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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Vance warns US is ready to leave Russia, Ukraine talks

BY ILLIA NOVIKOV,
AAMER MADHANI
AND JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A planned meeting Wednesday between top U.S., British, French and Ukrainian diplomats to push forward a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine was scrapped at the last minute, with Vice President JD Vance saying negotiations are reaching a moment of truth.

“We’ve issued a very explicit proposal to both the Russians and the Ukrainians, and it’s time for them to either say yes or for the United States to walk away from this process,” Vance told reporters during a visit Wednesday to Agra, India.

He said it was “a very fair proposal” that would “freeze the territorial lines at some level close to where they are today,” with both sides having to give up some territory they currently hold. He did not provide further details of the proposal.

Vance’s comments came a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy ruled out ceding territory to Russia as part of any potential peace agreement, calling it a nonstarter. The Ukrainian leader spoke Tuesday in response to reports the Trump administration was proposing a deal that would allow Russia to keep occupied Ukrainian territory as part of a potential peace agreement.

A senior European official familiar with the ongoing talks involving the American team said a proposal that the U.S. says is “final” was initially presented last week in Paris, where it was described as “just ideas” — and that they could be changed.

SEE TALKS ON PAGE 10



TREVOR WILSON/U.S. Army

A U.S. Navy dive team prepares a floating platform before diving to assist in the recovery of a U.S. Army M88 Hercules recovery vehicle submerged under several meters of water in a swamp near a training area in Pabrade, Lithuania, on March 30.

Tragedy killed 4 US soldiers in Lithuania. A small army got them home.

BY ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

The search party fanned out to scout for any sign of four American soldiers — and their 70-ton vehicle — who last month vanished in the night deep in the woods outside Pabrade, near Lithuania’s border with Belarus.

It was 1st Sgt. Matthew Riley who discovered the tread marks that had gouged the soft earth along a firebreak trail. They led to a wet patch, barely 30 feet in diameter, but did not continue on the other side. Afloat on the surface was a soldier’s satchel and a bottle of weapon lubricant.

There was a strong smell of fuel,



ROSE DI TROLIO/U.S. Army

Citizens of Lithuania pay tribute to the four fallen U.S. soldiers in Vilnius, Lithuania, on April 3.

but those who eyed the bog were skeptical something that small could swallow such a massive armored vehicle. A soldier waded in to their waist, but Riley was adamant: Someone had to dive down into the muck and be sure.

Over the next seven days, scores of people from four countries plumbed the muddy bog to locate and recover the missing men. The mission, fraught with extreme environmental and engineering challenges, was animated by risk and ingenuity — and a guiding belief in the military imperative that everyone must go home.

SEE TRAGEDY ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Walgreens to pay up to \$350M in opioid settlement

Associated Press

Walgreens has agreed to pay up to \$350 million in a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, which said that it illegally filled millions of prescriptions in the last decade for opioids and other controlled substances.

The nationwide drugstore chain must pay the government at least \$300 million and will owe another \$50 million if the company is sold, merged or transferred before 2032, according to the settlement reached last Friday.

That would include a potential buyout worth nearly \$10 billion by the private equity firm Sycamore Partners that Walgreens announced in early March.

The government's complaint alleges that Walgreens knowingly filled millions of illegal prescriptions for controlled substances between August 2012 and March 2023. These include prescriptions for excessive opioids and prescriptions filled significantly early.

"We strongly disagree with the

government's legal theory and admit no liability," Walgreens spokesperson Fraser Engerman said in a statement.

