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PHOTOS BY PONTUS LUNDAHL/AP

U.S. Marines cross the border from Norway to Sweden during the start of the Defense exercise Aurora 23, in Ostersund on Monday.

US Marines arrive in Sweden

Troops are taking part in Aurora 23, one of Scandinavia's largest drills in decades

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Marines crossed the Norwegian border into Sweden on Tuesday to join one of Scandinavia's largest military drills in decades, involving troops from more than a dozen countries.

Swedish Brig. Gen. Stefan Andersson announced on Twitter the arrival of the Marines as part of the Aurora 23 exercise, which is focused on countering a large-scale attack on the prospective

NATO member.

"Aurora 23 will be the largest national exercise of its kind in more than 25 years," the Swedish military said.

Some 26,000 troops from 14 countries are taking part in maneuvers on land, at sea and in the air. Service members from the U.S., Britain and Germany are among those taking part. It wasn't announced Tuesday which U.S.

SEE SWEDEN ON PAGE 6



The Aurora 23 military exercise will be held until May 11.

DOD balks at Biden's plan for offshore wind projects

By JENNIFER A DLOUHY
Bloomberg News

The Pentagon is sounding alarms over Biden administration plans to advance offshore wind projects along the central Atlantic U.S. coast, warning that almost all of the new terrain eyed for development conflicts with military operations.

Maps shared with industry stakeholders and seen by Bloomberg News show vast red areas that the Navy and Air Force have deemed "highly problematic," covering prime real estate the Interior Department last year earmarked for leasing off the coasts of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware.

The Defense Department's concerns, which come on top of other conflicts identified by the U.S. Coast Guard, have spooked renewable power developers and U.S. East Coast states counting on mid-Atlantic wind farms to meet clean energy and climate goals.

The breadth of the Pentagon's opposition could imperil President Joe Biden's bid to install 30 gigawatts of offshore wind power — equivalent to 30 nuclear reactors — by the end of the decade, newly bolstered state goals for the development and planned manufacturing facilities in Maryland and Virginia tied to the nascent U.S. industry.

The clash represents the latest threat to the fledgling industry that is already grappling with supply chain challenges, inflation-stoked prices and opposition from coastal communities.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management emphasized in an emailed

SEE WIND ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

VW unveils luxury e-sedan at China auto show

Associated Press

SHANGHAI — Volkswagen unveiled an electric luxury sedan that promises a 435-mile battery range as global and Chinese automakers displayed their latest SUVs, sedans and muscle cars Tuesday at the world's biggest auto show.

Auto Shanghai 2023 reflects the intense competition in China's fast-growing electric vehicle market after the ruling Communist Party poured billions of dollars into promoting the technology. Chi-

na accounted for two-thirds of global electrics sales last year.

Brands including General Motors, BMW and Nissan and Chinese rivals BYD Auto and NIO unveiled dozens of new EVs in the cavernous Shanghai exhibition center. Brands touted faster charging, satellite-linked navigation and entertainment, and the future possibility of self-driving technology.

Volkswagen's ID.7 sedan, the new flagship model for its electric vehicles, was one of 28 models dis-

played by the German automaker, half of them electrified.

"We are turbo-charging our electric campaign," said the CEO of VW's passenger car brand, Thomas Schaefer, who rode onto the stage aboard an electric minibus. Schaefer said VW plans to release another 10 electric models in the next three years.

The show is the auto industry's first full-scale sales event in its biggest market since 2019 following the end of anti-virus controls in December.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Euro costs (April 19) | \$1.07 |
| British pound (April 19) | \$1.21 |
| Japanese yen (April 19) | 131.00 |
| South Korean won (April 19) | 1284.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3769 |
| Britain (Pound) | 1.2421 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.3390 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.8775 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.7999 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 30.8995 |
| Euro | 0.9125 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.8499 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 338.75 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.6472 |
| Japan (Yen) | 134.17 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3065 |
| Norway (Krone) | 10.4955 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 56.24 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 4.22 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7507 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3333 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1319.26 |

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8977 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 34.36 |
| Turkey (NewLira) | 19.4045 |

(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.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 8.00 |
| Interest Rates Discount rate | 5.50 |
| Federal funds market rate | 4.58 |
| 3-month bill | 5.21 |
| 30-year bond | 3.82 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

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MILITARY

Pentagon to conduct review on classified access

By DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered a Pentagon review on how secret information is handled and managed by the military in the wake of the scandal involving leaks of classified information online.

Austin ordered the “comprehensive review” to assess possible changes in how secret materials are distributed and who has access to them, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh told reporters Monday.

“Within 45 days, [investigators] will provide the secretary with initial findings and recommendations to improve the department’s policies and procedures related to the protection of classified information,” Singh said during a Pentagon news briefing. “We will have more to say soon on more immediate actions that we will be taking.”

The review comes after batches



Obtained by The Washington Post

Officials say Jack Teixeira, a National Guard technology support staffer, is suspected of mishandling U.S. military security secrets.

of purportedly secret intelligence was leaked to social media platforms online. At least one member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard — airman Jack Douglas Teixeira — has been charged in connection with the documents

leak. He’s a member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing that is headquartered at Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod.

The 102nd Intelligence Wing handles collection and analysis of intelligence gathered from all over the world.

Singh said repeatedly that the Pentagon is cooperating with the Justice Department on its criminal investigation into the leaks and defense officials are examining sensitive documents found online. No U.S. officials have said yet whether any of the leaked documents are authentic. Last week, one defense official told reporters that some of them appeared to have been “altered.”

Teixeira, 21, is an active member of the Air Force National Guard, which has created questions about jurisdiction for the case.

The Justice Department is leading the civil criminal investigation, but the Pentagon could also charge Teixeira at some point un-

der the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

“In terms of jurisdiction, [it is] something we are working through,” Singh said.

The Pentagon hasn’t disclosed yet exactly how many purportedly secret documents have been found online. The initial batch found on Twitter and Telegram detailed various elements of the war in Ukraine — such as troop positions and weapons. Documents about U.S. intelligence gathering in other countries were found later on other social sites. Some of the documents had been online for several weeks.

Singh said Monday that the Pentagon’s internal review should clarify how many secret documents are involved and the scope of their impact.

Teixeira was arrested Thursday in Dighton, Mass., and made his first court appearance Friday. According to federal prosecutors, he leaked the classified documents to a video game group on

the social platform Discord. It wasn’t immediately clear, though, how all the documents ended up on various sites or whether any other persons might also be charged in the case. Teixeira is next scheduled to appear in court Wednesday for a detention hearing in Boston.

Information contained in some of the leaked materials included that dozens of “special forces” troops from NATO countries have been inside Ukraine, including 14 from the United States, according to news reports. At Monday’s briefing, Singh pushed back against that claim.

“We have publicly acknowledged previously that there is a small U.S. military footprint in Ukraine to provide mission-critical support to the U.S. Embassy [in Kyiv],” she said. “To be clear, there are no U.S. combat troops conducting combat operations in Ukraine.”

ware.doug@stripes.com

Commander warns sexual assailants ‘are now the hunted’

By DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The commander of U.S. troops in South Korea put would-be sexual assailants on notice during a speech earlier this month, in which he also said the U.S. military “must change the culture” surrounding sexual assault.

Army Gen. Paul LaCamera, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, spoke during an April 10 ceremony at Camp Humphreys marking Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in the Department of Defense.

“Sexual assault is fratricide,” he told an audience of service members, victim advocates and USO volunteers inside Paik Auditorium at USFK headquarters. “I can say it louder; I cannot say it any clearer.”

LaCamera also reaffirmed the military’s duty to prevent sexual assault and to support its victims.

“For the hunters out there, be on notice, you are now the hunted,” he said.

Sexual assault cases within the military rose by 13% in 2021 over the previous year, according to the DOD’s 2022 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. The department estimated in 2021 that 8.4% of women and 1.5% of men on active duty experienced “unwanted sexual contact.”

LaCamera, who also heads up U.N. Command and the Combined Forces Command, laid out five steps toward an increased aware-



KRIS BONET/U.S. Forces Korea

The commander of U.S. Forces Korea, Army Gen. Paul LaCamera, speaks at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea, in 2021.

ness of sexual assault: taking care and protecting the rights of the victims, ensuring that bystanders get involved, changing the culture on sexual assault and having leaders lead.

“There is nothing more tragic than when leaders lose the trust of those who they lead,” he said. “It does not have to be this way.”

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has made addressing sexual assault in the military a “top priority” and spurred “a time of unprecedented action, planning, and resourcing — all aimed at having lasting and enduring impacts towards restoring the confidence, safety, and respect of our men and women in uniform and our na-

tion,” the 2022 DOD report states.

This year’s defense budget requested \$940 billion for sexual assault prevention and response programs and the hiring of roughly 2,000 civilians for training by 2027.

“Sexual assault and harassment in our military is a readiness issue. It makes our force less lethal,” Rep. Jackie Speier, a California Democrat, said during a House subcommittee hearing on military personnel in September. “It makes recruiting a challenge. It makes young men and women scared to serve.”

choi.david@stripes.com
Twitter: @choiboy

US, Australia drills to be twice as large

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

The biennial military exercise by U.S. and Australian forces returns to pre-pandemic scale this year with more than twice the troops than took part two years ago, the Australian government announced recently.

Talisman Sabre is scheduled to draw approximately 30,000 personnel, close to the usual complement that last participated in 2019. The exercise continued in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, but organizers reduced troop numbers to about 17,000.

This year’s event will run from July 22 to Aug. 4, according to a Sunday statement by Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles’ office.

“Talisman Sabre is the largest bilateral combined training activity between the Australian Defence Force and United States military, reflecting the closeness of our Alliance,” the statement said.

This year’s exercise will be the largest in its geographic span and international involvement, Australian army Brig. Damian Hill, the exercise director, said in the statement.

Training is scheduled across the country in Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and New South Wales.

“This year’s exercise will demonstrate our ability to receive large volumes of personnel and

equipment into Australia from across the Indo-Pacific and stage, integrate and move them forward into the large exercise area,” Hill said.

Troops from the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Fiji, Tonga and Papua New Guinea will also participate. Personnel from the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will attend as observers, the statement said.

The U.S. and Australia have been formal allies, along with New Zealand, since 1951, when the three signed the ANZUS Security Treaty.

Australia is also a large purchaser of U.S. arms, more than \$27 billion worth — \$1.71 billion in fiscal year 2020 alone — according to the State Department website.

In 2021, a U.S. expeditionary strike group led by USS America, the amphibious assault ship based at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, joined Talisman Sabre along with 70 fixed-wing aircraft and 50 helicopters.

Troops from the U.S. Army’s 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade from Sagami General Depot, Japan, fired a Patriot missile at a pair of drone targets from Shoalwater Bay, Queensland, during the exercise.

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

MILITARY

Guardisman applied online for hitman job, got arrested

By JULIA MARNIN
The Charlotte Observer

A Tennessee Air National Guardsman looking for a well-paying job to support his baby on the way eagerly applied for work as a hitman online, federal prosecutors said.

The aspiring assassin applied through a website called “Rent-A-Hitman,” according to officials who said it’s a parody platform.

When Josiah Ernesto Garcia, 21, of Nashville, didn’t hear back after submitting a resume, he sent a follow-up email explaining he wanted a job related to his military skills, court documents show.

“Put me in coach!” Garcia wrote, according to a criminal complaint.

Garcia was arrested by FBI agents on April 12, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Tennessee announced in an April 14 news release. He’s now facing murder-for-hire charges, prosecutors said.

Information regarding Garcia’s legal representation wasn’t immediately available.

While looking for “contract mercenary jobs,” Garcia found rentahitman.com and applied for work, prosecutors said.

The website, established in 2005, initially advertised a cyber security startup, according to officials. After the company failed, the site started receiving murder-for-hire related inquiries and the website’s administrator turned the platform into a parody site, prosecutors said.

The website includes fake testimonials from customers who purportedly used the site’s hitman services.

“The dark web is not safe, but we are!” the website says online.

A ‘more exciting’ job

On Feb. 16, 2023, Garcia submitted an inquiry expressing his interest in working as a hitman, the complaint says.

The website’s owner, using an alias, responded and asked Garcia to provide a resume, head shot and photo of his ID — so Garcia did, according to the complaint.

On his resume, Garcia said he was nicknamed “Reaper” for his “military experience and marksmanship,” the complaint says.

He sent three follow-up emails to the website’s owner when he didn’t hear back, according to investigators.

On March 16, the FBI directed the website’s owner to email Gar-

cia saying a “field coordinator” would contact him soon, the complaint says.

Then, a FBI agent pretending to be a job recruiter scheduled an interview with Garcia, who told them he’d kill an individual for “as little” as \$2,500, according to the complaint.

He also said he was comfortable with torturing someone and “taking fingers or ears as trophies” if requested by a client, the complaint says.

When asked why he was interested in the hitman job, Garcia said since he was in the military, he was “doing that sort of work already,” the complaint shows.

“I was looking into civilian law enforcement but that’s not for me,” Garcia told the undercover FBI agent, according to the complaint. “I wanted something more exciting.”

On April 6, Garcia met the undercover agent at a restaurant and bar in Nashville where he asked if the hitman job was flexible as he worked one weekend per month in the Air National Guard and planned to attend college in 2024, the complaint says.

He also told the undercover agent that he would rather work in a different state but “is OK to kill some local people,” according to the complaint.

When the undercover agent told Garcia he’d make a lot of money if he killed 50 people, Garcia said “that’s rookie numbers for the Reaper,” the complaint says.

“My only question is when can I start? I’m very excited,” Garcia told the agent, according to the complaint.

Garcia arrested

Ultimately, Garcia agreed to kill someone for \$5,000 and met with the undercover agent at a park on April 12, prosecutors said.

After Garcia was provided with fake information about a fictional target, he agreed to the plan and asked if he needed to show a photo of the dead body, according to prosecutors.

The FBI then arrested him and later found an AR style rifle during a search of his home, the release said.

Garcia faces up to 10 years in prison if he’s convicted on the charges against him.

The Air National Guard confirmed to CBS News that Garcia joined as an airman first class in July 2021.



Fincantieri Marine Group

The future USS Cleveland, the fourth Navy ship to bear the name of the Ohio city, was christened and side-launched Saturday at Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wis.

Navy’s new littoral combat ship is 4th to be dubbed Cleveland

Stars and Stripes

The Navy’s newest — and last — Freedom-class littoral combat ship has come a step closer to fleet service, a bittersweet milestone for a collection of vessels once hailed for their potential.

The future USS Cleveland, the fourth Navy ship to bear the name of the iconic Ohio city, was christened Saturday in Marinette, Wis., according to a post on the official Facebook page of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation.

The ship entered the Menominee River broadside, a launch method that also had its swan song Saturday at Fincantieri Marinette Marine, the Navy said in a statement a day before the ceremony.

Future launches there will use a system that lifts and lowers a ship vertically, according to the statement.

Cleveland, the 16th Freedom-

class vessel, is set to be delivered to the Navy in 2024 and commissioned later that year, according to information on the foundation’s website.

Littoral combat ships are fast, nimble vessels prized for their abilities in coastal areas and the open ocean, but the Freedom variant quickly was beset by propulsion problems and other costly issues.

As a result, the Navy last year proposed mothballing nine Freedom-class ships well ahead of their end-of-service dates. Ultimately, five of the ships were saved.

Another variety of littoral combat ship, the Independence class, also has experienced problems including cracks in the hulls of at least six vessels.

There are 13 Independence-class ships in service, according to the Navy’s website.

The latest Independence-class littoral combat ship, USS Santa Barbara, was commissioned earlier this month. Another, USS Canberra, is slated for commissioning this summer.

But the service is now prioritizing production of the Constellation-class frigate, which it has said delivers a more powerful punch.

Previous ships bearing the name Cleveland were a World War I cruiser, a World War II light cruiser and a Vietnam War-era amphibious transport dock that was decommissioned in 2011, according to the Navy.

The ship’s sponsor is Robyn Modly, wife of former acting secretary of the Navy and Cleveland native Thomas Modly, the Navy said.

news@stripes.com
Twitter: @starsandstripes

Taiwan to buy 400 US anti-ship missiles meant to repel potential China invasion

Bloomberg News

Taiwan will buy as many as 400 land-launched Harpoon missiles intended to repel a potential Chinese invasion, completing a deal that Congress approved in 2020, according to a trade group’s leader and people familiar with the issue.

Taiwan has previously purchased ship-launched versions of the Harpoon, which is made by Boeing Co. Now, a contract with Boeing issued on Taiwan’s behalf by the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command marks a first for the mobile, land-launched version, according to Rupert Hammond-Chambers, president of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council. Three other people familiar with the deal, including an industry official, confirmed the contract is for Taiwan.

The Pentagon announced the

\$1.7 billion contract with Boeing on April 7, but made no mention of Taiwan as the purchaser. The deal comes as U.S.-China tensions are high, particularly over Taiwan, the self-governed island that China has claimed as part of its territory. China held military drills around Taiwan after its president met with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California this month.

Army Lieutenant Colonel Martin Meiners, a Defense Department spokesman, declined to say whether Taiwan will be the recipient of the Harpoon missiles, but said “we will continue to work with industry to provide Taiwan defense equipment in a timely manner.”

“The United States’ provision to Taiwan of defense articles, which

includes sustainment to existing capabilities via Foreign Military Sales and Direct Commercial Sales, is essential for Taiwan’s security,” Meiners said.

The Harpoon contract has been cited by members of Congress including Representative Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as part of as much \$19 billion in “backlogged” U.S. sales to Taiwan that they have said need to be accelerated. In addition to the Harpoon, the list includes the F-16 Block 70 fighter, the MK-48 torpedo, the M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer and the Stinger missile.

The backlog, and the Harpoon sale, were set to be discussed Tuesday at a hearing of the House Armed Service Committee focusing on the Indo-Pacific.

MILITARY

Yokota pool turned trout hot spot for fishing derby

By KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A splash erupted from the Sakana Outdoor Pool at 9:20 a.m. Saturday as Nicholas Trans, a contractor's spouse from California, hauled in the first trout of the day at this air base in western Tokyo.

Rain, most of the day, left anglers at the first Sakana Trout Fishing Derby as wet as their quarry, but with hopes for full creels undimmed.

The fishing derby kicked off several events that the Yokota Outdoor Recreation office scheduled in celebration of Earth Week, which runs through Saturday.

The pool was stocked with 400 rainbow trout from the Okutama Fishing Center in nearby Ome, Jason Fay, aquatics director of the Yokota Natatorium, told Stars and Stripes on April 11.

The fishing center is a popular spot behind a dam in the Tama River and one of the largest areas in Tokyo for freshwater fishing, according to the center's website.

The derby attracted about 100 people, despite the damp skies and gloomy forecast.

"It's a good way for families to come out," said program coordinator Martin Trost. "It's a way to bring the community together."

