. Mets  
 Chicago White Sox at Cincinnati  
 Washington at Atlanta  
 Miami at Chicago Cubs  
 Colorado at Texas  
 Kansas City at Houston  
 L.A. Angels at San Diego  
 Athletics at L.A. Dodgers

**Thursday's games**  
 Washington (Williams 2-4) at Atlanta (Smith-Shawver 2-2)  
 Minnesota (Paddock 1-3) at Baltimore (Sugano 4-2)  
 Chicago White Sox (Wilson 0-1) at Cincinnati (Martinez 1-4)  
 Tampa Bay (Littell 2-5) at Toronto (Gausman 3-3)  
 Houston (Brown 6-1) at Texas (deGrom 3-1)  
 Athletics (Bido 2-3) at L.A. Dodgers (May 1-3)

**Friday's games**  
 Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs  
 Cleveland at Cincinnati  
 Pittsburgh at Philadelphia  
 N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees  
 Washington at Baltimore  
 Detroit at Toronto  
 Atlanta at Boston  
 Tampa Bay at Miami  
 St. Louis at Kansas City  
 Houston at Texas  
 Minnesota at Milwaukee  
 Colorado at Arizona  
 Seattle at San Diego  
 L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers  
 Athletics at San Francisco

## BASEBALL/INDY 500

# Rose, Jackson now HOF eligible after MLB reinstatement

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pete Rose and “Shoeless” Joe Jackson were reinstated by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred on Tuesday, making both eligible for the sport’s Hall of Fame after their careers were tarnished by gambling scandals.

Rose’s permanent ban was lifted eight months after his death and came a day before the Cincinnati Reds honored baseball’s career hits leader with Pete Rose Night.

Manfred announced Tuesday that he was changing the league’s policy on permanent ineligibility, saying bans would expire at death. MLB said 17 individuals had their status changed by the decision, including all eight banned members of the 1919 Chicago Black Sox, former Philadelphia Phillies president William D. Cox and former New York Giants outfielder Benny Kauff.

Under the Hall of Fame’s current rules, 2028 is the earliest Rose or Jackson could be inducted.

Rose agreed with then-Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti to a permanent ban Aug. 23, 1989, following an investigation commissioned by Major League Baseball which concluded Rose repeatedly

bet on the Reds as a player and manager of the team from 1985-87, a violation of a long-standing MLB rule.

Rose died Sept. 30 at age 83, and a new petition was filed Jan. 8 by Jeffrey Lenkov, a lawyer who represented Rose. Lenkov and Rose’s daughter Fawn had met with Manfred on Dec. 17.

Rose’s supporters have included U.S. President Donald Trump, who has said he intends to pardon Rose posthumously. Manfred discussed Rose with Trump when the pair met in April, but he hasn’t disclosed specifics of their conversation.

In a letter to Lenkov, Manfred wrote, “In my view, a determination must be made regarding how the phrase ‘permanently ineligible’ should be interpreted in light of the purposes and policies behind Rule 21, which are to: (1) protect the game from individuals who pose a risk to the integrity of the sport by prohibiting the participation of such individuals; and (2) create a deterrent effect that reduces the likelihood of future violations by others.

“In my view, once an individual has passed away, the purposes of Rule 21 have been served.”

Marcus Giamatti, son of the former commissioner who signed the



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

The all-time MLB hits leader, Pete Rose received a lifetime ban for betting on baseball that was lifted nearly eight months after his death last year. Rose will be eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame in 2028.

agreement banning Rose, said in a statement he was “incredibly disappointed” in Manfred’s decision.

“I am also disappointed that my family was not consulted prior to this decision,” he said. “The Commissioner’s decision makes this a very dark day for baseball, the country and the fans.

“My father’s mission by banning Rose was to uphold the integrity of the game. Therefore, reinstating Rose in this manner puts that integrity, Rule 21 and everything that my father fought to uphold in peril.”

A 17-time All-Star during a playing career from 1963-86, Rose holds record for hits (4,256),

games (3,562), at-bats (14,053), plate appearances (15,890) and singles (3,215). He was the 1963 NL Rookie of the Year, 1973 MVP and 1975 World Series MVP. A three-time NL batting champion, he broke the prior hits record of 4,191 set by Ty Cobb from 1905-28.