Amid slumping store visits and shrinking market share, Walgreens announced it was closing 1,200 stores around the country last October. Rite Aid filed for bankruptcy at the end of 2023 as it was also dealing with losses and opioid lawsuit settlements. The U.S. Department of Justice filed a similar lawsuit against CVS in December.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates												
Euro costs (April 24)	0.85	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8275									
British pound (April 24)	\$1.30	Thailand (Baht)	33.46									
Japanese yen (April 24)	137.00	Turkey (NewLira)	38.2782									
South Korean won (April 24)	1391.00											
Commercial rates												
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768	<p>(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.)</p> <div>INTEREST RATES</div> <table><tr><td>Prime rate</td><td>7.50</td></tr><tr><td>Interest Rates Discount rate</td><td>4.50</td></tr><tr><td>Federal funds market rate</td><td>4.38</td></tr><tr><td>3-month bill</td><td>4.32</td></tr><tr><td>30-year bond</td><td>4.88</td></tr></table>	Prime rate	7.50	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50	Federal funds market rate	4.38	3-month bill	4.32	30-year bond	4.88
Prime rate	7.50											
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50											
Federal funds market rate	4.38											
3-month bill	4.32											
30-year bond	4.88											
Britain (Pound)	1.3284											
Canada (Dollar)	1.3851											
China (Yuan)	7.3123											
Denmark (Krone)	6.5894											
Egypt (Pound)	50.9515											
Euro	0.8823											
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7597											
Hungary (Forint)	360.69											
Israel (Shekel)	3.6585											
Japan (Yen)	142.71											
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3065											
Norway (Krone)	10.4386											
Philippines (Peso)	56.55											
Poland (Zloty)	3.78											
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7510											
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3134											
South Korea (Won)	1425.52											

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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MILITARY

S. Korea resumes live-fire training at range

By DAVID CHOI AND YOOJIN LEE
Stars and Stripes

The South Korean military resumed artillery practice this week at a firing range in Paju, the first such drill at the range near the northern border since the two Koreas suspended a deconfliction agreement last year.

Twelve K9A1 and six K55A1 self-propelled howitzers fired around 60 shells during Monday's exercise at the Story Live Fire Complex, about three miles south of the border, the Ministry of National Defense said in a statement Tuesday.

The drill included simulated target practice and radar-guided counter-artillery training, the ministry said. The purpose was to demonstrate military readiness and build troops' confidence in their capabilities.

The artillery systems — both developed and produced in South Korea — fire 155 mm rounds and are a key component of the country's deterrence against potential aggression from the North.

The live-fire exercise marked the first training at the Paju site since the two Koreas signed the Comprehensive Military Agreement in 2018, which suspended artillery drills and imposed no-fly zones near the border to ease tensions.



South Korean army K9A1 self-propelled howitzers fire live rounds at the Story Live Fire Complex in Paju, South Korea, on Monday.

That pact effectively collapsed in late 2023 after both nations accused each other of violations.

The South partially suspended the provi-

sion that prohibited aerial spy operations at its northern border after North Korea successfully put a military satellite in orbit on Nov. 21, 2023.

Pyongyang uses ballistic missile technology to launch its satellites, which violates U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban the communist regime from testing the long-range missiles, according to Seoul.

Following Seoul's partial suspension, Pyongyang announced it would pull out of the agreement entirely and redeploy armed troops at guard posts near the border.

South Korea completely withdrew from the accord on June 4, after the North floated hundreds of balloons carrying trash across its border with the South.

South Korea has conducted other artillery drills near the border since scrapping its agreement with the North.

From June to July, South Korean soldiers and marines held artillery drills at unspecified ranges near the Military Demarcation Line, the actual border that divides the Korean Peninsula, the ministry said at the time.

Also Monday, South Korea launched its fourth military reconnaissance satellite from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. The satellite successfully established communication with ground stations and is designed to monitor activity in North Korea, the ministry said.

New Army 155 mm facility opens in Arkansas

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Army and General Dynamics on Tuesday opened a new artillery production facility in Arkansas, which will produce roughly half the service's 155 mm artillery shells once it is fully operational, according to service officials.

The new load, assemble and pack facility in Camden is expected to produce some 50,000 shells per month, according to the Army. Service officials since 2022 have sought to boost production of the Army's 155 mm artillery shells to 100,000 per month as it sent millions of rounds to Ukraine to bolster that nation's defenses against Russian military invaders.

In a statement Tuesday, Army Secretary Dan Driscoll made no mention of the efforts to support Ukraine's defense, but he said the new plant would be critical in ensuring U.S. troops are outfitted with the best "war-winning capabilities."