Trans collected a fishing rod as



Anglers reel in a rainbow trout during the inaugural Sakana Trout Fishing Derby.

a prize for landing the first trout, about a foot long.

"I've been fishing my whole life, since I was a kid with my father," said Trans, of San Jose, Calif. "I think this is a really good time to bond with family and it's been just a really good experience. This was a really close hobby of mine with my father and so I wanted to pass it on to my kids."

Trans caught his fish on hot

dogs, the bait made available by the staff for the event. He caught six fish within the first hour of the derby.

"We knew it was going to rain, but we decided to still do it," he said. "It wasn't going to stop us. We just put on some extra gear, and we are still having a great time."

Trans said his family plans on eating all the fish they caught. An-



PHOTOS BY KELLY AGEE/Stars and Stripes

Nicholas Trans, left, hauled in the first rainbow trout of the inaugural Sakana Trout Fishing Derby at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

glers were allowed to catch two fish per family member and were required to keep their catch.

Some commenters expressed concern on the Yokota Natatorium Facebook page that pool chemicals would harm the fish. Outdoor Recreation, a division of the Force Support Squadron at Yokota, took two years to plan the event, Fay said.

"We turn off the chemicals right after the summer closes," he said. "Since last summer up until now, there's been no chemicals being fed into the pool. We've tested it beforehand, made sure that there's no residual chemicals in there."

agee.kelly@stripes.com
Twitter: @KellyA_Stripes

Marine on Okinawa faces DUI following motorcycle crash

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police say a U.S. Marine was driving under the influence of alcohol early Monday when his motorcycle crashed into a taxi on Okinawa.

Cpl. Lawson Little, 23, an administrative specialist with Marine Wing Headquarters Squad-

ron 1 at Camp Foster, was arrested at 7:27 a.m. after a collision on Route 58 in Urasoe city, a spokesman for the Okinawa prefectural police told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday.

The Georgia resident was treated for a broken left wrist prior to his arrest and was still in custody Tuesday at the Urasoe police station, the spokesman said.

A breath test measured Little's

blood-alcohol content at 0.12%, four times Japan's legal driving limit of 0.03%, the spokesman said. By comparison, all 50 U.S. states have set 0.08% as the legal limit for driving under the influence or driving while impaired.

Some government spokespeople in Japan are required to speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

Little was southbound on his

Honda CBR when he attempted a right turn across the northbound lane at 5:46 a.m. and struck the cab traveling in the opposite direction, the police spokesman said. The taxi's only occupant, a 60-year-old man, was uninjured.

Police at the scene smelled alcohol on Little's breath, the spokesman said.

Little told police his last drink was at least 24 hours prior to the

incident, the spokesman said. Police plan to send the case to prosecutors for charges.

Little, a Marine for nearly four years, arrived in Okinawa almost three years ago, Maj. Rob Martins, a spokesman for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, said in an email.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1
koja.keishi@stripes.com
Twitter: @KeishiRkoja

Ex-day care worker at Ariz. base pleads guilty to child abuse

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A former day care worker at a Marine Corps base in Arizona pleaded guilty to abusing 1-year-old children in her care by dragging, kicking and throwing toys at them, according to Yuma County court documents.

Valerie McKinstry, 29, pleaded guilty last week to two felony counts of child abuse and 11 misdemeanor counts of child endangerment for her behavior with the children between December

2020 and March 2021 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, according to court documents.

The classroom where McKinstry worked with 1-year-old children was under video surveillance — standard practice at Defense Department child development centers — and the base provided the Yu-



McKinstry

ma Police Department with 78 videos of possible abuse, according to the 100-page police report.

McKinstry is seen on the videos hitting a young boy with his own hand repeatedly, forcefully shoving a child's chair into a table, carrying a child by just an arm or leg, shoving a chair into a child from behind, shaking a child's chair repeatedly, handling children roughly so their bodies strike furniture, and throwing toys at children hitting them in the face or body, among many

other accusations described by police.

A sentencing hearing has not been scheduled, according to the county's online court records.

Police identified 15 children as victims in their review of videos, according to the report.

Katherine McCombs, 29, worked alongside McKinstry and is also charged with seven counts of child abuse, according to online court records. Her case is still pending in Yuma County Superior Court.

A third child care worker is identified in police reports as a suspect but is not facing charges at this time, according to court records.

During the investigation, MCAS Yuma also reviewed about 20 hours of random video samples from each of the other classrooms in the day care to ensure the abuse was not a systemic problem, base officials said.

Thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

MILITARY

Wind: Similar concerns helped derail plans for oil leasing off Va.

FROM PAGE 1

statement that the U.S. “is well positioned to satisfy state and federal offshore wind goals as we develop the clean energy economy.”

A senior Defense Department official stressed that the maps represent an initial stage of discussions with the ocean energy bureau and that the Pentagon is committed to finding ways to accommodate leasing in the region.

The Pentagon has identified challenges operating around wind turbines that would be installed into the seabed in Atlantic waters near many of its operations and facilities, including North Carolina’s Dare County bombing range, used for training fighter jet crews, and a weapons station in Yorktown, Va. They are documented

vividly on a map of Navy and Air Force concerns, dated Oct. 6, 2022, and circulated with industry and state stakeholders this month.

Four of six potential wind

lease areas outlined by the ocean energy bureau last November are completely shaded red, including two deep-water parcels that might require floating turbines. The remaining two tracts, in yellow, are identified as requiring further study. The areas deemed highest priority by the Pentagon span a large portion of potential lease areas off the Maryland and North Carolina coasts.

The Defense Department official said the representations were designed to pinpoint areas that present the most challenges — generally where the Pentagon would be unable to continue its mission as currently conducted in

the space. The focus going forward is on finding ways to accommodate wind development, including by adjusting operations to allow the activity, the official said. That could take the form of shifting the location of military exercises and other steps — such as optimizing radar processing systems — to minimize interference from turbines.

The two tracts marked in yellow are the least problematic, with concerns the Pentagon views as solvable, the Defense Department official said.

Similar Defense Department concerns helped derail plans for offshore oil leasing in waters near Virginia’s coast roughly a decade ago. And after the Pentagon

warned the Interior Department against offshore wind leasing near the California coast in 2019, it took roughly three years to resolve the matter. The Interior Department had been on track to sell

new offshore wind rights in the mid-Atlantic early next year — and significant delays could make it harder for developers to claim newly expanded tax credits for the multibillion-dollar ventures that can take years to permit and build.

The ocean energy bureau expressed confidence it could resolve the dispute. The agency “has a long working relationship” with the Defense Department “and together we have successfully deconflicted and identified areas that have resulted in 27 leases along the Atlantic coast, covering over 2.1 million acres,” it said in its statement. “We will continue this collaboration as we seek to identi-

“Offshore wind can enhance national security.”

JC Sandberg

American Clean Power Association



EMILY VELEZ/U.S. Coast Guard

The crew of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Lawrence Lawson poses for a photo near an offshore wind turbine during a 2020 search and rescue exercise approximately 26 miles off the coast of Virginia.

fy new lease areas in the central Atlantic.”

When asked for comment, JC Sandberg, the American Clean Power Association’s chief advocacy officer, said that the industry is “fully committed to national security” and coexisting with other ocean users.

“Leasing in the central Atlantic is critical to growing the offshore wind industry to meet state and federal clean energy goals,” and to sustaining supply chain investments in the region, Sandberg said. “The Department of Defense staff’s maps serve as a stark reminder that there’s work to do. We need a coordinated, all-of-government approach to offshore wind to ensure that the industry can grow while protecting national security interests at the same time.”

The maps have inspired a frenzy of calls and meetings as alarmed offshore wind advocates

ask top administration officials to referee the dispute and broker a compromise. Just last week, Maryland lawmakers passed legislation setting a state goal to derive 8.5 gigawatts of power from offshore wind by 2031 — but under the Pentagon’s vision, the state could struggle to find roughly half of that.

Already, most of Maryland’s congressional delegation had implored the Defense Department, Coast Guard and other government agencies to “maximize the acreage available for offshore wind development in the central Atlantic” and work to expand the potential areas for leasing.

Robust offshore wind leasing along the mid-Atlantic is seen as essential to filling a pipeline of projects that can support planned investments in manufacturing facilities in the region, including the planned Sparrows Point Steel fac-

tory near Baltimore.

Supporters argue the work is also critical to hitting the nation’s climate targets. Because of its massive scale and high generating capacity, offshore wind is viewed as a particularly important source of renewable power.

And now, offshore wind advocates are throwing the military’s own warnings back at the Pentagon. A shift to renewable power sources helps shrink U.S. reliance on volatile commodities for energy, thereby strengthening national security, they say. DOD and U.S. intelligence agencies also have cast climate change as a threat to American military assets and global security.

“Offshore wind can enhance national security,” Sandberg said, “by providing a clean and affordable source of energy protected from the whims of global commodity prices.”

Sweden: Specific US units participating in Aurora 23 exercise not yet announced

FROM PAGE 1

units were taking part.

The drills come amid Sweden’s ongoing push to join NATO, which earlier this month welcomed neighboring Finland as the security pact’s 31st member.

The historic decision was brought on by last year’s Russian invasion of Ukraine, which prompted the Nordic countries to seek NATO membership.

Initially, Sweden and Finland aimed to join the alliance simultaneously, but opposition from Tur-

key scuttled Stockholm’s hopes for a speedy accession.

The process has stalled over Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s allegations that Sweden has given refuge to Kurdish militants whom Ankara wants extradited.

Still, NATO officials say they’re confident that the impasse will be resolved and that Sweden will soon join the alliance.

In the meantime, Aurora 23 reinforces the close partnership between Sweden and allied militaries even as full NATO member-

ship remains elusive. The drills will be carried out on large swaths of Swedish territory until May 11, the Swedish military statement said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

US approves F-16 upgrade after Turkey eases stand on NATO expansion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. agreed Monday to sell Turkey \$259 million in software it has long sought to upgrade its fleet of U.S. F-16 fighter jets. State Department approval of the sale comes about two weeks after Turkey dropped its objections to Finland joining NA-

TO.

Turkey continues to withhold its approval for Sweden to join the military alliance. NATO requires unanimous approval to admit new members.

Turkey also still wants to buy 40 new F-16s from the U.S., but some in Congress oppose the sale until

Turkey approves NATO membership for both Nordic countries.

Turkey fell out of grace with the U.S. on high-tech military aircraft purchases after it decided in 2017 to acquire Russian air-defense missiles.

Turkey was kicked out of a U.S. program to develop the next-gen-

eration F-35 fighter plane and Turkish defense officials were sanctioned. The U.S. said the Russian missiles posed a threat to the F-35 and strongly objected to their use within the NATO alliance. Turkey sees the F-16s as an interim option to build up its air capability.

Monday’s approval of the soft-

ware sale will let Turkey update the avionics of its existing F-16 fleet. The State Department said the upgrade includes improvements in communications and security programs like the ground avoidance system. It called it an “interoperability and basic safety-of-flight issue” for Turkey and its allies.

MILITARY

‘The best of the best of our soldiers’

75th Ranger Regiment earns third straight Best Ranger title in three-day competition

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

COLUMBUS, Ga. — One after another, pairs of highly trained soldiers zip-lined across the Chattahoochee River from the downtown riverwalk of the western Georgia city into neighboring Alabama where they climbed into bright yellow kayaks and paddled down the waterway.

Onlookers marveled as the teams of soldiers — all graduates of the Army’s grueling Ranger School at nearby Fort Benning — ran along the brick-lined riverwalk Saturday and shot across the 1,200-foot line, marking the approximate halfway point of the Army’s 39th Annual Lt. Gen. David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition.

After the end of three nearly non-stop days of events that included live-fire exercises, obstacle courses, lengthy runs, CrossFit-style workouts, a nighttime land navigation and fast-rope jumps out of helicopters, a team from the Army’s elite 75th Ranger Regiment claimed the title Best Ranger — marking the special operations unit’s third consecutive victory in the competition.

“They’re truly the top 1% of 1% of our Army that epitomizes a more elite soldier who can do things with their hands, their minds, their

weapons and their spirit that our adversaries cannot,” Col. Chris Hammonds, commander of Fort Benning’s Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade, which hosts the competition, said of the top finishers Capt. Luke Ebeling and Spc. Justin Rein.

The Best Ranger Competition is meant to pit the Army’s top performing soldiers against each other and challenge them on various tasks troops could be faced with in the line of duty, while punishing their bodies with brutal workloads, Hammonds said. The teams operate on little sleep and food as they conduct operations during the day and overnight. This year, the competition began with 56 pairs that were cut down to 16 finishers over the course of the event.

“It tests everything. It’s what you can do with your mind, your hands and your weapons better than the others,” Hammonds said. “That’s the theme of the competition — what we’re really trying to test.”

On Saturday, as the competition shifted off the enclosed Fort Benning installation and into the public’s view at A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium and along the riverwalk in downtown Columbus, competitors initially faced a grueling workout. Teams peddled on an exercise bike, threw 60-pound sand-



PHOTOS BY COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Army Capt. Luke Ebeling crawls under razor wire during the second day of the Best Ranger Competition, Saturday, at A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium in Columbus, Ga. Ebeling and his teammate Spc. Justin Rein, both from the 75th Ranger Regiment, went on to win the 39th annual competition.

bags over a 6-foot wall, pushed a 185-pound sled and then moved a casualty dummy over a wall, through a tunnel and under razor wire. Later, the teams evacuated another dummy onto a helicopter, set up an 81mm mortar tube, threw axes and used saws and welding equipment to breach obstacles. That all came before the mile-plus run to the zip line.

Sgt. Maj. Thomas Payne said the competitors were likely already struggling by that point, especially on a hot, humid Georgia day. Payne, an Army special operator who won the Best Ranger Competition in 2012, said he was amazed by some of the competitors he watched during the event.

“It’s truly inspiring to come out and watch these competitors,” said Payne, who was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2020 for his actions during a 2015 hostage rescue operation against Islamic State militants in Iraq. “These guys are all amazing athletes, high-quality guys. Some of these guys, I’d say, could have made the Olympics, but then they have a passion to serve something greater than themselves, so here they are all volunteering for this competition.”

Payne, who competed in Best Ranger three times, said the daytime portions of the competition are grueling, but the nighttime challenges — a long march on the



Soldiers competing in the Army’s Best Ranger Competition kayak on the Chattahoochee River near downtown Columbus on Saturday.

first night and a land navigation course the second night — are what separate the top finishers from the pack.

“You can’t really win it during those two pieces, but you can definitely lose the competition on those two events,” he said.

The 2023 winners, Ebeling and Rein, took a lead in the competition on the first day, and held it through most the event. Teams from Fort Benning’s Maneuver Center of Excellence and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, from Vilseck, Germany, earned second and third place, respectively.

Hammond and other Fort Benning officials said holding Satur-

day’s events in a public setting in Columbus for the first time was meant to expose the local community to what soldiers do behind the Army post’s closed gates.

“It was an opportunity for us to give back to a community that’s felt like right next door to us all this time,” the colonel said. “It’s giving them some access and exposure that they wouldn’t have otherwise to see the technical and tactical expertise of the soldiers that the Army has to offer — and in this case, we’re talking about the best of the best of our soldiers.”

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC



Best Ranger Competition competitors Sgt. Maj. Eric Echavarria and Master Sgt. Charles Gonzalez from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command evacuate a casualty dummy during the second day of the competition at A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium in Columbus.



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EUROPE

Putin, Zelenskyy meet with, rally troops

BY ADAM PEMBLE
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin visited command posts of his forces fighting in Ukraine for the second time in two months, officials said Tuesday, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made his latest trip to positions near the front line.

The visits — on different days and in different provinces — sought to stiffen the resolve of soldiers as the war approaches its 14th month and as Kyiv readies a possible counteroffensive with Western-supplied weapons.

Kremlin video broadcast by Russian state television showed Putin arriving by helicopter at the command post of Russian forces in southern Ukraine's Kherson province and then flying to the headquarters of the Russian National Guard in Luhansk province, which is in the country's east. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the visits took place Monday.

Dressed in a dark suit, Putin attended briefings with his military brass in both of his stops. The locations of the military headquarters weren't disclosed, making it impossible to assess how close they were to the front line. Nor was it possible to independently verify the authenticity of the video.

On Tuesday, Zelenskyy made his latest trip to visit units in Avdiivka, an eastern city in Donetsk province where fierce battles are taking place, his office said. He heard first-hand reports about fighting and handed out awards.

Zelenskyy's visits to areas feel-



The Kremlin says Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the command post of forces in Ukraine's Kherson province and the headquarters of the Russian National Guard in Luhansk province Monday.

AP

ing the brunt of Russia's full-scale invasion gathered pace last month as he shuttled across the country, often by train. As with Putin, the Ukrainian's wartime trips usually aren't publicized until after he's already left an area.

While official coverage of Putin's trip showed him in mostly formal and ceremonious settings, photographs issued by Zelenskyy's office showed the Ukrainian president taking selfies with soldiers, eating cake with them and drinking out of paper cups.

Russia's war in Ukraine has become largely deadlocked amid heavy fighting in the east, particularly around the Donetsk province city of Bakhmut, which for 8½ months has seen the longest and bloodiest battle so far.

Kherson, Luhansk, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia provinces were annexed illegally by Russia in September, following local referendums that Ukraine and the West denounced as shams. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak was scathing in his criticism of Putin's trip, accusing him of "degradation" and being the author of "mass murders" in the war.

Both then and now, large parts of Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, as well as some areas of Luhansk province, have remained under Ukrainian control. In November, Russian forces ceded territory in Kherson province, including the region's namesake capital.

The senior officers present at

the meetings reflected which ones were currently in favor with Putin. Col. Gen. Mikhail Teplinsky, the chief of Russia's airborne troops, was among the top generals at the Kherson base.

Teplinsky, a career officer who rose from lieutenant to become chief of the elite military branch, is known for being popular with his troops. Last fall, however, he was temporarily relieved of his position amid a spat with the military brass. He was restored to the job this year, and his meeting with Putin indicated he was back in favor.

A senior officer who greeted Putin in the Luhansk region, Col. Gen. Alexander Lapin, also was relieved of his duties as commanding officer in northeastern

Ukraine after he was blamed for a hasty Russian pullback from parts of Kharkiv province in the face of a Ukrainian counteroffensive in September. Lapin was later named as chief of staff of the ground forces, and his meeting with Putin signaled he had the president's trust.

Putin's trips came as Ukraine is preparing a new counteroffensive to reclaim occupied territories. Last month, he visited the Russian-held port of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov. The city was captured by Russian troops in May 2022 after two months of fierce fighting.

Ukrainian officials have said they're depleting Russian forces in eastern Ukraine while preparing for a counteroffensive. Zelenskyy has argued that if Russia seizes Bakhmut, it could allow Putin to begin building international support for a deal requiring Ukraine to make compromises to end the war.

Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, told The Associated Press that Ukraine's allies were helping the government assemble the materiel needed for a counteroffensive, including heavy armored vehicles and ammunition.

Meanwhile, at least three civilians were killed and 11 wounded in Ukraine between Monday and Tuesday, according to Zelenskyy's office.

Most of the casualties occurred in the Donbas, the eastern region made up of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, the office said. Six people were wounded in artillery fire in the city of Kherson.

US reporter held by Russia on spying charges to stay in jail

Associated Press

A Russian judge ruled Tuesday that American journalist Evan Gershkovich must remain behind bars on espionage charges in a case that is part of a Kremlin crackdown on dissent and press freedom amid the war in Ukraine.

Gershkovich and the U.S. government vehemently deny the allegations.

The Wall Street Journal reporter is the first U.S. correspondent since the Cold War to be detained in Russia on spying allegations and his arrest rattled journalists in the country and elicited outrage in the West.

Dozens of journalists crowded into the courtroom to catch a glimpse of Gershkovich. Clad in pale-blue jeans and a plaid shirt, the 31-year-old reporter looked calm and even smiled at times as he stood inside a glass cage to appeal his detention.

Russian journalist Vasily Polon-



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich stands in a cage in a Moscow courtroom Tuesday.

sky posted a video online of Gershkovich nodding as Polonsky shouted at him: "Evan, hang in there. Everyone says hello!"

A judge with the Moscow City Court rejected the appeal, ruling

that Gershkovich must stay in jail until at least May 29.

Russia's Federal Security Service detained the reporter in Yekaterinburg in March and accused him of trying to obtain classified information about a Russian arms factory.

Gershkovich, his employer and the U.S. government deny he was involved in spying and have demanded his release.

"Evan is a member of the free press who right up until he was arrested was engaged in newsgathering. Any suggestions otherwise are false," the Journal has said in a statement.

Last week, the U.S. officially declared that Gershkovich was "wrongfully detained."

Gershkovich could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Russian lawyers have said past investigations into espionage cases took a year to 18 months, during which time he could have little contact

with the outside world.

He has been held in Moscow's Lefortovo prison, which dates from the czarist era and has been a terrifying symbol of repression since Soviet times.

"It's not a very nice place in general, but conditions are OK, he doesn't complain," the reporter's lawyer, Tatyana Nozhkina, said after the hearing on Tuesday.

She said Gershkovich was in good spirits, had no medical complaints and was exercising and reading a lot, including Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace."

"He said that in the morning he eats porridge and he wrote to his mother that it looks like his childhood," Nozhkina said.

The arrest comes amid bitter tensions between the West and Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine and as the Kremlin intensifies a crackdown on opposition activists, independent journalists and civil society groups.

The sweeping campaign of repression is unprecedented since the Soviet era. Activists say it often means the very profession of journalism is criminalized, along with the activities of ordinary Russians who oppose the war.

Last month, a Russian court convicted a father over social media posts critical of the war and sentenced him to two years in prison. On Monday, a Russian court convicted top opposition figure Vladimir Kara-Murza Jr. of treason for publicly denouncing the war and sentenced him to 25 years in prison.

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned U.S., U.K. and Canadian ambassadors over "crude interference in Russia's internal affairs" after they attended the verdict hearing in Kara-Murza's case on Monday.

The U.S. has pressed Moscow to grant consular access to Gershkovich.

NATION

2 arrested at secret Chinese outpost in NYC

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two men were arrested Monday on charges that they helped establish a secret police station in New York City on behalf of the Chinese government, and about three dozen officers with China's national police force were charged with using social media to harass dissidents inside the United States, authorities said Monday.

The cases are part of a series of Justice Department prosecutions in recent years aimed at disrupting Chinese government efforts to locate in America pro-democracy activists and others who are openly critical of Beijing's policies and to suppress their speech.

One of three cases announced Monday concerns a local branch of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security that had operated inside an office building in Manhattan's Chinatown neighborhood before closing last fall amid an FBI investigation. The two men who were arrested were acting under the direction and control of a Chinese government official and deleted communication with that official from their phones after learning of the FBI's probe in an apparent effort to obstruct the inquiry, according to the Justice Department.

Though China is believed to be operating secretive police out-

posts in countries around the globe, Justice Department officials said these arrests were the first of their kind anywhere in the world.

"This is a blatant violation of our national sovereignty," Michael Driscoll, the head of New York's FBI field office, said at a news conference announcing the cases.

The men, identified as "Harry" Lu Jianwang, 61, of the Bronx, and Chen Jinping, 59, of Manhattan, both U.S. citizens, were arrested at their homes on Monday morning. A lawyer for Lu declined to comment. An email message seeking comment was left with a lawyer for Chen.

At no point did the men register with the Justice Department as agents of a foreign government, U.S. law enforcement officials said. And though the secret police station did perform some basic services, such as helping Chinese citizens renew their Chinese driver's licenses, it also served a more "sinister" function, including helping the Chinese government locate a pro-democracy activist of Chinese descent living in California, officials said.

"New York City is home to New York's finest: the NYPD," said U.S.



Jianwang



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

A six story glass facade building, second from left, is believed to be the site of a foreign police outpost for China in New York's Chinatown, on Monday.

Attorney Breon Peace, the top federal prosecutor in Brooklyn, whose office brought the cases. "We don't need or want a secret police station in our great city."

Justice Department officials in recent years have prioritized prosecutions of what's known as "transnational repression," in which foreign governments work to identify, intimidate and silence dissidents in the U.S.

A signature case concerning China was announced in 2020, when the Justice Department charged more than a half-dozen people with working on behalf of the Chinese government in a pressure campaign aimed at coercing a New Jersey man wanted by Beijing into returning to China to face charges. In January, the Justice Department charged three men in an alleged plot that originated in Iran to kill an Iranian American

author and activist who has spoken out against human rights abuses there.

"In America, the law protects all of us equally from persecution, violence and threats of violence," said David Newman, a top official in the Justice Department's national security division.

"As authoritarian governments — whether the PRC, Russia, Iran, or others — become more brazen in their efforts to trample the rights and liberties that are the bedrock of our democracy, the Department of Justice will redouble its efforts to defend our democracy, our democratic institutions, and our sovereignty," Newman said, using an acronym for the People's Republic of China.

In a separate scheme announced Monday, the Justice Department charged 34 officers in the Ministry of Public Security

with creating and using thousands of fake social media accounts on Twitter and other platforms to harass dissidents abroad.

Prosecutors say the defendants, all part of a specialized task force that worked out of a police facility in Beijing, also used social media to spread Chinese government propaganda on subjects including racial justice protests in the U.S., Russia's war against Ukraine and human rights issues in Hong Kong. All of the defendants remain at large and are believed to be living in China.

In addition, prosecutors on Monday announced that eight Chinese government officials who are believed to be currently living in China were charged with directing an employee of a U.S. telecommunications company to remove Chinese dissidents from the company's platform.

Homeowner charged in front-door shooting of Black teen

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — An 84-year-old white man in Kansas City, Mo., was charged Monday with first-degree assault for shooting a Black teen who mistakenly went to the man's home to pick up his younger brothers.

Prosecuting Attorney Zachary Thompson said at a news conference that there was a "racial component" Thursday night when Andrew Lester twice shot 16-year-old Ralph Yarl, who is recovering at home after being released from the hospital. But nothing in the charging documents says the shooting was racially motivated, Thompson clarified.

"We understand how frustrating this has been but I can assure you the criminal justice system is working and will continue to



BEN CRUMP LAW/AP

Ralph Yarl, the teenager shot by a homeowner in Kansas City, Mo.

work," Thompson said.

The shooting outraged many in Kansas City and across the country. Civic and political leaders — including President Joe Biden — demanded justice. Some, including lawyers for Yarl, pressed the

racial dimension of the case.

Yarl, an honor student and all-state band member, was supposed to pick up his two younger brothers when he approached the wrong house at roughly 10 p.m. Lester came to the door and shot Yarl in the forehead — then shot him again, in the right forearm.

No words were exchanged before the shooting, the probable cause statement said. But afterward, as Yarl got up to run, he heard Lester yell, "Don't come around here," the statement said.

Yarl ran to "multiple" homes asking for help before finding someone who would call the police, the statement said.

Rev. Vernon Howard, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City, called the shooting a "hei-

nous and hate-filled crime." Vice President Kamala Harris wrote on Twitter that "No child should ever live in fear of being shot for ringing the wrong doorbell." The Missouri Senate held a moment of silence for Yarl on Monday.

The civil rights attorneys for Yarl's family, Ben Crump and Lee Merritt, said in a statement that Biden called Yarl's family and offered "prayers for Ralph's health and for justice."

"Gun violence against unarmed Black individuals must stop," the lawyers' statement read. "Our children should feel safe, not as though they are being hunted."

Yarl's supporters plan to hold a rally Tuesday evening in Kansas City.

The assault charge carries a penalty of up to life in prison. Les-

ter also was charged with armed criminal action, which has a penalty range of three to 15 years. Lester was not charged with a hate crime. Thompson said Missouri's statute is considered a lesser felony than first-degree assault, and carries a less severe penalty.

Missouri is among roughly 30 states with "Stand Your Ground" laws, which allow for the use of deadly force in self-defense, but the prosecutor determined the shooting was not in self defense.

Lester told police he lives alone and had just gone to bed when he heard his doorbell, according to the probable cause statement. He said he picked up his gun and went to the door, where he saw a Black male pulling on the exterior storm door handle and thought someone was breaking in.

NATION

McCarthy vows to pass debt bill, but with a big 'if'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy pledged on Monday to pass legislation to raise the nation's debt ceiling — but only on condition of capping future federal spending increases at 1% — as he lashed out at President Joe Biden for refusing to engage in budget-cutting negotiations to prevent a debt crisis.

In a high-profile speech at the New York Stock Exchange, McCarthy, the Republican leader who was marking his 100th day as speaker, said the nation's debt load is a "ticking time bomb" and Biden is "missing in action" as the deadline nears to raise the debt limit.

"Since the president continues to hide, House Republicans will take action," McCarthy said.

The White House hit back quickly, accusing McCarthy of "dangerous economic hostage taking." And administration officials repped Biden's pressure on the Republican leader to approve a debt ceiling increase with no strings attached.

McCarthy's Wall Street address came with Washington heading toward a potential fiscal crisis over the need to raise the nation's debt limit, now at \$31 trillion, and avert a federal default. The Treasury Department has said it is taking "extraordinary measures" to continue paying its bills, but money will run short this summer.

While vowing that "defaulting on our debt is not an option," McCarthy faces his own challenges pushing a legislative fix to passage.

With his slim majority and less-than-strong grip on power, he has been unable to rally his Republican troops around a budget-cutting proposal that he could offer the White House as a starting point in negotiations. The outline of conditions he proposed Monday is considered dead on arrival in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Instead, McCarthy is seeking to shift blame for the standoff and draw the White House back into talks. "The longer President Biden waits to be sensible to find an agreement, the more likely it becomes that this administration will stumble into the first default in our nation's history," he said.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Andrew Bates called McCarthy's conditions a "MAGA wish list that will increase costs for hard-working families," a reference to former President Donald Trump's Make America Great Again slogan.

"A speech isn't a plan, but it did showcase House Republicans' priorities," said Bates.

And Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said it's McCarthy who "continues to bumble our country toward a catastrophic default."

Federal court throws out Calif. ban on natural gas

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — A federal appeals court on Monday overturned Berkeley, Calif.'s first-in-the-nation ban on natural gas in new construction, agreeing with restaurant owners who argued the city bypassed federal energy regulations when it approved the ordinance.

The measure, which took effect in 2020 to cheers from environmentalists, was intended to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses that contribute to global warming.

With some exceptions, it banned new residential and commercial buildings from installing natural gas piping in favor of electrical lines.

A lawsuit by the California Restaurant Association claimed the

regulation violated federal law that gives the U.S. government authority to set energy-efficiency standards for appliances such as stoves, furnaces and water heaters.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco rejected a lower court judge's decision two years ago that had upheld the Berkeley ordinance. In her 2021 decision, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers said the city was not trying to regulate energy efficiency for appliances, only the fuel they used.

But Judge Patrick Bumatar wrote in the 3-0 Ninth Circuit ruling that a local ordinance that bans appliances such as gas stoves "impacts the quantity of energy" they consume, which is regulated by the federal government.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Survivors and descendants of Palm Springs Section 14 residents gather at the United Methodist Church in Palm Springs, Calif., on Sunday.

Families displaced from Calif. neighborhood seek \$2 billion

AP/Report for America

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — As a child, Lawrance W. McFarland lived on a small piece of land on a Native American reservation in Palm Springs he described as a "little world of its own," surrounded by the parts of the city that were tourist magnets and depicted in movies. The retiree, who now lives in Mississippi, recently recalled seeing houses of the diverse, tight-knit community being torn and burned down in the square-mile area known as Section 14.

"We thought they were just cleaning up some of the old houses," he said.

But eventually his family was told to vacate their home, and McFarland, his mother and his younger brother hopped around from house to house before leaving the area altogether and moving to Cabazon, a small town about 15 miles west of Palm Springs.

Decades later, Palm Springs'

city council is reckoning with those actions, voting in 2021 to issue a formal apology to former residents for the city's role in displacing them in the 1960s from the neighborhood that many Black and Mexican American families called home. But the former residents say that is not enough.

Those former residents now say the city owes them more than \$2.3 billion for the harm caused by their displacement. That would be nearly \$1.2 million per family. The dollar amount was disclosed Sunday at a meeting attended by experts such as Cheryl Grills, a member of the state's reparations task force studying redress proposals for African Americans.

The effort in Palm Springs is part of a growing push by Black families to seek compensation and other forms of restitution from local and state governments for harms they've suffered due to generations of discriminatory pol-

icies that continued long after slavery ended.

California's statewide reparations task force is evaluating how the state can atone for policies like eminent domain that allowed governments to seize property from Black homeowners and redlining that restricted what neighborhoods Black families could live in. Last year, Los Angeles County officials voted to complete the return of land in Manhattan Beach to a Black family descended from property owners who had it seized by the city through eminent domain in the 1920s. The family decided to sell the property back to the county for \$20 million.

Palm Springs officials expect to work with a "reparations consultant" to decide whether and how to compensate the displaced families, said Amy Blaisdell, a spokesperson for the city, in an email. The council may take this up for a vote later this month.

Biden inks order to improve child care access

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has signed an executive order containing more than 50 directives to increase access to child care and improve the work life of caregivers, the White House said Tuesday.

But the directives would be funded out of existing commitments, likely meaning their impact would carry more of a symbolic weight compared with the Democratic president's call in

2021 to provide more than \$425 billion to expand child care, improve its affordability and boost wages for caregivers, the White House said.

Biden also has called for more money for the care economy in his 2024 budget plan, drawing a sharp line with Republicans, who are seeking limits on spending.

Susan Rice, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, told reporters that the order shows that Biden isn't waiting

on Congress to act.

The order seeks to improve the child care provided to the offspring of federal workers, including military families. It plans to lower costs for families that are part of the Child Care & Development Block Grant program.

Military veterans would get better home-based care.

And the Department of Health and Human Services would raise pay and benefits for teachers and staff in the Head Start program.

NATION

A town's recipe for debate

Pastry artwork pits bakery against officials in free speech suit

By KATHY MCCORMACK AND
ROBERT F. BUKATY
Associated Press

CONWAY, N.H. — Bakery owner Sean Young was thrilled when high school art students covered the big blank wall over his doorway last spring with a painting of the sun shining over a mountain range made of sprinkle-covered chocolate and strawberry donuts, a blueberry muffin, a cinnamon roll and other pastries.

The display got rave reviews, and Young looked forward to collaborating with the school on more mural projects at his roadside bakery in Conway, N.H..

Then the town zoning board got involved, deciding that the pastry painting was not so much art as advertising, and so could not remain as is because of its size. Faced with modifying or removing the mural, or possibly dealing with fines and criminal charges, Young sued, saying the town is violating his freedom of speech rights.

The painting could stay right where it is if it showed actual mountains, instead of pastries suggesting mountains, or if the building wasn't a bakery.

"They said it would be art elsewhere," Young told The Associated Press in an interview. "It's just not art here."

"The town should not have the right to police art," he said.

The controversy has residents of this town of 10,000 grappling with big questions about creativity and liberty as it tries to preserve its rural character. Like other White Mountain communities that draw skiers, nature lovers and shoppers, Conway is under development pressure, making the sign dispute fraught with worries that any concession to commerce could change what they hold dear.

Many — including the zoning board members — applauded the students' colorful work, but said rules must be followed, even if they're old and outdated. At about 90 square feet, the mural is four times bigger than the sign code allows.

Following a longstanding democratic tradition of New England town meetings, residents deliberated how to define a sign before ultimately voting down changes last week. The local newspaper said the proposed wording wasn't clear. Ultimately, a judge may have to resolve what remains an open debate in town.

"Those kids put their heart in it," retiree Steve Downing said. He thinks the painting should stay.

"Everyone has to comply with the ordinance," said Charlie Birch, a former U.S. Forest Ser-



PHOTOS BY ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

A customer holds the door for a family arriving at Leavitt's Country Bakery on Thursday in Conway, N.H. The large painting of pastries created by students and displayed over the bakery is at the center of a legal battle pitting a zoning ordinance against freedom-of-speech rights.

vice worker. "And even though it was done by the students, which was well done, and I give them a lot of credit for it ... if you have the ordinance, 'One for all,' that's where we are. You can't really make any exceptions, otherwise everybody else will want the exception."

Art teacher Olivia Benish, who worked with three students on the project, apologized to the board in September for not doing "due diligence" to make sure the mural would comply. She didn't respond to requests for an interview. But she told the board members that there has to be a way to give students the opportunity to create positive public works of art "without upsetting the law and the powers that be," according to the town minutes.

The lawsuit Young filed in January argues that the town is unconstitutionally discriminating against him. He asked a judge to prevent the town from enforcing its sign code.

And now other businesses have been drawn into the controversy.

Long before the pastry painting was installed, the town had allowed other murals at a local shopping center, but in December the town found that three of those artworks are, indeed, signs that violate size limits. They go before the zoning board on Wednesday.

Young, who is being represented by the Virginia-based Institute for Justice, asked for \$1 in damages. Meanwhile, he's selling T-shirts as a high school art department fundraiser, saying "This is Art" with the artwork on the front, and "This is a Sign" of a roadside "Leavitt's Country Bakery" sign on the back.

"As Conway officials have con-



Owner Sean Young poses at Leavitt's Country Bakery.

firmed, the town does not consider a painting to be a "sign" if it does not convey what town officials perceive to be a commercial message," the lawsuit says. "But the town's perception is that any mural depicting anything related to a business is a 'sign.' This is governmental discrimination based on the content of the speech" and the speaker's identity, it said.