Jackson was a .356 career hitter who was among the eight Black Sox banned for throwing the 1919 World Series. He died in 1951, but he remains one of baseball’s most recognizable names in part for his depiction by Ray Liotta in the 1989 movie *Field of Dreams*.

Without the ban, both players are eligible for the Hall’s Classic Baseball Era, which next meets to

consider players in December 2027 and considers those whose greatest contributions to the sport were before 1980.

A 10-person historical overview committee selects eight ballot candidates with the approval of the Hall’s board, and the ballot is considered by 16 members at the winter meetings, with a 75% or higher vote needed. The committee members include Hall of Fame members, team executives and media/historians.

Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark confirmed in a statement that players affected by Manfred’s ruling Tuesday would be considered.

## Rain delays opening, Kanaan waits to replace Larson

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The first day of practice for the 109th Indianapolis 500 has been delayed by rain, causing a disruption to Tuesday’s schedule at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The day was supposed to begin with a two-hour window for Arrow McLaren team principal Tony Kanaan to run a veteran refresher course in case he’s needed to substitute for NASCAR star Kyle Larson, who is attempting to run both the Indy 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on May 25. It will be Larson’s second attempt at completing 1,100 miles on the same day; last year rain in both Indianapolis and Charlotte, N.C., prevented him from turning a lap at the 600.

The rain Tuesday in Indianapolis delayed all on-track activity, so IndyCar is expected to go to full field practice if weather permits. Kanaan will have to complete the refresher course at a later time.

But it’s needed because NAS-



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Kyle Larson, left, shakes hands with Tony Kanaan following the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on May 26, 2024.

CAR is adamant that Larson make the Coca-Cola 600 a priority. The Indy 500 was delayed by rain last year and Hendrick Motorsports made the decision to leave him at the speedway for the 500 and arrive late in North Carolina. But by the time he got to Charlotte Motor

Speedway, the race was in a rain stoppage and never resumed.

It took NASCAR several weeks to decide whether or not it would grant Larson the waiver he needed to remain eligible for the playoffs, and this year NASCAR has made it clear he must be at the

600 or it will cost him dearly in his pursuit of a second Cup Series championship.

Larson was not discouraged by Tuesday’s rain, even though the long-range forecast shows pockets of rain all the way into next week.

In fact, despite Larson’s non-stop racing schedule and run of NASCAR success — he’s tied for the Cup Series points lead and tied with Christopher Bell with three wins so far this season — he said he’s relaxed for the 500 and called it the “biggest event of the year.”

“Every day is something really cool and just being part of it is special,” Larson said. “Hopefully we can make the couple of weeks special and perform well on the track, get to the All-Star race, and then the 600 next week. I know we’re going to have good cars for (the NASCAR races) so good times to be Kyle Larson.”

Larson did say of all the different disciplines of racing he does, IndyCar is the most difficult because it requires the most work

from him inside the cockpit.

“Everything besides the Indy car is really easy because I do it often,” Larson said. “IndyCar is difficult to drive because there’s so much more going on in the car. Sprint cars, I rarely touch, nothing matters. But the Indy car has so many adjustments. I feel like I am studying the wheel, staring at the wheel, and then they tell me to make an adjustment and I need to find it quickly, or hope it comes from memory. That part is what gets me.”

Kanaan, meanwhile, is the 2013 Indy 500 winner but last raced the event in 2023 for McLaren. He then moved into a management role with the team and has since been promoted to team principal.

Kanaan said his wife noticed immediately it was a scheduled on-track day for him when she said “Good morning” and he grumbled a reply.

“She said ‘I guess the race car driver is back,’” Kanaan said of his wife, Lauren.

# NBA PLAYOFFS



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton, left, celebrates along with forward Pascal Siakam after scoring in Game 5 of an Eastern Conference semifinal game against the Cavaliers on Tuesday in Cleveland.

## Pacers knock off Cavs, advance to East Finals

By JOE REEDY  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Indiana coach Rick Carlisle put it best in summing up his team's finishing punch in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

"The winning team writes the script," he said.

The Pacers' 114-105 victory over the Cavaliers in Game 5 on Tuesday night was similar to the first two games of the series. Cleveland jumped out to a big first-half lead, but Indiana's quick tempo eventually took a toll.

"I have to give our guys credit, they earned this," Carlisle said. "This was one of the best teams in the league. I'm sorry their season had to end like this. They had the perfect season, and we came along and were hot at the right time."