Army officials had previously said the service could produce some 15,000 155 mm shells on its production lines before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. It has since quadrupled its 155 mm shell production, officials said Tuesday.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine set off a massive effort by the U.S. military and NATO allies to arm Kyiv's military. The Pentagon sent Ukraine some 200 155 mm

Howitzers and more than 3 million 155 mm rounds since the start of the war, according to State Department data from January. Since President Donald Trump's return to the White House that month, the Pentagon has scaled back its support of Ukraine, as the United States sought to broker a peace deal between the countries. So far, that effort has failed to accomplish a lasting cease fire.

Army officials under former President Joe Biden said the Ukraine-arming efforts unveiled major problems in the service's supply lines, including single sources of some 155 mm parts that slowed its ability to ramp up production. The new efforts included moving shell production from a single fa-

cility to four separate facilities this year.

The Camden, Ark., facility opened Tuesday will be a final assembly plant, where 155 mm metal projectile bodies will be filled with explosive materials, assembled and packed for shipment, according to the Army.

General Dynamics said the new facility would use the latest technology including advanced air-cooling systems that "improve the quality and efficiency of the 155 mm artillery" load, assemble and pack process and reduce hazardous waste. Army officials said the facility will also use "advanced automation and digital quality tracking" to ensure consistent production.



COREY CONFER/U.S. Army
The Army on Tuesday opened a production facility in Arkansas to produce 155 mm artillery shells.

Air Force selects sites for upgraded North American air defense radar

By GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

Three locations in Oregon, and one each in Idaho and Nevada have been selected as potential sites for a part of a \$400 million modernized radar system to detect air and space attacks in North America, the Air Force disclosed.

A listing in the April 18 edition of the Federal Register said the Air Force would prepare environmental impact statements for possible construction of new Homeland Defense Over-The-Horizon Radar transmission and receiver sets.

Ontario, Burns and Christmas Valley in Oregon, McDermitt in Nevada and Mountain Home in

Idaho were listed in the Federal Register as cities and towns near potential sites.

"Once constructed, the [radar systems] would provide persistent, long-range early detection capabilities of airborne threats approaching North America," the Air Force said.

The service website for the project said new systems are needed because current line-of-site radar systems are distorted by the curvature of the Earth.

"The proposed action is needed because U.S. adversaries continue to develop and deploy highly advanced weapons systems capable of disrupting or defeating our military and civilian targets in

North America," the Air Force said. "Without [these radar systems], airborne threats could approach North America without early detection, resulting in reduced decision time for military and national leaders to deter, deescalate or defeat threats, placing North American homeland security at risk."

Service officials at the Pentagon could not be reached Tuesday for comment.

The sites will be controlled out of Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

The announcement is an indication that the Pentagon is moving ahead with initial steps on the system, which was originally planned

as a joint project between the U.S. and Canada. The two countries cooperate on the North American Aerospace Defense Command, which monitors for air, space and maritime incursions on territory and waters of the two nations.

The U.S.-Canadian cooperation has come into question since President Donald Trump assumed office in January. Trump has made statements that Canada should be America's 51st state, which was criticized as unrealistic and belligerent by the new Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

On March 19, Carney flew to the Arctic territory of Nunavut to announce Canada would spend \$6.5 billion to buy the Jindalee Over-

the-Horizon Radar from Australia.

"It will enable Canada to detect and respond to both air and maritime threats over our Arctic both faster and from further away," Carney said at a news conference. "It will most fundamentally keep all Canadians safe."

The United States had also been in talks with the Australians to buy the system.

The Air Force would receive 4,987 acres from the Bureau of Land Management, if the proposal is approved. Another 2,622 acres would be acquired from the Oregon Military Department, which includes the Oregon National Guard.

PACIFIC

Army issues final impact study on live-fire range

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Army’s plan to renew a lease for almost 20,000 acres of state land on Hawaii’s Big Island carries significant harmful effects on biological resources, cultural practices and environmental justice, according to the final environmental impact statement released Friday.