The lawsuit says the town's sign definition is "incredibly broad," with no mention of murals in the code: A sign in Conway is "any device, fixture, placard, structure or attachment thereto that uses color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, or writing to advertise, announce the purpose of, or identify the purpose of any person or entity, or to communicate information of any kind to the public, whether commercial or noncommercial."

Board member Luigi Bartolomeo said he thinks the pastry painting is art, not advertising. He read the definition out loud at the

said he agrees with a local attorney who called it "unconstitutionally vague."

"I think it's a very badly written piece of code here," said Bartolomeo, who recently retired. But Board Chairperson John Colbath said the board has to work with the ordinance, which was approved by voters, and that there is a process to change that.

"If they had done a seasonal mural on the wall — covered bridges and sunflowers and what have you — and it did not represent what your business is in, then it would be more likely to be a well-respected piece of art and not construed as a sign," Colbath said at the August meeting.

He said to Young, "I understand the art thing — and you look and you see a mountain — but the general public sees donuts on the front of the bakery."

"I think most of the people said it's art," Young responded.

In its denial of Young's appeals, the board concluded that the bakery won't be negatively affected without the display.

"This supposed distinction between murals and signs shouldn't matter," attorney Betsy Sanz of the Institute said in a news release. "After all, nothing in the First Amendment distinguishes between art and commercial signs — or commercial speech of any kind."

The town and Young agreed in February to pause court proceedings — and any potential fines or charges — pending a vote on a revised definition that would allow the painting to stay. But it failed in last week's elections, with 805 to 750 voting against it, according to the town clerk's office. The judge now wants to hear from both sides by May 10.

LA mayor: \$1.3B needed for homeless

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Democratic Mayor Karen Bass, who was elected in November after promising to take on the city's out-of-control homeless crisis, announced Monday she would recommend spending what she called a record \$1.3 billion next year to get unhoused people into shelter and treatment programs.

The funding to be included in the mayor's upcoming budget could be used in part to buy hotels or motels that would be converted to housing, while the city combs through its inventory of properties for those that could be used for sheltering homeless people.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, meanwhile, has promised to deliver 500 units of temporary housing to the city, while the Biden administration has sent the city and county more than \$200 million for homeless programs, she added.

"After years of frustration ... we can see a clearer path to a new Los Angeles," Bass said, speaking inside the ornate City Council chambers.

And "we have finally dispelled the myth that people do not want to come inside. They do."

Musk plans 'TruthGPT' to counter 'bias'

Associated Press

Billionaire Twitter owner Elon Musk is again sounding warning bells on the dangers of artificial intelligence to humanity — and claiming that a popular chatbot has a liberal bias that he plans to counter with his own AI creation.

Musk told Fox News host Tucker Carlson in a segment aired Monday night that he plans to create an alternative to the popular AI chatbot ChatGPT that he is calling "TruthGPT," which will be a "maximum truth-seeking AI that tries to understand the nature of the universe."

The idea, Musk said, is that an AI that wants to understand humanity is less likely to destroy it.

Musk also said he's worried that ChatGPT "is being trained to be politically correct."

In the first of a two-part interview with Carlson, Musk also advocated for the regulation of artificial intelligence, saying he's a "big fan."

He called AI "more dangerous" than cars or rockets and said it has the potential to destroy humanity.

NATION

Jury seated, will hear case about Fox's false election result claims

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — A jury was seated Tuesday to hear a voting machine company's \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News in a trial that will test First Amendment protections and expose the network's role in spreading the lie of a stolen 2020 presidential election.

Jury selection came a day after the judge granted a one-day delay that offered time to see if the two sides could work out a settlement.

Denver-based Dominion Voting Systems aims to hold Fox accountable for airing false allegations of election fraud that continue to roil U.S. politics.

Delaware Superior Court Judge Eric Davis gave no explanation for the brief delay.

But he suggested the companies try to mediate their dispute, according to a person close to Fox who was not authorized to speak publicly about the lawsuit's status and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The case will put under scrutiny the libel standard that has guided

U.S. media outlets for nearly six decades, reveal behind-the-scenes activity at Fox News in the weeks after the 2020 election and shed light on the flow of misinformation that turned into a tidal wave after the election, which then-President Donald Trump lost to Joe Biden.

Fox News stars such as Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity, as well as company founder Rupert Murdoch, are expected to testify during the six-week trial, but it's unclear whether any witnesses would be called Tuesday.

Dominion claims New York-based Fox News and its parent company, Fox Corp., essentially bulldozed the voting company's business and subjected employees to threats by falsely implicating it in a bogus conspiracy to rig the election against Trump.

In the weeks after Election Day, prominent Fox News hosts brought on Trump allies who falsely claimed that Dominion's machines were programmed to snatch votes away from the Republican incumbent and pad the

Democratic challenger's total.

Many of Fox's hosts and executives didn't believe the claims but allowed them to be aired nevertheless.

"Fox spread and endorsed one of the most damaging lies in this country's history," Dominion's lawyers wrote in a court filing.

Pointing to communications among Fox figures, from executives to fact-checkers, Dominion argues that the network knowingly amplified falsehoods for the sake of ratings.

Fox says it simply reported on Trump's challenges to the election results and let viewers hear from his lawyers and allies.

Fox said its hosts sometimes alluded to a need for evidence to back up the allegations and noted that Dominion denied the claims.

Federal and state election officials, exhaustive reviews in battleground states and Trump's own attorney general found no widespread fraud that could have changed the election outcome. Nor did they turn up any credible evidence that the vote was tainted.

Court hears mail carrier's religious tolerance case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is being asked to decide under what circumstances businesses must accommodate the needs of religious employees.

A case before the justices Tuesday involves a Christian mail carrier in rural Pennsylvania. He was told that as part of his job he'd need to start delivering Amazon.com packages on Sundays. He declined, saying his Sundays are for church and family. U.S. Postal Service officials initially tried to get substitutes for the man's shifts, but they couldn't always. When he didn't show, that meant more work for others. Ultimately, the man quit and sued for religious discrimination.

The case is the latest religious confrontation the high court has been asked to referee. In recent years, the court's 6-3 conservative majority has been particularly sensitive to the concerns of religious plaintiffs. That includes a ruling last year in which the court said a public high school football coach should be allowed to pray on the field after games.

A federal law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, requires

employers to accommodate employees' religious practices unless doing so would be an "undue hardship" for the business. But a Supreme Court case from 1977, *Trans World Airlines v. Hardison*, says employers can deny religious accommodations to employees when they impose "more than a de minimis cost" on the business.

The case currently before the court involves Gerald Groff, a former employee of the U.S. Postal Service in Pennsylvania's Amish Country. For years, Groff was a fill-in mail carrier who worked on days when other mail carriers were off. But when an Amazon.com contract with the Postal Service required carriers to start delivering packages on Sundays, Groff balked. Initially, to avoid the shifts, Groff transferred to a more rural post office not yet doing Sunday deliveries, but eventually that post office was required to do them too.

Whenever Groff was scheduled on a Sunday, another carrier had to work or his spot went unfilled. Officials said Groff's absences created a tense environment and contributed to morale problems.

Groff resigned in 2019.

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WORLD

Sudan army, rival soldiers agree to 24-hour cease-fire

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — The Sudanese army and rival forces they have been battling since the weekend agreed Tuesday to a temporary, 24-hour cease-fire, Arab media reports said.

The fighting since Saturday has plunged the Sudanese capital of Khartoum and other areas of the country into chaos. Millions of Sudanese in the capital and in other major cities have been hiding in their homes, caught in the crossfire as the two forces battle for control, with each general so far insisting he will crush the other.

Satellite channels Al-Arabiya and Al-Jazeera had reports citing the top military officer Shams El Din Kab-bashi as saying the military would comply with the cease-fire. Earlier,

CNN Arabic also said in a report, citing the head of the country's military, Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, that the military would be party to the day-long truce.

The development came a day after a U.S. Embassy convoy came under fire in Sudan and forces of the two rivals pounded each other for a fourth day with heavy weapons.

The attack on the convoy in Khartoum, along with an assault on the EU envoy's residence and the shelling of the Norwegian ambassador's home, signaled a further descent into chaos in the fighting.

The convoy of clearly marked U.S. Embassy vehicles was attacked Monday, and preliminary reports link the assailants to the Rapid Support Forces, the paramilitary group battling Sudan's military, U.S. Sec-



MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AP

This satellite image shows a destroyed Ukrainian airplane in Khartoum International Airport, Sudan, on Monday.

retary of State Antony Blinken told reporters. Everyone in the convoy was safe, he said.

Over 185 people have been killed and more than 1,800 were wounded since fighting began Saturday, according to U.N. figures, which didn't include a breakdown of civilians and combatants. The Sudan Doctors' Syndicate said Tuesday that at least 144 civilians were killed and over 1,400 were wounded.

UN: Leaving Afghanistan would be 'heartbreaking'

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations is ready to take the "heartbreaking" decision to pull out of Afghanistan in May if it can't persuade the Taliban to let local women work for the organization, the head of the U.N. Development Program said.

U.N. officials are negotiating with the Afghan government in the hope that it will make exceptions to an edict this month barring local women from working for the organization, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner told The Associated Press.

"It is fair to say that where we are right now is the entire United Nations system having to take a step back and reevaluating its ability to operate there," Steiner said. "But it's not about negotiating fundamental principles, human rights."

The Taliban have allowed Afghan women to engage in some work, Steiner said, and a U.N. report released Tuesday shows the country desperately needs more women working, with its economy flailing.

The Taliban takeover has been accompanied by some very modest signs of economic recovery. There has been some increase in exports, some exchange rate stabilization and less inflation. But gross domestic product, the sum of all goods and services produced within Afghanistan's borders, is expected to be outstripped by population growth, meaning that per capita income will decline from \$359 in 2022 to \$345 in 2024, the report says.

Some of those economic problems are due to Taliban policies keeping most women out of the workplace, Steiner said. Those economic problems mean more need in the country, but the U.N. has decided that human rights are non-negotiable and it will leave in May if the Taliban do not relent.

"I think there is no other way of putting it than heartbreaking," Steiner said. "I mean, if I were to imagine the U.N. family not being in Afghanistan today, I have before me these images of millions of young girls, young boys, fathers, mothers, who essentially will not have enough to eat."

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STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

Strange spiral appears amid northern lights

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Northern light enthusiasts got a surprise mixed in with the green bands of light dancing in the Alaska skies: A light baby blue spiral resembling a galaxy appeared amid the aurora for a few minutes.

The cause early Saturday morning was a little more mundane than an alien invasion or the appearance of a portal to the far reaches of the universe. It was simply excess fuel that had been released from a SpaceX rocket that launched from California about three hours before the spiral appeared.

Sometimes rockets have fuel that needs to be jettisoned, said space physicist Don Hampton, a research associate professor at

the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute.

“When they do that at high altitudes, that fuel turns into ice,” he said. “And if it happens to be in the sunlight, when you’re in the darkness on the ground, you can see it as a sort of big cloud, and sometimes it’s swirly.”

While not a common sight, Hampton said he’s seen such occurrences about three times.

The appearance of the swirl was caught in time-lapse on the Geophysical Institute’s all-sky camera and shared widely. “It created a bit of an Internet storm with that spiral,” Hampton said.

Photographers out for the northern lights show also posted their photos on social media.

The rocket took off from Vandenberg Space Force Base in Cali-



CHRISTOPHER HAYDEN/AP

A baby blue spiral resembling a galaxy appears amid the aurora for a few minutes in the Alaska skies near Fairbanks, on Saturday.

fornia Friday night with about 25 satellites as its payload.

It was a polar launch, which made it visible over a large swath of Alaska.

The timing of the fuel dump was timed correctly for visibility over Alaska. “And we got that really cool looking spiral thing,” he said.

While it looked like a galaxy going over Alaska, he assures it wasn’t.

“I can tell you it’s not a galaxy,” he said. “It’s just water vapor reflecting sunlight.”

In January, another spiral was seen, this time over Hawaii’s Big Island. A camera at the summit of

Mauna Kea, outside the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan’s Subaru telescope, captured a spiral swirling through the night sky.

Researchers have said it was from the launch of a military GPS satellite that lifted off earlier on a SpaceX rocket in Florida.

T. rex expected to get millions at Zurich auction

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

BERN, Switzerland — Interested investors may have to dig deep into their pockets to claim a giant Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton that was dug up from three sites in the United States and is going up for auction Tuesday in Switzerland.

The 293 T. rex bones were assembled into a growing posture that measures 38 feet long and 12.8 feet high. The skeleton is expected to fetch \$5.6-\$8.9 million when it goes under the hammer at a Zurich auction house.

Promoters say the composite T. rex, dubbed “Trinity,” was built from specimens retrieved from three sites in the Hell Creek and Lance Creek formations of Montana and Wyoming between 2008 and 2013.

Swiss auction house Koller said “original bone material” comprises more than half of the restored fossil. The auction house said the skull was particularly rare and also remarkably well-preserved.

“When dinosaurs died in the Jurassic or Cretaceous periods, they often lost their heads during deposition (of the remains into rocks.) In fact, most dinosaurs are found without their skulls,” Nils Knoetschke, a scientific adviser who was quoted in the auction catalog. “But here we have truly original Tyrannosaurus skull bones that all originate from the same specimen.”

T. rex roamed the Earth between 65 and 67 million years ago. A study published two years ago in the journal *Science* estimated that about 2.5 billion of the dinosaurs ever lived. Hollywood movies such as the blockbuster “Jurassic Park” franchise have added to



MICHAEL BUHOLZER, KEYSTONE/AP

A view of the skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex named Trinity, during a preview by auction house Koller at the Tonhalle Zurich concert hall, on March 29, in Zurich, Switzerland.

the public fascination with the carnivorous creature.

The two areas the bones for Trinity came from were also the source of other T. rex skeletons that were auctioned off, according to Koller: Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History bought “Sue” for \$8.4 million over a quarter-century ago, and “Stan” sold for nearly \$32 million three years ago.

The auction house said Tuesday’s sale, part of a wider sale of artifacts, marks the first time such a T. rex skeleton has gone up for auction in Europe.

Two years ago, a triceratops skeleton that the Guinness World Records declared as the world’s biggest, known as “Big John,” was sold for \$7.2 million to a private collector at a Paris auction.

SpaceX to try Starship launch again Thursday

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas — SpaceX on Monday called off its first attempt to launch Starship, the largest rocket ever built and one that NASA intends to use to land its astronauts on the moon.

The company said it would make another launch attempt on Thursday. It said the 62-minute launch window would open at 9:28 a.m. Eastern and close at 10:30 a.m.

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk said the scrub was called after a valve on the rocket’s first stage froze, leading to a pressurization issue. Despite the setback, Musk said that the company “learned a lot today” and that it would try again “in a few days.”

After the delay was announced, SpaceX used the time to practice loading the rocket and spacecraft with some 10 million pounds of very cold propellant in what’s known as a “wet dress rehearsal.” The liquid methane fuel is kept at minus-272 degrees Fahrenheit, making the loading process complicated.

On Sunday evening, Musk warned that the company would proceed very cautiously and that a postponement was highly likely.

“We’re going to be very careful, and if we see anything that gives us concern, we will postpone the launch,” he said during a talk on Twitter Spaces.

If the rocket gets “far enough away from the launchpad before something goes wrong, then I think I would consider that to be a success. Just don’t blow up the launchpad.”

Losing “the launchpad is really the thing we’re concerned about,” he said. “It will take us probably several months to rebuild the launchpad if we melt it.”

Standing at nearly 400 feet tall, the Super Heavy booster and Starship spacecraft would have more power than NASA’s Space Launch System, which also had to wave off its first launch attempt because of technical challenges.

SpaceX is hoping to get Starship flying so that it can deliver its next-generation Starlink satellites to orbit. The satellites beam internet signals to ground stations to provide connectivity in remote areas around the world.

NASA is also depending on Starship. In 2021, it awarded SpaceX a \$2.9 billion contract to use the vehicle to land its astronauts on the moon. It since has awarded SpaceX another contract, worth \$1.15 billion, for a second landing.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sheriff charged in alleged machine gun scheme

MD FREDERICK — A Maryland sheriff repeatedly lied to federal authorities to help a local firearms dealer illegally obtain machine guns and rent them out to his customers, forming a partnership that was profitable and politically beneficial, according to a federal grand jury indictment.

Frederick County Sheriff Charles “Chuck” Jenkins pleaded not guilty to several charges, including conspiracy and making false statements to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Federal law generally prohibits firearm dealers from importing machine guns unless they are being used as demonstration models for law enforcement agencies, which can legally purchase such weapons. But in order for dealers to use that exemption, the interested law enforcement agency must submit a letter to ATF requesting a sample of the machine gun they are considering purchasing.

According to the indictment, Jenkins wrote such letters on behalf of his co-defendant, Robert Krop, whose Frederick County business The Machine Gun Nest offered machine guns for rent.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

David's Bridal files for bankruptcy; orders safe

PA CONSHOKOCKEN — David's Bridal has filed for bankruptcy protection, the second time for the chain in the past five years.

The announcement arrives days after the company, one of the largest sellers of wedding gowns and formal wear, said it could eliminate more than 9,200 jobs across the United States.

David's Bridal is looking to sell the company, but its stores remain open and it's fulfilling orders without delay. Its online platforms also remain available to help people with their wedding planning needs.

Researchers find two of three 1914 shipwrecks

IL CHICAGO — Michigan researchers have found the wreckage of two ships that disappeared into Lake Superior in 1914 and hope the discovery will lead them to a third that sank at the same time, killing nearly 30 people aboard the trio of lumber-shipping vessels.

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society announced the discoveries after confirming details with other researchers.

The vessels owned by the Edward Hines Lumber Co. sank into the ice-cold lake on Nov. 18, 1914, when a storm swept through as they moved lumber from Baraga, Mich., to Tonawanda, N.Y. The steamship C.F. Curtis was towing the schooner barges Selden E. Marvin and Annie M. Peterson; all 28 people aboard were killed.

The society's team found the wreck of the Curtis during the sum-

Got your sight on something

A guest sights a rifle in the Sig Sauer display at the National Rifle Association's Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Indianapolis on Sunday.

mer of 2021 and the Marvin a year later within a few miles of the first discovery.

7 charged in 'pit crew' catalytic converter thefts

MA BOSTON — Seven men who authorities said worked with the speed and efficiency of a “NASCAR pit crew” to steal catalytic converters from nearly 500 vehicles in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, resulting in losses estimated at \$2 million, were arrested, federal prosecutors said.

The men frequently targeted as many as 10 vehicles per night, and on one night stole from 26 vehicles, Rachael Rollins, the U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts, said at a news conference.

The suspects worked like “a NASCAR pit crew” using “skill and speed” to jack up vehicles and cut out the catalytic converters, Rollins said.

Five of the men are from Springfield, Mass., one is from Holyoke, and the alleged ringleader, Rafael Davila, 35, is from Agawam, authorities said.