Tyrese Haliburton scored 31 points and Pascal Siakam added 21 as the Pacers reached the conference finals in consecutive years for the first time since 2013-14.

Donovan Mitchell, who missed the second half of Sunday's game due to a sprained left ankle, led the Cavs with 35 points. Evan Mobley added 24 points and 11 rebounds.

The top-seeded Cavs swept their first-round series against Miami,

but were unable to match up against up-tempo Indiana.

"We were not favored in one game. The lowest point spread was 5½. That was something that fueled our guys, too," Carlisle said.

The fourth-seeded Pacers will now await the winner of the matchup between the Boston Celtics and New York Knicks. New York led 3-1 going into Game 5 on Wednesday night in Boston.

The Pacers rallied from a 19-point deficit in the first half and took control after halftime and won all three games at Cleveland's Rocket Arena.

It was the first time since a 2005 first-round series against the Celtics that Indiana won three road games in a playoff series.

The Cavaliers dropped three home games in a postseason series for the first time.

"I love playing in this arena, man. We're 0-3 at home. We let the city down," Mitchell said. "This place is special. What hurts is that we didn't get it done at home."

Cleveland stormed out to a 44-25 lead with 8:10 remaining in the second quarter, but Haliburton had five of his six 3-pointers in the period as the Pacers got within 56-52 at halftime.

### Scoreboard

#### Second Round

Best-of-seven  
x-if necessary  
Eastern Conference  
Indiana 4, Cleveland 1

Indiana 121, Cleveland 112  
Indiana 120, Cleveland 119  
Cleveland 126, Indiana 104  
Indiana 129, Cleveland 109  
Tuesday: Indiana 114, Cleveland 105

#### New York 3, Boston 1

New York 108, Boston 105, OT  
New York 91, Boston 90  
Boston 115, New York 93  
New York 121, Boston 113  
Wednesday: at Boston  
x-Friday: at New York  
x-Monday: at Boston

#### Western Conference Oklahoma City 3, Denver 2

Denver 121, Oklahoma City 119  
Oklahoma City 149, Denver 106  
Denver 113, Oklahoma City 104, OT  
Oklahoma City 92, Denver 87  
Tuesday: Oklahoma City 112, Denver 105  
Thursday: at Denver, AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.  
Friday CET, 12 p.m. Friday JKT  
x-Sunday: at Oklahoma City

#### Minnesota 3, Golden State 1

Golden State 99, Minnesota 88  
Minnesota 117, Golden State 93  
Minnesota 102, Golden State 97  
Minnesota 117, Golden State 110  
Wednesday: at Minnesota  
x-Sunday: at Golden State  
x-Tuesday, May 20: at Minnesota

"We didn't panic after that rough start to the first quarter. We talked about how we knew that they were going to throw a haymaker there. But I thought we weathered the storm the right way and got going from there," Haliburton said.

## SGA, Thunder top Nuggets to take 3-2 lead in West semis

By CLIFF BRUNT  
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Denver Nuggets 112-105 on Tuesday night to go up 3-2 in their Western Conference semifinal series.

The Thunder overcame a 44-point, 15-rebound night from the Nuggets' Nikola Jokic. Oklahoma City can clinch the series Thursday in Denver.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 12 of 23 field goals and bounced back from a slow start to lead six players in double figures.

"What the great players do is they rise in the face of those challenges and adversities," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "And I just thought he got more and more composed as the game went on. And despite the fact that the pressure was mounting and it got hotter in there, he got cooler and just kind of settled into it, made the right plays, let the game tell him what to do."

Jokic made 17 of 25 shots. The Nuggets' Jamal Murray scored 28 points, but he made just 10 of 27 shots. No other Denver player scored more than 13 points.

"This is a really disappointing loss," Nuggets interim coach David Adelman said. "The guys in there should be disappointed. It's a heavy loss and we have to bounce back quickly to win Game 6 and give ourselves a chance to

come back, have a game like this, but finish it."

OKC ran out to a 12-2 lead, and it looked like it might turn out like the Thunder's blowout victory in Game 2. Denver made one of its first nine shots.

The Nuggets rallied and led by 11 in the second quarter, but Oklahoma City closed strong and trailed 56-54 at halftime. Jokic had 19 points and nine rebounds before the break.