The Army is seeking to renew a lease for 19,700 acres that make up part of the Pohakuloa Training Area, a 132,000-acre live-fire training range made up of mostly federally owned land.

The state granted the Army a 65-year lease for \$1 in 1964 for the use of 23,000 acres.

The Army maintains that the Pohakuloa, including much of the leased state land, is essential to maintaining the nation’s military readiness.

Pohakuloa is the largest contiguous live-fire range and maneuver training area in Hawaii and is regarded as the Pacific region’s premier military training center, the Army said in a fact sheet accompanying the environmental statement.

“It is the only U.S. training area

in the Pacific region where [U.S. Army Hawaii] units can complete all mission-essential tasks and the only U.S. training area in Hawai’i that can accommodate larger than company-sized units for live-fire and maneuver exercises,” the fact sheet states.

The training area is central to U.S. Army Pacific’s Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center training held annually in the state. The site is also key in the Navy’s biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise.

The Army has in recent years worked through the required environmental regulations needed to begin negotiations to renew the state lease ahead of its expiration in 2029.

The environmental statement also considers three other lease scenarios that are not being pursued. In two alternatives, the Army would lease 22,750 or 10,100 acres. In a final scenario, the Army would not lease any of the state land.

The Army said in a news release Friday that it would wait 30 days before issuing a decision on the lease.

If it chooses to move forward,

the Army would begin negotiating with the state for its desired lease. The length would be determined in those negotiations, the service said.

The Army conceded in the environmental statement that executing a new lease prior to the expiration of the current one would be “arduous.” That is because the Army would need to petition the state to authorize a special subzone on the land that would allow military use of the acreage, and that request is likely to be contested by opponents of a renewed lease.

Two public comment periods held for draft environment statements issued in 2022 and 2024 garnered hundreds of responses, many opposing the renewal.

Jim Albertini, president of the group Malu ‘Aina, has long sought the end of military training at Pohakuloa entirely.

“Pohakuloa is zoned State Conservation land, the highest protected land status,” he said in an email Tuesday.

“Pohakuloa is a sub-alpine tropical dry-land forest — one of the world’s rarest kinds of ecosystems and the habitat for endan-



CHARLES CLARK/U.S. Army

A soldier loads a machine gun at the Pohakuloa Training Area in Hawaii in February.

gered plant and animal species, as well as many cultural and historic sites. Bombing and shelling is not a compatible use with Conservation land status.

“Wildfires started by PTA bombing and shelling have burned tens of thousands of acres, including more than 12,000 acres off the base, destroying additional endangered species habitat.”

An online petition calling on Hawaii’s governor and the board of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to not renew the lease had more than 10,000 signatures as of Wednesday.

A Hawaii judge in 2018 ruled that state officials had failed to ensure the Army maintained the range and protected Hawaiian

cultural interests — as required in the lease — in a lawsuit filed by Native Hawaii cultural practitioners.

If granted the lease renewal, the Army proposes adopting mitigation measures to counter the findings of significant adverse impact regarding biological resources, Hawaiian cultural practices and environmental justice.

Among them would be developing a formal plan for quarterly access to the property for native Hawaiian organizations and others; installing interpretive panels at the installation’s cantonment area; negotiating an agreement with the state to allow the Army to monitor wildfires; and researching feasibility of biological controls of an invasive grass.

WWII human remains, artifacts discovered on Ie Shima



Ie Village, Okinawa

Bones from more than 20 people, along with a helmet, water bottle and other items believed to be from World War II, were found on Ie Shima, Okinawa, in August.

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

A landscaper working on a historical film about the Battle of Okinawa uncovered human remains last summer on Ie Shima, marking the first such discovery on the island in more than 20 years, according to Japanese officials.

Hiroki Chinen discovered the remains in August while digging a hole to plant a tree on a farm in the Nishimae district. The landscaping work was part of the set for “Ki No Ue No Guntai,” or “Soldiers on a Tree,” a movie based on a true story from the battle, an Ie village Welfare Divi-

sion spokesman said Tuesday. Ie Shima is a 9-square-mile island off the coast of Okinawa’s Motobu Peninsula.