Teen's arrest by SWAT may have averted attack

ME SOUTH PORTLAND — A 16-year-old whose home was raided by a law enforcement tactical team is facing charges, and his arrest could have averted a

possible attack in the community, the police chief said.

Police Chief Dan Ahern said his agency was notified by a school resource officer at South Portland High School that a student had made threats to cause “serious harm” to individuals and groups and had access to guns. The FBI was also involved in the investigation, he said. Neighbors in the boy's quiet neighborhood were stunned by the arrival of the Southern Maine Regional SWAT Team with officers wearing tactical gear and armed with rifles.

The raid in which a number of rifles were seized “will stop any actions that he had planned,” Ahern said.

The boy's father was arrested for interfering with the arrest, police said.

The teenager could face charges including arson, criminal mischief and theft, but details about specific charges and threats were not released because of his age.

State charges itself with damaging protected land

NJ CLAYTON — New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection has charged itself with damaging habitat for threatened and endangered birds that it was supposed to protect.

The work was designed to create habitat for one species of bird, but wound up destroying habitat for two others.

The department acknowledged it

sent a violation notice and threatened penalties against its own Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding unauthorized work in February and March at the Glassboro Wildlife Management Area in Clayton, Gloucester County.

The work involved the clearing of vegetation and disturbance of soils on nearly 3 acres of what the state calls “exceptional resource value freshwater wetlands.” Before the work was done, this land was considered suitable habitat for the barred owl, which is listed as a threatened species, and the red-shouldered hawk, an endangered species.

On its website, the department wrote on Feb. 1 that the work sought to create 21 acres of habitat for the American woodcock, a member of the sandpiper family that uses its long, narrow beak to forage for earthworms in damp soil. But in doing so, the state destroyed mature oak and pine forests in and near wetlands, and filled in some wetlands, four conservation groups said in a letter to the department in early March complaining about the work.

Dawn Muslim call to prayer broadcast OK'd

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis will allow broadcasts of the Muslim call to prayer at all hours, becoming the first major U.S. city to allow the announcement or “adhan” to be heard over speakers five times a day, year-round.

The Minneapolis City Council unanimously agreed to amend the city's noise ordinance, which had prevented dawn and late evening calls at certain times of the year due to noise restrictions, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. The vote came during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

“The Constitution doesn't sleep at night,” said Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, after the vote. He said the action in Minneapolis shows the world that a “nation founded on freedom of religion makes good on its promise.”

Airport hall evacuated due to 'noxious odor'

TN NASHVILLE — Nashville International Airport reopened Concourse C after it was briefly evacuated due to the presence of a “noxious odor,” officials said.

The Metropolitan Nashville Fire Department conducted an air quality test and determined there were no contaminants, the statement said. The concourse was reopened about two hours later and officials said they would continue to monitor the situation.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a brief ground stop to facilitate resuming safe operations, the statement said.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
 John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
 Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander
 Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com

Ann Pinson, Digital Managing Editor
 pinson.ann@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 slavin.erik@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com
 +81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
 cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
 (+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager
 schultz.david@stripes.com
 xsscirculation@stripes.com
 +49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
 lewis.karen@stripes.com
 memberservices@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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Ernie Gates

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We've seen the Discord leaker's story before

By MOLLY ROBERTS

The Washington Post

So this time the leaker was neither an agent of an enemy abroad nor a high-minded idealist seeking to hold his government accountable from the inside. Instead, the person charged with sharing classified documents was a lonely 21-year-old showing off to the teenagers with whom he played video games on the Discord chat app.

You're probably thinking: What?! How did a social media service known for its niche and nerdy communities become the site of one of this year's biggest national security scandals? Yet this story isn't really so shocking. We've seen it before.

Jack Teixeira of the Massachusetts Air National Guard formed with his friends an invitation-only Discord clubhouse in 2020 — not so incidentally, the year COVID-19 forced much of the country into isolation. The server's eventual name, "Thug Shaker Central," is a racist and pornographic allusion. This was fitting for a collective of mostly men and boys fond of discussing military gear, playing first-person shooter games, telling offensive jokes and, reportedly, praising God.

The difference with Teixeira, self-cast in his role as the war-gaming corps' leader, was that he also allegedly enjoyed sharing U.S. government secrets.

The particulars of this case are new, but the basics are about as old as, well, the modern-day internet. Several weeks ago, some of the documents posted to Thug Shaker Central were shared to a public Discord server called "wow_mao," and some quickly spread to another server focused on the popular video game Minecraft. "Here, have some leaked documents," the user on the Minecraft server said. "Nice," another user replied. Some of the documents eventually landed on April 5 in a thread on 4chan's infamous Politically Incor-

rect (/pol/) message board.

Nice. The word, deployed in this way, captures the ethos of sites like these: casually dismissive of what any normie would consider a big deal of a file drop. Maybe the vast understatement is what's supposed to be amusing. Or maybe the user thinks that the documents themselves could be a gag. This is how many people who live much of their lives on the internet behave. Irony suffuses every interaction, to the point that it's nearly impossible to tell when something, or someone, is sincere.

In these meme-laced conversations, decodeable only to the initiated and even then always in doubt, everything is assumed to be a joke (such as the idea very popular on these forums ahead of the 2016 election that Donald Trump should be president). Why not let loose? The stakes don't seem that high in these little bubbles of like-minded individuals who have created a language no one in the outside world even really understands. This isn't real life, after all. It's only the internet.

The problem is that this attitude can allow things to go too far too fast. 4chan, where the documents eventually showed up, has for years been the place to be for disaffected young guys with vaguely reactionary sympathies. Think of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Yes, sure, "Stop the Steal" in time turned up on Facebook. But before these plans migrated to the mainstream, they thrived on Gab, and Parler, TheDonald.win and, yes, 4chan.

Or look further back to GamerGate, a years-long harassment campaign in which a cadre of angry web dwellers, under the pretext of fighting "unethical" games journalism, systematically threatened and doxed their feminist targets. The labyrinthine details aren't worth teasing out, but the point was this: A bunch of disaffected young guys huddled in the shadowy corners of the internet, doing what's com-

monly known as sh—posting, transformed into a mob as soon as someone identified at whom to shake their pitchforks.

Anything goes until it doesn't: wisecracks on 8chan about beating a mass shooter's "high score" by racking up a greater body count, until someone decides to go to an El Paso Walmart and actually kill people.

Now, to be fair to the Thug Shaker Central brigade, none of the members appear to have done anything violent—or, really, anything at all besides goggle at the clandestine goodies their pal was offering up. Yet the same nothing-matters mindset that undergirds many internet communities helps explain why a low-level airman only a few years out of college has been charged with blithely spilling the beans on the country's Russia-Ukraine strategy to a random collective of kids.

How could Teixeira explain that the "NO-FORN" stamped across the images he is accused of uploading meant they were considered too sensitive to be viewed by foreigners—aware all the while that many of his companions were themselves foreign? How could everyone else just shrug? How could they not worry about what would happen to troops on the ground, to the geopolitical order, to themselves as they witnessed so plain a violation of the law? It's simple, when a cardinal rule of the internet is that nothing is to be taken seriously.

The lines between the animated machine gunning and grenade throwing that the members of the Thug Shaker Central Discord revealed in and the disclosures of actual war that Teixeira allegedly took it upon himself to share were too blurry to see. Stuff had become, literally, too real—but it was hard, in an echo chamber cordoned off from reality, to notice. It probably felt a whole lot like a game.

Molly Roberts writes about technology and society for The Washington Post's Opinions section.

GOP won't win back the youth vote with a culture war

By DAVID A. HOPKINS

Bloomberg Opinion

Last week, the Missouri House of Representatives passed a budget that eliminated aid to local libraries amid a dispute over the constitutionality of a state ban on "explicit material" in public schools. Last month, legislators in Tennessee approved a law restricting drag performances on public property or anywhere minors might be present. Over the past few years, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has presided over a series of policies attempting to eradicate critical race theory and other ideas associated with the political left from school curriculums.

The controversies over these and similar measures don't merely demonstrate how acrimonious today's culture wars have become. They also reveal how much politics has become an intergenerational battle, with older traditionalists against younger progressives.

The idea of a yawning generation gap tends to evoke associations with the bygone 1960s. But Americans are actually much more politically divided by age today than they were when Bob Dylan was warning the nation's parents that "your sons and your daughters are beyond your command." In the 1968 presidential election, voters under the age of 30 preferred Democratic nominee Hubert Humphrey to Republican opponent Richard Nixon by 9 percentage points, according to Gallup, while voters aged 50 or more opted for Nixon

by 6 points.

Half a century later, according to survey data from the Pew Research Center, Joe Biden prevailed over Donald Trump by 24 points among voters under 30 and by 12 points among voters aged 30 to 49, even as Trump carried the over-50 vote by 5 points.

Young adults are not always liberal. Most voters under 35 supported Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush in the 1980s, and age differences in partisan preferences were fairly minor as late as the 2000 election.

But over the past two decades, the generations have increasingly separated themselves politically. Barack Obama was much more popular, and Trump much less popular, among younger voters than among their elders. Issues of race, gender and sexuality that divide voters along generational lines have become more central to the nation's political debates. And changing demographic trends have ensured that millennials and members of Generation Z are much less likely than the middle-aged or elderly to identify as white, attend church regularly, or live in a rural area.

Conservatives are well aware that many younger Americans disagree with them politically. Negative characterizations of young adults as naive radicals who don't understand the real world, or coddled "snowflakes" who demand special treatment, are common on conservative media platforms and circulate widely on Facebook, the older internet user's social network of choice. (This intergenera-

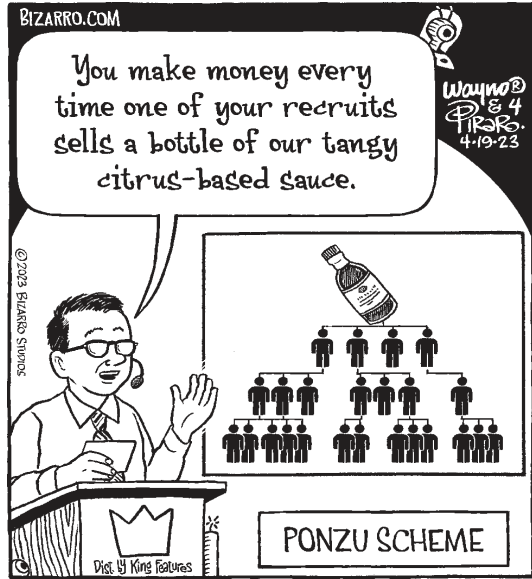
tional mockery can occasionally go both ways; some young liberals use "boomer" as an epithet and complain about the political "gerontocracy.") Many conservative leaders see younger generations' relative liberalism as the result of the pernicious influence of left-aligned public institutions and industries.

Framing today's politics as intergenerational warfare may provide Republicans with some short-term advantages. Appealing to older citizens can help win elections, as they are always the most reliable voters. The aging of the large baby boomer cohort also ensures that the median age of the national electorate will continue to increase.

But there are also risks to this approach. If Republicans could reduce the current Democratic advantage among rising generations before it further solidifies into a lifelong partisan attachment, it would pay electoral dividends for decades to come. It's hard to imagine that Republican leaders will achieve much success by treating young adults' political views with contempt or characterizing them as gullible victims of liberal brainwashing. Reversing the leftward drift of the young will probably require much more than removing some books—or drag queens—from the nation's schools and libraries.

David A. Hopkins is an associate professor of political science at Boston College and the author of "Red Fighting Blue: How Geography and Electoral Rules Polarize American Politics." This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

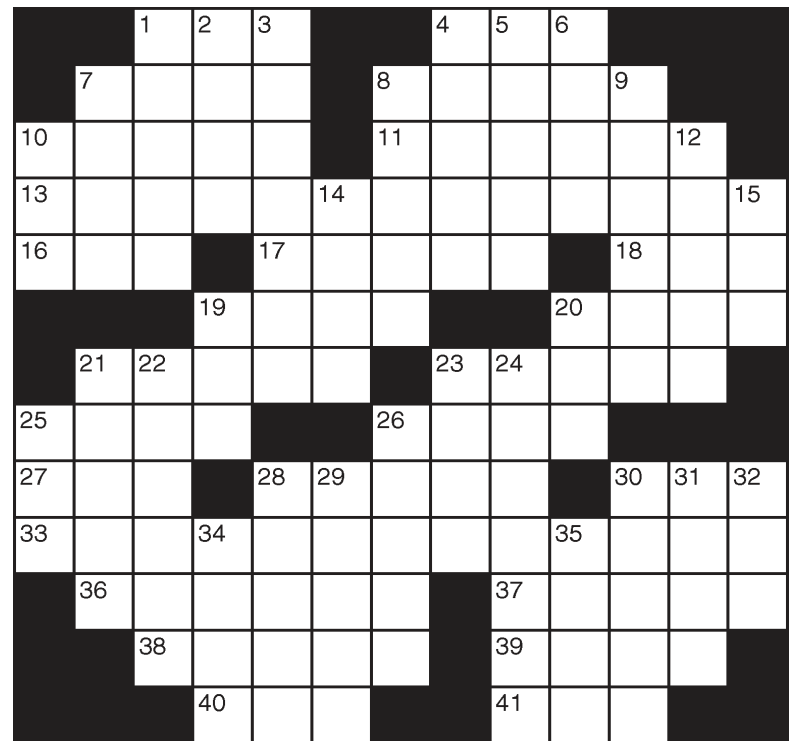
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



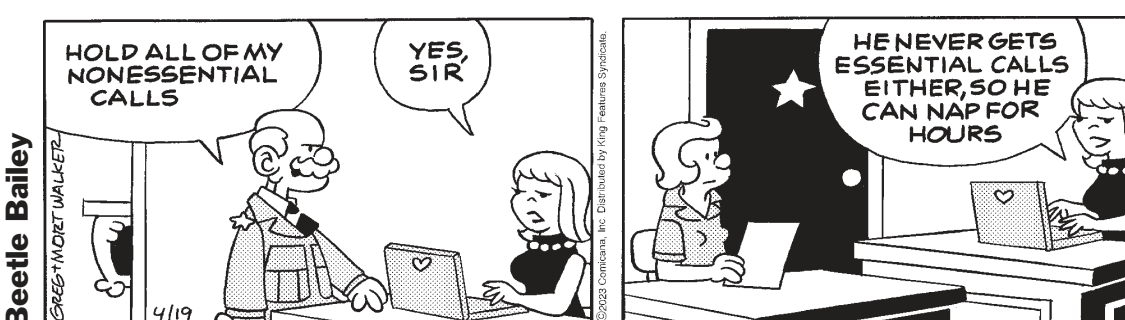
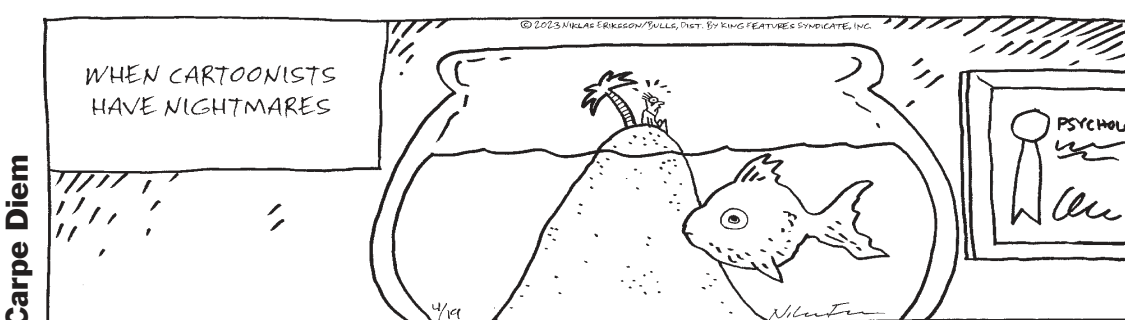
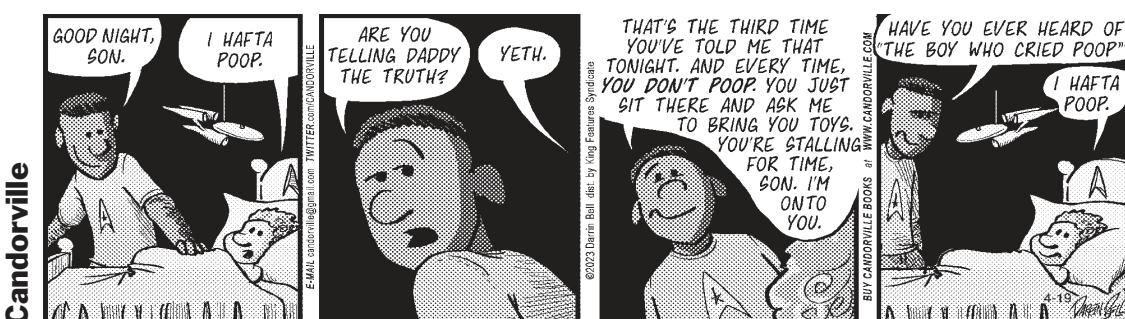
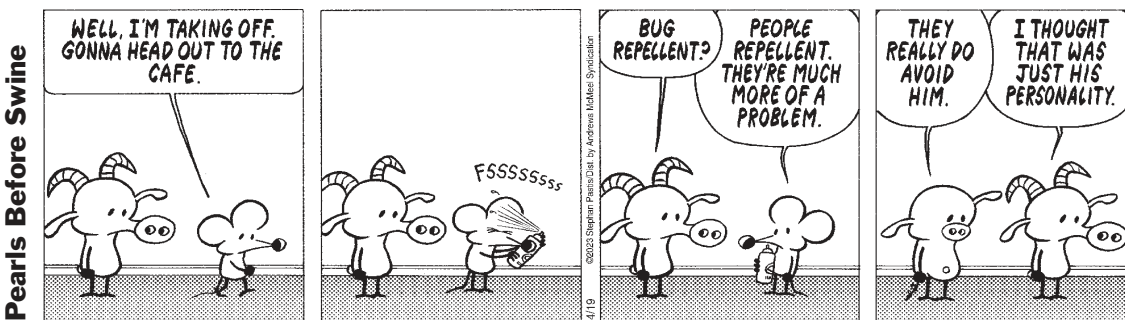
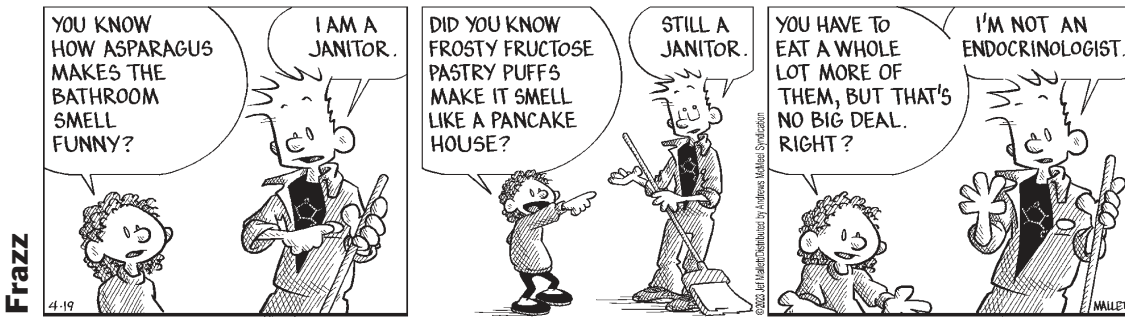
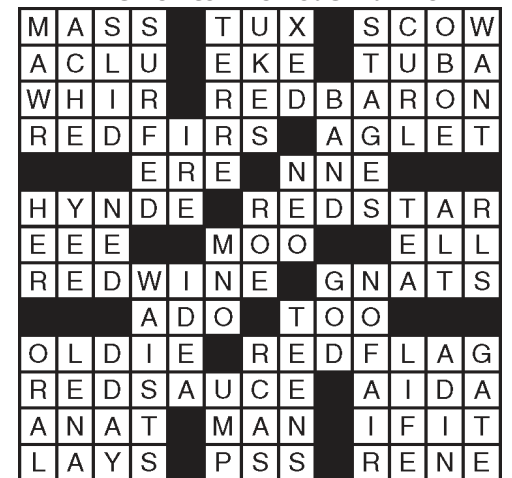
ACROSS