Murray scored 13 points in the third quarter and Jokic added 12 to help Denver take an 86-78 lead into the fourth. Still, there were missed opportunities.

"It felt like every time we had a chance to go back up 12, or get it back at 14, we wouldn't make the shot and they'd run out and make a basket or score in transition," Adelman said.

The Thunder's Lu Dort, who scored three total points in the first three quarters, hit a trio of 3-pointers in a two-minute span to cut the Nuggets' lead to 92-90 midway through the fourth.

Jokic hit a deep fadeaway 3-pointer to tie the game at 103 before OKC closed it out. Jalen Williams' 3-pointer with 1:18 remaining gave the Thunder a 106-103 lead, and Gilgeous-Alexander's three with 48 seconds to go pushed Oklahoma City's lead to six.

"I thought we executed as well as we have in the playoffs down the stretch in a close game," Daigneault said.



NATE BILLINGS/AP

The Thunder's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander advances the ball upcourt under pressure from Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic in the second half of Game 5 of a second-round playoff series Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

## Tatum won't return for Celtics after Achilles tendon surgery

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston Celtics star Jayson Tatum had surgery Tuesday to repair a ruptured right Achilles tendon that will sideline him for the remainder of the playoffs, the team announced.

Boston announced the extent of Tatum's in-

jury and the surgery a day after the six-time All-Star went down in the Celtics' 121-113 Game 4 loss to the New York Knicks, putting both the hopes of the defending champions repeating and his playing status for next season in doubt.

They did not give a timetable for his return but said a full recovery was expected.

The 27-year-old Tatum is leading Boston in

points (28.1), rebounds (11.5) and assists (5.4) per game for the second straight postseason.

The Knicks lead the Celtics 3-1 in their Eastern Conference semifinals series. Game 5 is in Boston on Wednesday night.

Tatum was carried off the court with 2:58 remaining in Monday night's game. The Celtics had just turned the ball over and as Tatum

moved for the loose ball, his leg gave out and he went down. He buried his face in a towel in obvious pain while grabbing at his leg above the ankle after the noncontact injury.

Tatum scored 42 points, his highest total during these playoffs and one of the best all-round postseason performances of his career, before he was hurt.

## SPORTS



## Moving on

Pacers finish upset of Cavaliers, go on to East Finals » **NBA playoffs, Page 23**

## PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

# A grand time

## McIlroy, Spieth pursuing different forms of slams at Quail Hollow

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

**B**efore golf fans have had a chance to exhale after an exhilarating Masters, the next major is at the door selling an equal dose of anticipation.

Chatter about a Grand Slam had gone largely quiet for the better part of 25 years since Tiger Woods knocked it out in a span of 35 days — winning the U.S. Open and British Open for the last two legs by a combined 23 strokes — in 2000.

Now it's a big part of the conversation going into the PGA Championship. Rory McIlroy is playing the best golf of his career and still buzzing over his playoff victory at Augusta National. That Masters green jacket he proudly wears has given him newfound freedom now that he is the sixth player with the career Grand Slam.

Is a calendar slam out of the question?

The next step is the PGA Championship, which starts Thursday at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., where McIlroy has won four times, including last year, the most titles for him on any golf course in the United States.

"I'm obviously going to feel more comfortable and a lot less pressure, and I'm also going back to a venue that I love," McIlroy said. "It's nothing but positive vibes going in there next week with what happened (at the Masters) and ... how well I've played at Quail."

"I probably won't be quite as on edge as I have been for the last few years when I've been at major championships," he said. "I'll probably be a little bit better to be around for my family, and I'll be a little more relaxed. I think overall it will be a good thing."

That's the freedom he has to go along with his three victories this year at Pebble Beach, The Players Championship and his crown jewel, the Masters. And his peers have taken notice.

"That was really good for golf," Xander Schauffele said. "It was good for Rory's psyche, maybe worse for us now that he feels free."

High praise also comes from Jordan Spieth, who could be next in line. This will be his ninth PGA Championship with a chance to get the final leg of the career slam. It took McIlroy 11 tries.

"It was obviously a very challenging week for him. It was

SEE GRAND ON PAGE 20

Rory McIlroy hits on the 4th hole during the first round of the Trustee Championship at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. McIlroy is playing some of his best golf entering the second major of the year.

MATT ROURKE/AP

Stars defeat Jets on Granlund's hat trick » **NHL playoffs, Page 19**



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