The remains — bone fragments from an estimated 20 people — were unearthed roughly 6 to 10 feet underground, a spokesman for Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said by phone Friday. DNA testing is planned to help determine their origin.

“It’s difficult to tell at the moment if these remains are from Japanese or Americans,” he said.

In addition to the bones, Chinen discovered 193 artifacts, including a water bottle, wrench, belt buckle, medicine bottle, and a heavily damaged item resem-

bling a kabuto, or Japanese combat helmet, a village Board of Education spokesman said by phone Tuesday. The items are now on display at the Hanikusuni Hall museum on the island.

“We cannot clearly say if they are from the Japanese imperial army because of the damage,” the spokesman said. It’s customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

The last known discovery of human remains from the battle on Ie Shima came during Japan’s 2003 fiscal year, a spokesman from Okinawa Prefecture’s Social Welfare and War Victims Relief Division said. He declined to

specify the month.

The Battle of Ie Shima began on April 16, 1945, as part of the second phase of the broader Battle of Okinawa. U.S. troops from the 77th Infantry Division landed on the island and secured its airfield by April 21, according to the U.S. Navy.

“Soldiers on a Tree,” directed by Okinawa-born filmmaker Kazuhiro Taira, tells the story of two Japanese soldiers who hid in a tree during the battle and survived for over two years, unaware the war had ended. The film is set for release in Okinawa on June 13 and across Japan on July 25 by Happinet Phantom Studios.

Power returns to Marine base on Okinawa following 3-day blackout

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY
Stars and Stripes

Electricity was restored to Camp Courtney on Tuesday evening following an outage that left at least 30 families without power for nearly three days, according to Marine officials on Okinawa.

Power returned at approximately 5:35 p.m. when workers switched on the main breaker and

began verifying electrical service across the base, Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokesman Maj. Brett Dornhege-Lazaroff said by phone Wednesday.

“I don’t know exactly when each service came back online yet,” he said.

Dornhege-Lazaroff said he did not know what caused the outage.

The base’s Child Development

Center remained closed Wednesday. Families were directed to use services at the center on Camp Foster.

The families most affected by the blackout lived on the upper side of the installation. They were authorized to stay in on- or off-base lodging through Wednesday morning, Dornhege-Lazaroff said.

The Facilities Directorate was

conducting “final connections and tests for power restoration” as electricity returned, according to a post Tuesday evening on the Camps Courtney and McTureous Facebook page.

To assist those affected, the base food pantry offered perishable goods Wednesday afternoon at the commissary and chapel to families and troops living in the

barracks who lost food during the outage.

“Our focus whenever these things happen is to try and get power back as quickly as we can and mitigate the effect on the tenants and people living on the base,” Dornhege-Lazaroff said. “Afterwards we’ll look at the claims process and look at what happened.”

MILITARY

Tragedy: Loss ‘something that hurts on a deeper level’

FROM PAGE 1

“We weren’t leaving without our boys,” Senior Chief Master Diver Carlos Hernandez, who led the U.S. Navy dive team on-site, told The Washington Post.

This account is based on interviews with more than a dozen people either involved with the operation or who knew the four soldiers who died in the March 25 tragedy: Staff Sgt. Jose Dueñez Jr., 25; Staff Sgt. Edwin F. Franco, 25; Pfc. Dante D. Taitano, 21; and Staff Sgt. Troy S. Knutson-Collins, 28. Efforts to speak with their families were unsuccessful.

An investigation is underway to determine how the crew was lost, with a separate inquiry focused on safety takeaways, said Maj. Gen. Curtis Taylor, the commander of the 1st Armored Division who led the recovery effort. A part of the investigation, Taylor said, will focus on whether it was appropriate for the soldiers to be sent into the woods by themselves. Georgia Franco, whose husband was among those killed, told CBS News she has demanded answers about that decision.