- 1 Rock concert booster
- 4 Nourished
- 7 Israeli carrier
- 8 Attorney's load
- 10 Musical set in Argentina
- 11 Supermarket sections
- 13 Sounds that follow close calls
- 16 Corral
- 17 Nursery items
- 18 Resort
- 19 Pleads
- 20 During
- 21 Loan shark's crime
- 23 — nova
- 25 Small bills
- 26 Pan covers
- 27 Scooted
- 28 Enlighten
- 30 Buckeyes' sch. landmark
- 33 Venice
- 36 "The Bucket List" actor Freeman
- 37 Tender spots
- 38 Film spools

DOWN

- 15 Passing craze
- 19 Clear the tables
- 20 Donkey
- 21 Render defenseless
- 22 Soon-to-be grad son
- 23 Willy Loman's
- 24 Homeric work
- 25 Sphere
- 26 Pride members
- 28 Urged (on)
- 29 Bargains
- 30 Shrek and others
- 31 "— a Lady"
- 32 Enterprise letters
- 34 Sketched
- 35 "— you an apology"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



4-19

CRYPTOQUIP

OW LVODFVC ZVQDFY FQCZAQVL
 OE EHVZGFVE CAFLE, ZGFK
 IHPYL FDFEZIPQYYK VFQIG ZGF
 WOEEOCG YOEF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN MY CUSTOMERS COME TO KNOW WHAT A TRULY BAD ELECTRICIAN I AM, THEY'LL BE SHOCKED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals E

FACES

Michelle Yeoh seeks new challenges after Oscar win

Associated Press

Michelle Yeoh says she is looking for new challenges, including as a producer, as she credited perseverance, hard work and passion for her historic Oscar win last month.

Yeoh, 60, became the first Asian to win the Oscar for best actress for her performance as a laundromat owner in "Everything Everywhere All at Once." The movie won seven awards, including best picture.

Returning to her native Malaysia to celebrate her mother's birthday, Yeoh said she felt a sense of relief after clinching the Academy Award.

"It was a roller coaster ride that started last year when the movie first came out. It was a whole year of not knowing, wanting, hoping, wishing," she said during a news conference Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur.

"During the journey, everyone was asking, 'Do you want the Oscar?' I said, hell, yes, of course I want the Oscar. Who doesn't? I am not going to beat around the bush and say no because it represents so much to so many of us."

Yeoh reiterated that her Oscar victory was a "beacon of hope" for Asian women.

"It shows us it can be done and all of you can do it," she said.

Yeoh, who started her career in Hong Kong, said she was blessed to have been able to work on diverse movies and with "forward thinking filmmakers to fight for what I truly believe in — representation, diversity, especially empowerment of women." She said she refuses to be boxed into stereotypical roles but believes in pushing the envelope in her career.

While she has no interest in directing, she said she may branch out again as a producer.

"Directors have no life. I love my life too much," she said in jest. "I love producing. I have produced before and now I can start to do so again ... now I am able to branch out more because people have started to listen, and appreciate what you can bring forward. As an actor, I love what I can do. I am so lucky to be able to say it's not a job, it's really a passion."

"I am always looking for a challenge," Yeoh said. "I believe there is so much to do in our part of the world. All of us collectively. Don't isolate yourself. Don't feel that I must always tell my story. We are collaborators, we are storytellers. Let's work together and do great things."



VINCENT THIAN/AP

Michelle Yeoh reiterated during a news conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Tuesday that her Academy Award win for best actress was a "beacon of hope" for Asian women.

Soundgarden, Cornell's widow settle lawsuit

The widow of singer Chris Cornell and his former Soundgarden bandmates said Monday that they have resolved her lawsuit against them, clearing the way for the release of the band's final recordings more than five years after his death.

Vicky Cornell sued Soundgarden in federal court in 2019 over royalties from recordings her husband had made that she said were intended to be a solo project but the band contended were part of their partnership with him.

"Soundgarden and Vicky Cornell, on behalf of the Estate of Chris Cornell, are happy to announce they have reached an amicable out of court resolution," the two sides said in a statement. "The reconciliation marks a new partnership between the two parties, which will allow Soundgarden fans around the world to hear the final songs that the band and Chris were working on."

No details of the agreement were released, and no court documents declaring that a deal had been reached have been filed in court. An email seeking details from Soundgarden's lawyers was not immediately returned.

Chris Cornell made the seven disputed recordings in his Miami Beach home studio in the months before his death in May 2017 after a Soundgarden concert in Detroit, according to the lawsuit, whose defendants included the band's guitarist Kim Thayil, drummer



AP

Chris Cornell, shown in 2013, committed suicide after a 2017 Soundgarden show in Detroit.

Matt Cameron and bassist Ben Shepherd.

In 2021, Cornell's family settled a different lawsuit against a doctor they alleged over-prescribed him drugs before his death, which was ruled a suicide.

Soundgarden was founded in 1984, and broke nationally during the rise of Seattle's grunge music scene in the late '80s and early '90s. Their best-known songs include "Black Hole Sun," "Jesus Christ Pose," "Outshined" and "Spoonman." Cornell was also part of the bands Audioslave and Temple of the Dog.

Other news

■ Ahmad Jamal, whose taut, spare and rhythmically supple approach to jazz piano influenced generations of other musicians, died April 16 at 92. His wife, Laura Hess-Hey, confirmed the death but did not provide further information. The most prominent contemporary to embrace Jamal as a stylistic influence was trumpeter Miles Davis.

From wire reports

New this week: 'Ghosted,' 'Mrs. Davis'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ In her young, flourishing career, Ana de Armas has already made three films with Chris Evans. Following "Knives Out" and "The Gray Man" — both of which positioned them as foes, either in family squabbles or assassin melees — they're more closely aligned in "Ghosted." In the Apple TV+ release, premiering Friday, "Rocketman" director Dexter Fletcher pairs them in a film that fuses rom-com with action thriller. After a promising first date between Cole (Evans) and Sadie (de Armas), Cole pursues the unreachable Sadie and becomes ensnared in an international spy adventure.

■ Davina Pardo and Leah Wolchok's lively bio-doc "Judy Blume Forever" profiles an author who's had a lasting impact on generations of young readers. The film, which debuts Friday on Prime Video, debuts just as a big-screen adaptation of one of Blume's most beloved books, "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," hits theaters.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ Guitar virtuosos Rodrigo y Gabriela — Rodrigo Sanchez and Gabriela Quintero — return Friday with a new album, "In Between Thoughts... A New World."



PEACOCK, APPLE TV+/AP

Left: "Mrs. Davis," a sci-fi series starring Betty Gilpin, premieres Thursday on Peacock. Right: Ana de Armas and Chris Evans share the screen for the third time in the Apple TV+ rom-com/thriller "Ghosted," premiering Friday.

It's the pair's first collection since 2019's Grammy-winning "Metamorphosis," which melded the power of thrash metal with fiery Spanish melodies. Self-produced by Rodrigo y Gabriela at their studio in Ixtapa, Mexico, the new album sees the duo "expanding their traditional approach to include inventive electronic and orchestral elements."

■ Everything But the Girl will make a comeback this spring with their first studio album since 1999. The British duo of Tracey Thorn and Ben Watt — known for the dreamy hit "Missing" — will release "Fuse" on Friday. Work on the project began in spring 2021 at the couple's home. First single "Nothing Left to Lose" is an electronic flashback that feels modern filled with thick slabs of synth.

■ Have you been praying for some old-school punk and garage rock? Then say "Amen," the new

album from The Heavy, their first in four years. The band — known for the song "How You Like Me Now?" — return with their humor intact as one of the singles shows — "Stone Cold Killer," a song about guitarist Dan Taylor's new kitten.

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

Television

■ Netflix already used the title "Warrior Nun," so in Peacock's new series about a nun out for vengeance they went with "Mrs. Davis." The quirky sci-fi show stars Betty Gilpin ("Nurse Jackie," "GLOW") as Simone, a nun determined to destroy a powerful artificial intelligence, known as the innocuous-sounding Mrs. Davis. Jake McDorman and Margo Martindale co-star. "Mrs. Davis," co-created by Damon Lindelof ("Lost," "The Watchmen."), premieres Thursday with its first four episodes on Peacock.

■ Keri Russell returns to TV in the Netflix series "The Diplomat" as Kate Wyler, a career envoy with a passion for Mideast affairs who gets reassigned as the new U.S. ambassador in the U.K. She's placed in an estate that resembles Downton Abbey, complete with butlers and maids, and is now expected to be more of a social figurehead. The job ends up being more complicated than expected. Another obstacle is her husband Hal (Rufus Sewell), who also was a diplomat until he was fired. "The Diplomat" drops its eight-episode season Thursday.

— Alicia Rancilio

SCOREBOARD/AUTO RACING

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| New England | 5 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 13 | 7 |
| Cincinnati | 5 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 9 |
| Atlanta | 4 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 12 |
| Columbus | 4 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 18 | 9 |
| NYFC | 3 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| Nashville | 3 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| Orlando City | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 7 |
| Chicago | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| Toronto FC | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| Philadelphia | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 11 |
| D.C. United | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 12 |
| New York | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Inter Miami CF | 2 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Charlotte FC | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 16 |
| CF Montréal | 1 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 17 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Saint Louis SC | 6 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 20 | 9 |
| LAFC | 5 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 15 | 5 |
| Seattle | 5 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 16 | 7 |
| FC Dallas | 4 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 8 |
| San Jose | 4 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 8 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 7 |
| Houston | 3 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| Vancouver | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 7 |
| Portland | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 13 |
| Austin FC | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| Colorado | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 10 |
| Real Salt Lake | 2 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 16 |
| LA Galaxy | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| Sporting KC | 0 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 11 |

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

Sunday, April 16

Los Angeles FC 3, LA Galaxy 2

Saturday's games

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

Sunday's game

Chicago at Atlanta

Saturday, April 29

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

NWSL

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Portland | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| Washington | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| San Diego | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| OL Reign | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| Gotham FC | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Houston | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Angel City | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Chicago | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Louisville | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| North Carolina | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Kansas City | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 |
| Orlando | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 |

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

Friday, April 14

Houston 1, Portland 1, tie

Saturday, April 15

Washington 2, North Carolina 1
Gotham FC 2, Orlando 0
Chicago 4, Kansas City 2
Louisville 2, Angel City 2, tie
OL Reign 1, San Diego 0

Saturday's games

Chicago at OL Reign
Houston at Washington
North Carolina at Gotham FC
Louisville at Portland

Sunday's games

Orlando at Kansas City
San Diego at Angel City

Friday, April 28

North Carolina at Houston

Saturday, April 29

OL Reign at Louisville
Washington at Chicago
Orlando at San Diego
Angel City at Portland

TENNIS

Banja Luka Open

Monday
At Tennis Klub Mladost
Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina
Purse: Euro 562,815
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles
Qualification
Abdullah Shelbayh, Jordan, def. Lukas Klein (5), Slovakia, 6-4, 6-2.
Elias Ymer (6), Sweden, def. Francesco Maestrelli, Italy, 7-5, 6-4.
Radu Albot (1), Moldova, def. Dimitar Kuzmanov, Bulgaria, 6-3, 6-3.
Dino Prizmic, Croatia, def. Liam Broady (3), Britain, 7-5, 6-3.
Round of 32
Alexei Popyrin, Australia, def. Tallon Griekspoor (5), Netherlands, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4).
Luca van Assche, France, def. Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Alex Molcan, Slovakia, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Men's Doubles
Round of 16
Andre Goransson, Sweden, and Ben McLachlan, Japan, def. Ariel Behar, Uruguay, and Nicolas Barrientos (4), Colombia, 7-6 (7), 6-2.

Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell

Monday
At Real Club de Tennis Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain
Purse: Euro 2,727,480
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles
Round of 64
Bernabe Zapata Miralles, Spain, def. Attila Balazs, Hungary, 6-2, 6-2.
Ben Shelton, United States, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 7-5, 6-4.
Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-0, 6-3.
Nuno Borges, Portugal, def. Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, 6-2, 6-3.
Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Argentina, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, 6-2, 7-5.
Nicolas Jarry, Chile, def. Marco Trungelliti, Argentina, 7-5, 6-3.
Pavel Kotov, Russia, def. Oleksii Krut'kyh, Ukraine, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1.
Jozef Kovalik, Slovakia, def. Pedro Marti-

nez, Spain, 7-5, 2-6, 7-5.
Men's Doubles
Round of 16
Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, def. Hugo Nys, Monaco, and Jan Zielinski, Poland, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 10-0.
Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni, Argentina, def. Albert Ramos-Vinolas and Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-1, 7-6 (6).

Porsche Grand Prix

Monday
At Porsche Arena
Stuttgart, Germany
Purse: \$780,637
Surface: Red clay indoor
Women's Singles
Round of 32
Zheng Qinwen, China, def. Alycia Parks, United States, 6-4, 6-4.
Cristina Bucsa, Spain, def. Tamara Korpsch, Germany, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0.
Donna Vekic, Croatia, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5).
Women's Doubles
Round of 16
Veronika Kudermetova and Anastasia Potapova, Russia, def. Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and Jelena Ostapenko (1), Latvia, 3-6, 6-4, 10-6.

BMW Open

Monday
At MTTC Iphitos
Munich
Purse: Euro 562,815
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles
Round of 32
Marcos Giron, United States, def. Roberto Carballes Baena (7), Spain, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2.
Flavio Cobolli, Italy, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 7-5, 6-1.
Yannick Hanfmann, Germany, def. Thiago Monteiro, Brazil, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Men's Doubles
Round of 16
Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni, India, def. Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow (3), United States, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Robin Haase, Netherlands, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Matthias Bachinger, Germany, and Dominic Thiem, Austria, 6-4, 6-2.

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
MLB — Suspended New York Yankees minor league OF Raimfer Salinas for 80 games without pay after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance in violation of the minor league drug prevention and treatment program.
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Reinstated LHP Keegan Akin from the paternity list. Optioned RHP Spenser Watkins to Norfolk (IL).
BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated RHP Brayden Bello from the 15-day IL. Recalled OF Jarren Duran from Worcester (IL). Optioned INF Bobby Dalbec to Worcester. Designated RHP Jake Faria for assignment.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Luke Farrell on a minor league contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with RHP Heribert Garcia on a minor league contract.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Sent SS David Fletcher outright to Salt Lake (PCL).
NEW YORK YANKEES — Sent RHP Colten Brewer outright to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
SEATTLE MARINERS — Reinstated LHP Marco Gonzalez from the paternity list. Placed INF/OF Sam Hagerty on the 7-day IL, retroactive to April 15.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Transferred RHP Shavin Armstrong from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of RHP Cooper Criswell from Durham (IL). Optioned RHP Trevor Kelley to Durham.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Recalled OF Nathan Lukes from Buffalo (IL). Optioned OF Jordan Luplow to Buffalo.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Placed LHP Lucas Luetge on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 14. Reinstated LHP Max Fried from the 15-day IL.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled LHP Justin Bruihl from Oklahoma City (PCL). Optioned RHP Andre Jackson to Oklahoma City.
NEW YORK METS — Placed OF Tim Lincecum on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Edwin Uceta and 3B Brett Baty from Syracuse (IL). Optioned RHP Jose Butto to Syracuse.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Placed C Luis Campano on the 10-day IL. Recalled 3B Brandon Dixon from El Paso (PCL).
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed QB Jeff Driskel to a one-year contract. Claimed S Jovante Moffatt off waivers from Atlanta.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed OL Ethan Greenidge.
BUFFALO BILLS — Re-signed LB A.J. Klein to a one-year contract.
CHICAGO BEARS — Re-signed WR Dante Pettis to a one-year contract. Re-signed DT Andrew Brown to his exclusive rights tender.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed G Michael Dunn, CB Thomas Graham Jr. and DT Ben Stille.

DETROIT LIONS — Re-signed DB Saivion Smith. Re-signed TE Brock Wright and TE Shane Zylstra to their exclusive rights tender.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Re-signed G Blake Hance to his exclusive rights tender.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed WR Justin Watson.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Re-signed WR Jalen Guyton.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Re-signed DB Shaun Jolly and LB Christian Rozeboom to their exclusive rights tender.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed WR Robbie Anderson.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed CB Joejuan Williams.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed CB Myles Bryant.
NEW YORK JETS — Re-signed G Blake Hance to his exclusive rights tender. Signed DT Isaiah Mack.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed QB Jalen Hurts to a five-year contract.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed LB Tanner Muse.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Signed QB Jeff Driskel.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed WR Chris Conley to a one-year contract. Signed WR Jauan Jennings to his exclusive rights tender. Re-signed DL Kerry Hyder Jr.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Waived S Jovante Moffatt, WRs Eason Winston and Connor Wedington, DT Jarrod Hewitt, CB Chris Steele and RB Darwin Thompson. Re-signed DE Myles Adams, DB Michael Jackson and LB Jon Rattigan to their exclusive rights tender.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Signed G Nick Leverett and DB Dee Delaney to his exclusive rights tender. Signed OT Matt Feller.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed LB Ben Niemann.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Signed S Jeremy Reaves to an exclusive rights tender.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled G Brandon Bussi from Providence (AHL). Reinstated LW Nick Foligno from injured reserve.
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled G Pyotr Kochetkov from Chicago (AHL).
DALLAS STARS — Recalled G Dylan Wells from Texas (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS — Recalled C Zac Dalpe from Charlotte (AHL).
MINNESOTA WILD — Recalled G Hunter Jones from Iowa (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reassigned F Luke Evangelist, Mark Jankowski, Michael McCarron, Zach Sanford, Kiefer Sherwood and Philip Tomasino and D Spencer Stastney to Milwaukee (AHL).
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Recalled G Jakub Skarek from Bridgeport (AHL).
SEATTLE KRACEN — Recalled C Tye Karlye from Coachella Valley (AHL).
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Activated RW Mark Stone from long-term injured reserve.
WINNIPEG JETS — Recalled G Oskari Salminen from Manitoba (AHL). Reassigned D Dmitry Kuzmin to Manitoba.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Voted NASCAR's most popular driver the past five seasons, Chase Elliott and his No. 9 car have become the face of the sport.