“They were never supposed to be out there alone,” Franco told the network.

The recovery

There are roughly 80,000 U.S. troops across Europe, and following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and its expanded war that began in 2022, training among NATO allies has intensified. Few countries are concerned more about Russian aggression than Lithuania, a small Baltic country bordering Moscow’s ally Belarus. About 2,000 U.S. personnel are stationed there on rotational deployments.

Since February, that mission has belonged to 1st Armored Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. A cornerstone of these deployments is training at the military reservation near Pabrade, a vast tract of rolling hills, wetlands and dense forests, not unlike their stomping grounds back home at Fort Stewart in eastern Georgia.

An artillery unit in the brigade had settled into nighttime training with its howitzers when a tactical vehicle became mired in the mud. The job to haul it out was tasked to Dueñez, Franco and Taitano, who were Abrams tank maintainers versed in retrieving disabled vehicles. All three had trained to recover vehicles at night, and this presented a valuable real-world opportunity to further hone those skills.

They climbed inside their M88A2 Hercules, an armored behemoth itself built on a tank chassis with a heavy towing system, and set out through the forest. With them was Knutson-Collins, an artillery mechanic in the brigade, helping to guide the crew.



CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS/U.S. Army

Maik, a search and rescue dog and his handler of the Estonian Defense Force assist in recovery efforts of a missing U.S. soldier on a military training site near Pabrade, Lithuania, on April 1.

Their trek in the early morning hours was slow going, with the heavy M88A2 capable of reaching a speed of around 25-30 mph. When radio contact with the crew was lost, a search effort was initiated that led to the muddy peat bog discovered by Riley.

A team of six Lithuanian divers was dispatched to the site, and what the divers found alarmed them. The bog, innocuous looking from level ground, churned with danger under the surface.

The wetland vegetation had partially decayed and, fed by a small pond nearby, created a thick morass of mud, sticks and grass. Its consistency made any movement exhausting, as if the divers were wading through drying concrete. They couldn’t see through their masks or get enough air through their regulators.

The Hercules, which can hold hundreds of gallons of fuel, had released significant amounts into the water, instantly degrading the divers’ equipment and limiting the time they could be submerged.

The divers made first contact with something steel around a depth of about 15 feet. Commanders on scene, worried it could have been some long-lost military vehicle or a farmer’s tractor, wanted to be certain it was the Hercules. The divers, having studied a similar vehicle in the motor pool, said they were confident that they touched the M88A2’s distinctive crane.

But problems were mounting. The vehicle, entombed in several feet of mud, was above a high-pressure gas pipeline but continued to sink, and fear quickly set in that any misstep could cause an explosion. Orders came down to clear the line.

Commanders assessed that the likelihood of recovering the soldiers would diminish the deeper the vehicle settled, so they turned their focus to thinning the mud. A field of gravel, 237 tons in all, was trucked in and spread out across the site to help stabilize the ground, and engineers felled

nearby trees. Slurry pumps hummed around-the-clock.

A coffer dam was built over about 30 hours in what would prove to be a failed bid to drain the bog. Though officials estimated that as many as 700,000 gallons were pumped out, water kept seeping in from nearby.

Breakthroughs

The recovery team grew by the hour, eventually reaching hundreds of personnel. There were 250 U.S. service members, 160 Lithuanian soldiers and civilians, 50 Polish troops, and working dog teams from Estonia and Lithuania.

Some 2,000 miles away in Rota, Spain, a team of U.S. Navy divers received urgent orders to fly across the continent. When the sailors of Task Force 68 arrived for a briefing with their Lithuanian counterparts, they absorbed the gravity of the task. For some, it would be their first time working to recover human remains.

Their objective was to connect heavy cables to the Hercules’ tow points so it could be pulled from the bog. The divers would have to find their way to the submerged vehicle entirely by touch. To rehearse, they climbed over a spare vehicle, closing their eyes to learn its contours.

Once in the water, the divers used a fire hose to create a chimney in the mud through which they could swim and maneuver. It was an agonizing process. They struggled to kick through the sludge, and their arms approached muscle failure.

It took more than two hours to connect one cable to the tow point and then 15 minutes to tunnel out again with the fire hose.

“We felt like the earth was re-encasing around us,” said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Steven Tausch, describing a subsequent dive to reach the Hercules’ second tow point. They surged water from the hose to push away mud from their helmets and bodies as they drew nearer.

At the surface, the team leader,

Hernandez, anxiously awaited every update delivered by radio through labored breathing. The divers, though tethered to the surface, knew that in an emergency they may not be pulled from the bog in time.

“Everyone on the dive site was completely on edge,” Hernandez said.

It took 90 minutes for Tausch’s team to reach the second shackle point. The vehicle was secured.

“Get me ... out of here,” Tausch said over the radio, using an expletive.

Two other M88s and two bulldozers were needed to pull the Hercules from the muck. Inside were the remains of three soldiers: Dueñez, Franco and Taitano.

The fourth, Knutson-Collins, was still missing.

Last man out

Back home in Battle Creek, Mich., Knutson-Collins’s family was feeling a mix of worry and optimism. He was a talented swimmer, they reasoned. Maybe he got out?

“I still want to be positive and hopeful that he’s somewhere else, still alive,” his father, Robert Collins, told local media.

A drone equipped with ground-penetrating radar was flown in to scan what lay concealed in the bog. It detected a helmet.

In the early morning hours of April 1, two search-and-rescue dog teams from Estonia’s Police and Border Guard Board arrived. The lead handler, Risto Kotkas, boarded a small inflatable boat with Maik, his 4-year-old German shepherd.

The wind had picked up, scattering the scent, and all the fuel in the water masked the odors Maik needed to track.

Maik was trained to bark when he found someone living or dead. He was not barking. Kotkas watched him carefully for any subtle body language — a tail wag, anxious energy or trying to lick the water’s surface. Kotkas and Maik orbited the bog until those

signs converged, and the handler pointed out a spot to investigate.

Using an excavator, the recovery team gently dug down into the quagmire. Brig. Gen. John P. Lloyd, who as chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Atlantic Division oversaw the process, recalled spotting a pair of boots.

“I immediately knew that we had him,” Lloyd said.

The loss

Thousands gathered in Lithuania’s capital, Vilnius, on April 3 as a procession of hearses transported the soldiers’ remains for the first leg of their trip home.

Among them was Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda, who tapped into the country’s painful past under Soviet occupation.

“We have experienced trials in our history, and therefore we understand well what loss is, what death is, what honorable duty is,” he said in his remarks.

In a private moment, members of 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, the unit the deceased soldiers were assigned to, huddled together and were silent for 10 minutes, said Capt. Madyson Wellens, the commander of the diesel forward support troop for the battalion.

Soldiers in the unit described profound loss.

Franco, a jokester from Glendale, Calif., stood out for his big smile and oversized glasses, said Sgt. Jeremiah Benetti. Wellens recalled that Franco spoke with admiration for his wife, who was home raising the couple’s infant by herself while he was deployed.

Dueñez, of Joliet, Ill., was a “duct tape and bubble gum” kind of guy, Riley said, explaining his innate gift for figuring out how to get nonfunctioning tanks running again. Dueñez volunteered for assignments more than any other soldier Riley’s ever known, he said, including the fateful mission to the peat bog, when he went to help even though he was not on the Hercules crew.

Knutson-Collins was similarly wired, said Staff Sgt. Caleb Cutting, a friend. They would talk and laugh about their kids, Cutting recalled, and it was evident he was eager to get home to Georgia and see his family.

The youngest soldier in the group, Taitano, a native of Guam, was known for his twin passions: cooking Spam with rice and tinkering with his old Nissan pickup. He offered oil changes in the barracks parking lot, to the chagrin of the unit’s senior leaders who couldn’t help but be impressed with his acumen.

Pfc. Ephraim Adakwaah, who trained in vehicle recovery with Taitano, said the men’s deaths felt like losing family.

“It’s something that hurts on a deeper level,” he said.