Gold: NASCAR knows Elliott is its cash cow

FROM PAGE 24

Elliott is here. And I think we're all thankful he's back.

"Whether you like somebody, don't like somebody, get along with somebody or don't, everybody has a piece of the puzzle that they fall into. And Chase, for us, is our biggest star and he's the guy who needs to be here every week for it all to make sense currently."

That's why NASCAR went to great lengths last week to promote Elliott's return to the track, quickly putting together a commercial after he announced last Wednesday he would race at Martinsville.

"Obviously he's the most popular driver. I mean you didn't see me get a TV commercial when I came back," quipped Alex Bowman, driver of the No. 48 Chevrolet.

The TV ratings for the Martinsville race haven't been announced, but several drivers said there was a noticeable uptick in the excitement level at the half-mile, paperclip-shaped course with Elliott's return.

Elliott received the loudest ovation during introductions.

And while he wasn't much of a factor in the race, finishing in 10th place after a late-race push, it was clear he was thrilled to be back in his comfort zone after watching the last six weeks as a spectator.

"Really nice to be back and appreciate the warm welcome this weekend by everybody, so I appreciate that," Elliott said. "It defi-

nately didn't go unnoticed."

Now the big question becomes if Elliott can race his way into the playoffs — something that NASCAR frankly needs to keep drawing fans. He has plenty of chances left, including this weekend at Talladega Superspeedway, where he won last fall.

He was encouraged by his ability to complete the 400-lap race on a surgically-repaired left leg that now has multiple screws holding it together. He views that as a positive sign moving forward.

"Yeah, it was pretty good, honestly," Elliott said. "It was about what I expected, so that's a good thing. It was warm. I've been sitting on the couch for six weeks, so I think that probably hurt me more than anything."

Teammate Kyle Larson, who won his first race at Martinsville on Sunday, was thrilled to have Elliott back. He believes it will help the entire Hendrick Motorsports team.

"He is very good at feeling his car, and I feel like he is pretty confident and usually the majority of the time right about the changes," Larson said. "I think when he can explain his car and say, 'hey, this was better for us,' the crew chiefs on the other teams can really look at that change and look at how it might work on our cars and apply it to it. So, he is definitely an asset for sure."

"He is one of the best drivers in the sport."

MLB

ROUNDUP

Rangers blank Royals; deGrom injured

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jacob deGrom exited with a sore right wrist after pitching four spotless innings, and two Texas Rangers relievers completed a one-hitter Monday night in a 4-0 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

The Rangers said deGrom was removed as a precaution. The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out five and walked one, throwing 39 of his 58 pitches for strikes.

“I felt it a little bit warming up,” deGrom said. “I thought it was going to loosen up and it actually tightened up a little bit as the game went on.

“We’re playing it smart. Could I have kept going? Probably. But it was lingering and it got a little bit worse as the game went on. I just want to play it safe. We’ve got a long season ahead of us.”

Texas manager Bruce Bochy said there’s concern whenever a player has to be removed from a game because of injury, but he’s optimistic.

“We’ll re-evaluate him tomorrow,” Bochy said. “Any time you take somebody out, that’s a fair question. I think I can answer it better tomorrow. Right now, I feel pretty good about it.”

Josh Jung launched a three-run homer in the first inning and Marcus Semien added a solo shot in the third. Dane Dunning (1-0) struck out five and walked none in 4 1/3 innings of relief.

“He’s been doing a terrific job for us,” Bochy said. “With the confidence in Dane coming in, we felt good. We brought in a guy who’s been throwing the ball well. He was set to go, so that was an easy call.”

Braves 2, Padres 0: Atlanta left-hander Max Fried held sputtering San Diego in check for five innings in his return from the injured list, and the visiting Braves earned their seventh straight win.

Austin Riley hit a two-run homer for the Braves. Fried (1-0) allowed four hits in his first big league start since he strained his left hamstring on opening day. A.J. Minter pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

The Padres were shut out for the second consecutive day and the third time in eight games. They have lost six of eight since taking three of four in Atlanta from April 6-9.

The Padres fell two games under .500 for the first time since the first two games of the season. They hope the return of Fernando Tatis Jr. on Thursday after his 80-game PED suspension will add a spark.

San Diego’s Ryan Weathers (1-1) allowed five hits in six innings.



REED HOFFMANN/AP

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Jacob deGrom throws to a Kansas City Royals batter during the first inning Monday in Kansas City, Mo. DeGrom threw four hitless innings before exiting with a sore right wrist.

Brewers 7, Mariners 3: Milwaukee ace Corbin Burnes pitched 5 1/3 innings before leaving with a left pectoral strain, and the visiting Brewers earned their fourth win in five games.

After recording the first out of the sixth on Julio Rodríguez long fly ball to center, Burnes (2-1) turned toward the Milwaukee dugout and summoned an athletic trainer and manager Craig Counsell. The 2021 NL Cy Young Award winner was removed from the game. Burnes appeared to be pointing at his chest as he spoke with Milwaukee’s staff.

Rodríguez and Cal Raleigh homered for Seattle.

Brice Turang connected for Milwaukee, and Brian Anderson had three hits.

Mets 8, Dodgers 6: Daniel Vogelbach homered as visiting New York rallied for its fifth straight win.

Pete Alonso, Brandon Nimmo and Jeff McNeil each had three hits for New York. Vogelbach drove in three runs, and Brett Baty hit an RBI single in his season debut.

Mets left-hander David Peterson (1-2) permitted six runs and seven hits in six innings. Adam Ottavino earned his second save with a perfect ninth inning.

Astros 9, Blue Jays 2: Jake Meyers hit a three-run homer in host Houston’s seven-run first inning.

Meyers and Corey Julks each finished with two hits and three RBIs. Houston’s Cristian Javier (2-0) pitched five innings of one-run ball.

José Abreu sparked Houston’s fast start with a two-run double against Kevin Gausman (1-2). After Kyle Tucker walked and Jeremy Peña reached on catcher interference by Danny Jansen, Julks made it 4-0 with another two-run double. Meyers then hit a drive to right for his first homer of the season, capping the seven-run first.

Reds 8, Rays 1: TJ Friedl drove in four runs, and host Cincinnati beat Tampa Bay after Reds right-hander Hunter Greene departed with a leg injury.

Kevin Newman homered for Cincinnati, and Nick Senzel scored two runs. The Reds won the opener of the three-game interleague series after losing 14-3 to Philadelphia on Sunday.

Greene surrendered a leadoff double in the third before he was struck by Yandy Díaz’s comebacker. The 23-year-old right-hander departed after the inning and was later diagnosed with a right tibia contusion. X-rays were negative.

Angels 5, Red Sox 4: Hunter Renfroe hit a three-run homer, and visiting Los Angeles avoided a four-game series sweep.

Angels star Shohei Ohtani pitched two hitless innings before departing because of a long rain delay. He allowed one run on Rob Refsnyder’s groundout in the first.

Tucker Davidson (1-1) worked 3 1/3 innings for the victory in Boston’s annual Patriots’ Day game. Carlos Estévez worked a shaky ninth for his second save.

Cubs 10, Athletics 1: Patrick Wisdom hit two more homers and drove in four runs, leading Hayden Wesneski and Chicago to the road

win. Wisdom, who played at nearby Saint Mary’s College, connected for a solo drive in the second inning and a three-run shot in the eighth. He has five homers during a four-game streak and eight homers on the season, tied for the big league lead.

Cody Bellinger had a career-high five hits as the Cubs won for the eighth time in 11 games. Wesneski (1-0) pitched seven innings of one-run ball.

Pirates 14, Rockies 3: Andrew McCutchen homered for visiting Pittsburgh, and Mark Mathias had a career-high four hits.

McCutchen, who had two hits, launched a solo homer in the first inning — his third of the season — and the first seven Pittsburgh batters reached in a six-run second.

Kris Bryant had three hits, including his first homer at Coors Field since joining the Rockies before the 2022 season.

Diamondbacks 6, Cardinals 3: Pavin Smith hit his first career grand slam, sending visiting Arizona to the win.

Ketel Marte also homered for the Diamondbacks. Merrill Kelly (1-2) pitched six innings of one-run ball, and Andrew Chafin got three outs for his third save.

Marlins 4, Giants 3: Jorge Soler hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning, leading host Miami to its fifth win in six games.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Jesus Sánchez each had two hits for the Marlins. Matt Barnes (1-0) got three outs for the win, and A.J. Puk worked the ninth for his second save.

Scoreboard

American League

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Tampa Bay | 14 | 3 | .824 | — |
| New York | 10 | 6 | .625 | 3½ |
| Toronto | 10 | 7 | .588 | 4 |
| Baltimore | 9 | 7 | .563 | 4½ |
| Boston | 8 | 9 | .471 | 6 |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Minnesota | 10 | 6 | .625 | — |
| Cleveland | 9 | 7 | .563 | 1 |
| Chicago | 6 | 10 | .375 | 4 |
| Detroit | 5 | 9 | .357 | 4 |
| Kansas City | 4 | 13 | .235 | 6½ |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Texas | 10 | 6 | .625 | — |
| Los Angeles | 8 | 8 | .500 | 2 |
| Houston | 8 | 9 | .471 | 2½ |
| Seattle | 8 | 9 | .471 | 2½ |
| Oakland | 3 | 14 | .176 | 7½ |

National League

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Atlanta | 13 | 4 | .765 | — |
| New York | 11 | 6 | .647 | 2 |
| Miami | 9 | 8 | .529 | 4 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 10 | .375 | 6½ |
| Washington | 5 | 11 | .313 | 7½ |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Milwaukee | 12 | 5 | .706 | — |
| Chicago | 9 | 6 | .600 | 2 |
| Pittsburgh | 10 | 7 | .588 | 2 |
| Cincinnati | 7 | 9 | .438 | 4½ |
| St. Louis | 7 | 10 | .412 | 5 |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Arizona | 10 | 7 | .588 | — |
| Los Angeles | 8 | 9 | .471 | 2 |
| San Diego | 8 | 10 | .444 | 2½ |
| San Francisco | 5 | 10 | .333 | 4 |
| Colorado | 5 | 12 | .294 | 5 |

Monday’s games

Texas 4, Kansas City 0
Atlanta 2, San Diego 0
Milwaukee 7, Seattle 3
N.Y. Mets 8, L.A. Dodgers 6
Houston 9, Toronto 2
Cincinnati 8, Tampa Bay 1
L.A. Angels 5, Boston 4
Chicago Cubs 10, Oakland 1
Pittsburgh 14, Colorado 3
Arizona 6, St. Louis 3
Miami 4, San Francisco 3
Cleveland at Detroit, ppd.
Philadelphia at Chicago White Sox, ppd.

Tuesday’s games

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

Wednesday’s games

Tampa Bay (Rasmussen 2-1) at Cincinnati (TBD)
Cleveland (Quantrill 0-1) at Detroit (Turnbull 1-2)
San Francisco (Cobb 0-1) at Miami (Rogers 1-2)
Arizona (Bumgarner 0-2) at St. Louis (Woodford 0-2)
Philadelphia (Walker 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 2-0)
Texas (Perez 2-1) at Kansas City (Singer 1-1)
N.Y. Mets (Scherzer 2-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Syndergaard 2-0)
Pittsburgh (Oviedo 1-1) at Colorado (Gomber 0-3)
Chicago Cubs (Steele 2-0) at Oakland (Kaprielian 0-2)
Milwaukee (Lauer 2-1) at Seattle (Gonzales 1-0)
Atlanta (Morton 2-1) at San Diego (Martinez 0-1)
Baltimore (TBD) at Washington (Gore 2-0)
L.A. Angels (Canning 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Brito 2-1)
Minnesota (Ryan 3-0) at Boston (Kluber 0-3)
Toronto (Berrios 1-2) at Houston (Garcia 0-2)

NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

First round
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Boston 1, Florida 0
Monday: Boston 3, Florida 1
Wednesday: at Boston
Friday: at Florida
Sunday: at Florida
x-Wednesday, April 26: at Boston
x-Friday, April 28: at Florida
x-Sunday, April 30: at Boston
Carolina 1, N.Y. Islanders 0
Monday: Carolina 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
Wednesday: at Carolina, **AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Thursday CET; 8 a.m. Thursday JKT**
Friday: at N.Y. Islanders
Sunday: at N.Y. Islanders
x-Tuesday, April 25: at Carolina
x-Friday, April 28: at N.Y. Islanders
x-Sunday, April 30: at Carolina
New Jersey vs. N.Y. Rangers
Tuesday: at New Jersey
Thursday: at New Jersey
Saturday: at N.Y. Rangers
Monday, April 24: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Thursday, April 27: at New Jersey
x-Saturday, April 29: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Monday, May 1: at New Jersey
Toronto vs. Tampa Bay
Tuesday: at Toronto
Thursday: at Toronto
Saturday: at Tampa Bay
Monday, April 24: at Tampa Bay
x-Thursday, April 27: at Toronto
x-Saturday, April 29: at Tampa Bay
x-Monday, May 1: at Toronto
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Los Angeles 1, Edmonton 0
Monday: Los Angeles 4, Edmonton 3, OT
Wednesday: at Edmonton
Friday: at Los Angeles
Sunday: at Los Angeles
x-Tuesday, April 25: at Edmonton
x-Saturday, April 29: at Los Angeles
x-Monday, May 1: at Edmonton
Minnesota 1, Dallas 0
Monday: Minnesota 3, Dallas 2, 2OT
Wednesday: at Dallas, **AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 10:30 a.m. Thursday JKT**
Friday: at Minnesota
Sunday: at Minnesota
x-Tuesday, April 25: at Dallas
x-Friday, April 28: at Minnesota
x-Sunday, April 30: at Dallas
Colorado vs. Seattle
Tuesday: at Colorado
Thursday: at Colorado
Saturday: at Seattle
Monday, April 24: at Seattle
x-Wednesday, April 26: at Colorado
x-Friday, April 28: at Seattle
x-Sunday, April 30: at Colorado
Vegas vs. Winnipeg
Tuesday: at Vegas
Thursday: at Vegas
Saturday: at Winnipeg
Monday, April 24: at Winnipeg
x-Thursday, April 27: at Vegas
x-Saturday, April 29: at Winnipeg
x-Monday, May 1: at Vegas

Kings surprise Oilers in overtime

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Alex Iafallo scored in OT to lift the Los Angeles Kings to a 4-3 victory over the Edmonton Oilers to open their first-round playoff series Monday night.

Iafallo scored a power-play goal at 9:19 of OT by converting Victor Arvidsson's feed from behind the net.

"Alex is kind of our unsung hero," Kings head coach Todd McLellan said. "He cleans up. (Assistant coach) Trent Yawney always says he cleans up a lot of messes. Errors, mistakes for teammates, he seems to be the cleanup guy. But on the other side of it, he has the ability to score. He can go up and down the lineup, penalty kills, blocks shots."

Adrian Kempe scored twice and Anze Kopitar had a goal and three assists for Los Angeles, which held Oilers captain and NHL scoring leader Connor McDavid scoreless.

Kings goaltender Joonas Korpi-salo made 38 saves for the win.

Leon Draisaitl countered with a pair of goals and Evan Bouchard also scored for the Oilers (50-23-9), who ranked second in the Pacific Division this season ahead of the third-seeded Kings (47-25-10).

Oilers starter Stuart Skinner stopped 31 shots in his NHL playoff debut.

Edmonton defenseman Vincent



JASON FRANSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Los Angeles Kings' Blake Lizotte, front, and the Oilers' Kailer Yamamoto battle for the puck Monday during the third period of Game 1 of their first-round playoff series in Edmonton, Alberta.

Desharnais was penalized in overtime for tripping Blake Lizotte, although Lizotte appeared to step on a broken stick on the ice and fall.

"My initial thought on the play was that the player stepped on the broken stick, but those are the things you know, that happen in the playoffs sometimes," Oilers head coach Jay Woodcroft said.

The Oilers almost ended it at 1:54 of OT, but officials ruled Ryan McLeod's shot from the blue line deflected off Derek Ryan's high stick.

The Oilers will try even the series in Wednesday's Game 2.

Edmonton also dropped the opener of a first-round series against the Kings last year, but the Oilers took it in seven games

to advance.

The Oilers led Monday's opener 2-0 after the first and second periods before a four-goal third.

Kempe halved the deficit 52 seconds into the third period when the clubs played four aside.

Draisaitl restored Edmonton's two-goal lead at 8:46 only for Kempe to pull his team within a goal again at 11:23.

ROUNDUP

League-best Bruins shut down Panthers in opener

Associated Press

BOSTON — Brad Marchand has had his share of highlight goals in his career. His latest was more of a lowlight for Florida goalie Alex Lyon.

Marchand scored his 50th career playoff goal on a relatively easy shot, David Pastrnak and Jake DeBrusk also scored, and the NHL-best Boston Bruins opened the playoffs by beating the Panthers 3-1 on Monday night.

"You never know, come playoff time, you never want to pass up a shot," Marchand said. "That's just kind of how the playoffs work. Sometimes those shots go in and sometimes they don't."

Linus Ullmark, a Vezina Trophy candidate who led the league in wins (40), goals-against average (1.89) and save percentage (.938), stopped 31 shots and Tyler Bertuzzi added two assists for Boston, which controlled the game even with captain Patrice Bergeron sitting out because of illness.

Matthew Tkachuk scored for the Panthers and Lyon made 26 saves — many of them splendid —



WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP

Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy, right, and goaltender Linus Ullmark combine to stop a shot by the Florida Panthers during the third period of Game 1 of their series Monday in Boston.

but gave up Marchand's goal on the soft shot.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Boston.

The Bruins captured the Presidents' Trophy, setting NHL records in points (135) and wins (65). Florida, last season's No. 1 seed, earned the Eastern Conference's

eighth and final playoff spot with a late-season push.

It's the first playoff matchup between a No. 1 seed and the Presidents' winner from the previous season since the award was introduced in 1985-86.

With the Bruins leading 1-0, Lyon gave up Marchand's early in

the second when the winger fired a seemingly harmless shot from the top of the left circle. Lyon bent down to catch it and it tipped off his glove, caroming into the net after hitting the inside of the right post.

Wild 3, Stars 2 (2OT): Ryan Hartman scored 12:20 into the second overtime and visiting Minnesota beat Dallas in their playoff opener.

Hartman gathered the puck in front of the crease and got it past Jake Oettinger at around 1 a.m. local time, ending a more than four-hour game in which both 24-year-old goalies had spectacular performances.

The Stars had been turned away on a power play after Frederick Gaudreau's tripping penalty against captain Jamie Benn 9:11 into the second overtime. Roope Hintz, who scored on a power play in the second period, hit the post and there were several other chances before the penalty expired.

Filip Gustavsson stopped 52 shots for the Wild, including 12 in the third period and 17 in the first

overtime. He started the opener ahead of three-time Stanley Cup winner Marc-André Fleury after the goalie tandem had split games throughout most of the season.

Oettinger had 45 saves for the Stars in his first playoff game since his 64-save performance in Game 7 in the first round last May when top-seeded Calgary scored the series clincher in overtime.

Hurricanes 2, Islanders 1: Sebastian Aho and Stefan Noesen scored power-play goals to help host Carolina open its first-round playoff series with the win.

Antti Raanta finished with 25 saves to lead a defensive effort that saw the Hurricanes turn away every chance the Islanders had with a man advantage.

Ryan Pulock beat Raanta early in the second period for the Islanders, a big goal coming moments after Carolina had taken a 2-0 lead on Noesen's score. But that ended up being the last time either team found the net, setting up a third-period grind to the final horn.

Ilya Sorokin finished with 35 saves for the Islanders.

NFL/NBA

Hurts getting one of richest deals in league history

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jalen Hurts finished runner-up to Patrick Mahomes in AP NFL MVP voting and lost again to him when Mahomes' Kansas City Chiefs beat Hurts' Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl.

But no QB is atop Hurts now — Philadelphia's franchise player is about to become the highest-paid player in average annual value in NFL history.

Hurts and the Eagles are set to sign one of the richest deals in NFL history, agreeing to a five-year, \$255 million extension, including \$179.3 million guaranteed, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity Monday because the deal was not yet final.

The Eagles announced later Monday on social media that "QB1 is here to stay."

"Keeping the main thing in Philly," they tweeted, referencing one of Hurts' mottos. "We've agreed to terms with Jalen Hurts on a 5-year extension through the 2028 season."

The 24-year-old Hurts was ex-

pected to receive \$51 million per season — topping Mahomes and Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers — and only Cleveland's Deshaun Watson (\$230M) and Arizona's Kyler Murray (\$189.5M) received more guaranteed in a single contract.

"Our job in this league is go out there and win football games and make money while doing it, and I'm glad the guys doing it the right way are getting the job security they deserve," Mahomes said Monday.

Those numbers could be topped soon depending on how the contract situation between the Baltimore Ravens and QB Lamar Jackson plays out. In a series of tweets, the star quarterback said he requested a trade as of March 2. On March 7, the Ravens put the non-exclusive franchise tag on Jackson and said they were still hopeful they could reach a long-term deal with him.

If Jackson does come back without a new deal, he could play this season on Baltimore's \$32.4 million franchise tag.

Los Angeles Chargers QB Justin Herbert and Cincinnati Bengals QB Joe Burrow could each look to Hurts' deal as a framework for their looming extensions.

"It's great for the quarterback position, the Black quarterbacks coming up behind us."

Patrick Mahomes
Chiefs QB



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts is set to sign one of the richest deals in NFL history, agreeing to a five-year, \$255 million extension with Philadelphia, including \$179.3 million guaranteed.

The Eagles know where Hurts will be this season.

Hurts delivered a record performance in the Super Bowl, throwing for 304 yards and a touchdown, running for 70 yards and three scores, and adding a game-tying two-point conversion. Hurts and Mahomes were the first Black QBs to face off in a Super Bowl.

"He's someone that plays the position the right way, he goes about his business the right way," Mahomes said. "That's why they were in the Super Bowl, and he played a great game in the Super Bowl, and proved a lot of people wrong that were still doubting him. It's great for the quarterback position, the Black quarterbacks coming up behind us. We know about Lamar and the situation there, getting these guys the deals they deserve."

Philadelphia went 14-1 in Hurts' starts and he had 3,701 yards passing, 760 yards rushing and 35 touchdowns in the regular season. He led the Eagles to the top seed in the NFC and a playoff victory over the New York Giants and over the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC

championship game.

The Eagles went 0-2 when Hurts sat out two late-season games because of a sprained right shoulder.

The Eagles stunned fans when they drafted Hurts out of Oklahoma in the second round in 2020. They seemingly had Carson Wentz entrenched at QB and had more pressing needs. Hurts was expected to serve as insurance for Wentz. Instead, he supplanted him and became one of the top young quarterbacks in the NFL.

Hurts' teammates were thrilled to have him back in Philly for years to come.

"Dinner on @JalenHurts!" right tackle Lane Johnson tweeted, along with money-bag emojis.

"my birthday is coming up at the right time!!!" tweeted wide receiver A.J. Brown.

Eagles general manager Howie Roseman and agent Nicole Lynn negotiated the deal with Hurts, who was set to enter the 2023 season on the final year of his rookie contract. He didn't become the full-time starter until 2021.

Now, the Eagles can't imagine any other player taking the snaps.

Jackson is defensive player of the year

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Nobody blocked more shots per game, nor had better defensive numbers at the rim this season, than Memphis' Jaren Jackson Jr. And voters noticed.

The Memphis big man was announced Monday night as the NBA's defensive player of the year, becoming the second player to win the award while wearing a Grizzlies uniform. He joins Marc Gasol in that club, after the Spaniard did it a decade ago.

Jackson led the league with 3.0 blocks per game this season, after finishing fifth in the defensive player of the year voting last season. He got 56 first-place votes and 391 voting points to finish ahead of runner-up Brook Lopez of the Milwaukee Bucks, who got 31 first-place votes and 309

points. Cleveland's Evan Mobley — in just his second NBA season — was third with eight first-place votes and 101 points.

"Team defense really helps us. It goes a long way," Jackson said on the TNT broadcast that announced the award.

The shooting percentage that Jackson allowed at the rim — 46.9% — was the best in the league among those with at least 300 shots defended there, and was an obvious plus on Memphis' path to the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

"Hands down, no-brainer, JJ's definitely defensive player of the year," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said earlier this month.

Jenkins could get into all the analytics that he wants, but the simple eye test also tells the story. Jackson wasn't ready for the start of the season because his surgically repaired right foot needed more recovery time.

And Memphis was, well, not great on defense while waiting for Jackson to get ready.

"He missed the first (15) games of the year. We were really bad defensively," Jenkins said. "He comes back into the lineup and things turn the corner drastically."

Jackson gave Jenkins and the Grizzlies' staff much credit for his role in helping him win the award.

"They've instilled the confidence in me to be aggressive offensively — but really unleash me defensively to go out there and do whatever," Jackson said.



Jackson

Bills' Hamlin cleared to resume playing

BY JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin is cleared to resume playing and is attending the team's voluntary workout program, the latest and biggest steps in his remarkable recovery some four months after going into cardiac arrest and having to be resuscitated on the field during a game at Cincinnati.

"He's fully cleared. He's here and he is of the mindset. He's in a great headspace to come back and make his return," general manager Brandon Beane said Tuesday.

Beane said the clearance came after Hamlin met with a third and final specialist on Friday, with all three being in agreement that Hamlin can resume playing with-

out any fear of setbacks or complications. While the Bills had their head athletic trainer sit in on Hamlin's meetings with specialists, Beane said the team is following the lead of the specialists.

"He's such a great kid and has such a great family, and it's exciting to go from a guy who was fighting for his life to now," Beane said. "His story hasn't been written. Now it's about his comeback."

Hamlin's recovery is personal to many who watched in shock as Hamlin collapsed on the field on a nationally televised "Monday Night Football" game, but moreso for Beane. While the Bills returned home after the game initially was suspended and eventually canceled, Beane spent the first four days at Hamlin's side,

including when he was awakened from a medically induced coma at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

"It was all about his health, and it's always going to be about his health," Beane said. "But to truly, you know, however many months later be talking about he's fully cleared is pretty remarkable. And I'm excited for him and his family for where they are on his journey."

Hamlin collapsed after making what appeared to be a routine tackle in the first quarter of a Jan. 2 game against the Bengals. His collapse led to an outpouring of support from around the NFL and across North America, with donations made to Hamlin's charitable organization topping more than

\$9 million.

The second-year player from Pittsburgh's exurb of McKeesport spent nearly 10 days recovering in hospitals in Cincinnati and Buffalo before being released. He eventually began visiting the Bills' facility and attended the team's season-ending 27-10 loss to Cincinnati in the divisional round of the playoffs.

Hamlin has since made numerous appearances around the country. During the Super Bowl festivities in Arizona in February, he received the NFLPA's Alan Page Community Award. He also took part in a pregame ceremony in which the NFL honored the Bills' and Bengals' training and medical staffs and first responders who treated the 24-year-old.

NBA PLAYOFFS



RANDALL BENTON/AP

Kings forward Domantas Sabonis drives past Warriors forward Draymond Green in the first half of Game 2 in the first round series on Monday. Green was ejected in the fourth quarter for stomping on Sabonis.

Green ejected for stomp as Kings take 2-0 lead

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — As the referees went to the replay monitor to determine whether Draymond Green should be ejected for his hard stomp, the Sacramento Kings took that time to regroup and make sure they didn't lose focus down the stretch.

De'Aaron Fox and crew took over from there and delivered the playoff newcomer Kings a 114-106 win Monday night, their second straight win over Golden State.

Fox scored 24 points and made a backbreaking three-pointer that has the defending NBA champions reeling.

"I think that brought us together," Fox said. "We huddled up and were like, 'We have to win this game.' Everybody thought he'd be ejected. When that happens, usually that team comes together and goes on a run. But we were able to negate that."

The Kings closed the game strong after Green was ejected for a flagrant foul against Domantas Sabonis. They became the first team to take a 2-0 series lead over the Warriors in the Stephen Curry era.

The Warriors will try to get back into the series when it shifts to San Francisco for Game 3 on Thursday night.

"Got to embrace it," Curry said. "You do this for as long as we have ... we have to stay together and locked in."

The game got heated in the fourth quarter when Green stomped on Sabonis' chest with 7:03 to play.

With the Warriors pushing the ball up court and Sabonis on the ground, Green took a hard step right on Sabonis' chest.

"My leg got grabbed. Second time in two nights," said Green, referring to a play in Game 1 with Malik Monk. "Referees just watch it. I have to land my foot somewhere."

Sabonis was called for a technical foul for grabbing Green's leg and Green was given a flagrant-2 foul and an automatic ejection.

During the review, fans in Sacramento yelled derogatory chants toward Green, who egged them on by waving his hands, holding a hand to his ear calling for louder cheers and standing on a chair.

Sabonis finished the game but coach Mike Brown said he was undergoing X-rays afterward to make sure there wasn't damage to his ribs or lungs.

Now it will be up to the NBA to determine whether Green will face a possible suspension.

"It'll be interesting to see what the NBA does after they review it," Brown said.

The Warriors fought back to tie the game before the Kings went on a 17-8 run to run away with it to the delight of the towel-waving crowd.

Fox's three-pointer made it 107-101 with 2:17 to play, and the Kings were in control from there. Davion Mitchell put it away with another three that made it 112-103 with 1:18 left.

"They played better than we did down the stretch," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "They played more physical than us tonight."

Scoreboard

First round

Best-of-seven; x-if necessary
Eastern Conference
Boston 1, Atlanta 0

Boston 112, Atlanta 99

Tuesday: at Boston

Friday: at Atlanta

Sunday: at Atlanta

x-Tuesday, April 25: at Boston

x-Thursday, April 27: at Atlanta

x-Saturday, April 29: at Boston

Philadelphia 2, Brooklyn 0

Philadelphia 121, Brooklyn 101

Monday: Philadelphia 96, Brooklyn 84

Thursday: at Brooklyn

Saturday: at Brooklyn

x-Monday, April 24: at Philadelphia

x-Thursday, April 27: at Brooklyn

x-Saturday, April 29: at Philadelphia

Miami 1, Milwaukee 0

Miami 130, Milwaukee 117

Wednesday: at Milwaukee

Saturday: at Miami

Monday, April 24: at Miami

x-Wednesday, April 26: at Milwaukee

x-Friday, April 28: at Miami

x-Sunday, April 30: at Milwaukee

New York 1, Cleveland 0

New York 101, Cleveland 97

Tuesday: at Cleveland

Friday: at New York

Sunday: at New York

x-Wednesday, April 26: at Cleveland

x-Friday, April 28: at New York

x-Sunday, April 30: at Cleveland

Western Conference

Sacramento 2, Golden State 0

Sacramento 126, Golden State 123

Monday: Sacramento 114, Golden State 106

Thursday: at Golden State

Sunday: at Golden State

x-Wednesday, April 26: at Sacramento

x-Friday, April 28: at Golden State

x-Sunday, April 30: at Sacramento

L.A. Clippers 1, Phoenix 0

L.A. Clippers 115, Phoenix 110

Tuesday: at Phoenix

Thursday: at L.A. Clippers

Saturday: at L.A. Clippers

x-Tuesday, April 25: at Phoenix

x-Thursday, April 27: at L.A. Clippers

x-Saturday, April 29: at Phoenix

L.A. Lakers 1, Memphis 0

L.A. Lakers 128, Memphis 112

Wednesday: at Memphis, AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 8:30 a.m. Thursday JKT

Saturday: at L.A. Lakers

Monday, April 24: at L.A. Lakers

x-Wednesday, April 26: at Memphis

x-Friday, April 28: at L.A. Lakers

x-Sunday, April 30: at Memphis

Denver 1, Minnesota 0

Denver 109, Minnesota 80

Wednesday: at Denver, AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. Thursday CET; 11 a.m. Thursday JKT

Friday: at Minnesota

Sunday: at Minnesota

x-Tuesday, April 25: at Denver

x-Thursday, April 27: at Minnesota

x-Saturday, April 29: at Denver

Maxey, Embiid, Harris power 76ers to victory

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid pumped his fist in the air and exhorted the Philly crowd to get louder as Tobias Harris and Tyrese Maxey hit game-changing threes and stymied Brooklyn runs with clutch boards.

"It's as happy as I've ever seen him since I've been here with other guys making shots," third-year coach Doc Rivers said. "He was really celebrating his teammates tonight."

With good reason. For a franchise player who was raised in the organization to Trust the Process, Embiid has finally come around to learning how to trust his teammates.

Maxey hit six three-pointers and scored 33 points, Embiid and Harris had 20 apiece, and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Brooklyn Nets 96-84 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

Embiid, the two-time NBA scoring champion, was relatively quiet offensively, going 6-for-11 from the floor, but he did just about everything else. The MVP finalist had 19 rebounds, seven assists and three blocks.

"A lot of people think I just love scoring the basketball," Embiid said. "I don't think it's true. I enjoy winning."

Embiid's increased faith in his teammates is one reason the third-seeded Sixers expect a deep run in the playoffs.

"Better teammates help," Rivers said with a laugh. "Maturity and preparation. We work on it every day."

Harris had 12 rebounds. James Harden scored only eight points on 3-for-13 shooting for the Sixers after a sensational Game 1 effort.

Game 3 is Thursday in New York.

Cam Johnson led the Nets with 28 points. Johnson sent Embiid stumbling on a one-handed dunk

down the right side that posterized the 7-footer. Johnson stared down Embiid as the Nets forward backpedaled on defense in the first half.

"I don't remember getting dunked on," Embiid tried to say with a straight face.

The slam was Brooklyn's last GIF-worthy highlight.

Maybe the 76ers just needed to listen to their coach more as they chase their first NBA championship since 1983.

After Brooklyn scored the first bucket of the second half, Rivers called a quick timeout.

"C'mon, guys! C'mon!" Rivers implored in the huddle. "Listen, it's up to y'all what you all want to do."

It seems they chose to finally decide the game.

"It was time for us to realize we need to be ready," Harris said of the timeout speech. "We need to pick our energy up. We need to pick our body language up. This is our arena. This is our home floor. This is our win that we need to get."

Maxey, who kept the Sixers alive with 15 points in the first half, was stuffed by the rim on a fast break but Harris followed for the bucket and the 76ers finally tied the game at 55-all. Maxey didn't miss on the next possession — a corner three that sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Then PJ Tucker missed a three, grabbed his own rebound, dished to Harden and the Beard buried his first three of the game. Harris came right back and connected on a three that had him hopping and waving his arms off the court headed into a timeout.

Embiid then erupted in celebration with the Sixers ahead 64-56.

"We didn't play our best basketball, but in the second half we just figured out what worked and we kept doing it over and over and over," Embiid said.



DERIK HAMILTON/AP

The Philadelphia 76ers' Paul Reed dunks against the Brooklyn Nets during Game 2 in the first round series on Monday in Philadelphia.

SPORTS



Historic payday

Eagles, Hurts agree to 5-year, \$255M extension » **NFL, Page 22**

AUTO RACING

Solid gold

NASCAR drivers know everyone wins when Elliott's on the track

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

NASCAR drivers don't need to be reminded what Chase Elliott's return to racing on Sunday at Martinsville Speedway means to those associated with the sport.

When Elliott is racing, everyone wins.

Voted NASCAR's most popular driver the past five seasons — a title inherited after Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s retirement — Elliott and his No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports car have become the face of the sport. When he's competing, more stock car racing fans are watching. And when he's not, fans seem to be tuning out in big numbers.

It's like stock racing's version of the Tiger Woods effect.

The dramatic drop in TV ratings in the six races Elliott missed after breaking his tibia in a snowboarding accident are indicative of the impact he has on the sport.

The percentage of television viewers dropped by 12.2% at Las Vegas, 15.1% at Phoenix, 14.5% at Atlanta, 16.1% at Austin, 41.8% at Richmond and 13.9% at Bristol compared to last year's numbers, according to sport-naut.com. About 3.45 million people tuned into this year's spring race at Bristol Motor Speedway, down from slightly more than 4 million viewers in 2022.

"It impacts our TV ratings, I know that for sure," No. 4 Ford driver Kevin Harvick said of Elliott's absence. "There are more people who want to watch when Chase

SEE GOLD ON PAGE 19



EMILY BALL, BRISTOL HERALD COURIER/AP

Elliott, left, gets tangled up with Denny Hamlin during Sunday's dirt race in Bristol, Tenn. It was Elliott's first race back after missing six races with a fractured tibia he suffered while snowboarding. He finished 10th after a late-race push.

NASCAR's viewership is tied to Chase Elliott, and it drops off significantly when he's not racing.

JOHN RAOUX/AP



Green ejected in Warriors' loss to Kings » NBA playoffs, Page 23