MILITARY

Fort McCoy commander suspended

Move follows social media posts showing Hegseth, Trump portraits facing wall

By Todd Richmond
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The U.S. Army has suspended a Wisconsin training base’s first female commander after discovering portraits of President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had been flipped around to face a wall.

The Army has posted an undated statement on Fort McCoy’s website saying Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez has been suspended as the base’s garrison commander. The statement said the suspension isn’t related to any misconduct but provided no other details, saying the matter was under review.

The Department of Defense on April 14 posted photos on X showing portraits of Trump and Hegseth on the base’s chain of

command wall had been turned to face the wall, along with photos showing that they had been flipped back to face the corridor.

“Regarding the Ft. McCoy Chain of Command wall controversy ... WE FIXED IT!” the post read. “Also, an investigation has begun to figure out exactly what happened.”

No one immediately returned email and voicemail messages The Associated Press left for Fort McCoy public affairs officials on Wednesday morning.

Baez Ramirez assumed the role of garrison commander at Fort McCoy in July 2024 after serving as chief of the Reserve Program, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, Va.

She was commissioned as a military intelligence officer through the Reserve Officer

Training Corps in 1999 and holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology/mental health from the University of Puerto Rico and a master’s in strategic studies from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

She holds numerous citations and decorations, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean Defense Medal.

She has served as chief of operations of the U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., deputy commander of the 501st Military Intelligence Brigade and deputy chief of the Special United States Liaison Advisor Korea at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

Fort McCoy is a 93-square-mile training base in the far western Wisconsin countryside. It has been in operation since 1909.



Scott T. Sturkol/U.S. Army

Col. Sheyla Baez Ramirez, garrison commander of Fort McCoy, Wis., has been suspended.

Guam plans state-of-the-art medical complex for island

By Alex Wilson
Stars and Stripes

Guam is advancing plans to build a \$743 million medical complex aimed at improving health care for its civilian and military populations, according to a spokeswoman for Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

The U.S. territory’s only public hospital, Guam Memorial in Tamuning, would relocate to a new site in the Barrigada-Mangilao area, about five miles southeast, Krystal Paco-San Agustin said by email Monday.

The proposed Guam Medical Complex is intended to counter the island’s geographic isolation and chronic health care shortages with a state-of-the-art facility, she said.

The cost to build the complex is slightly less than the \$760 million price tag to renovate infrastructure such as the aging Guam Memorial Hospital, which the U.S. Government Accountability Office described in an April 3 report as in “severe disrepair.”

“Systemic failures due to envi-

ronmental exposure, aging and insufficient funding for necessary repairs” have left the hospital barely functional, according to the report.

Paco-San Agustin said that while the project is in its early stages, environmental assessments, topographic studies and preliminary design work are already underway. A zoning notice for the new site was issued last week.

“A more definitive construction timeline will emerge once the environmental permitting process and design phase are complete, but the Governor’s Office is committed to advancing the project with urgency and transparency,” she said.

Leon Guerrero has committed \$104 million in American Rescue Plan funds to the project and is seeking additional support through federal aid, local resources and potential public-private partnerships, Paco-San Agustin said.

The new facility would feature 250 to 300 beds, expanded trauma

and emergency services, modern surgical suites, a women’s and children’s center, and advanced diagnostic labs.

Its location along Route 15 — about 10 miles from Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam and eight miles from the Marine Corps’ Camp Blaz — was selected for its central access to both civilian and military populations.

Guam’s military health infrastructure includes Naval Hospital Guam, Apra Harbor Clinic, and the 36th Medical Group’s clinic at Andersen. A fourth facility at the newly constructed Camp Blaz is expected to open this fall but will serve only active-duty patients.

DOD civilian employees are limited to space-available appointments, adding further stress to Guam’s already burdened health system. Roughly 22,000 U.S. military personnel live on the island, including around 1,000 civilian employees and contractors.

The DOD population is expected to grow to 35,000 by 2037, according to the Guam Daily Post,



Alex Wilson/Stars and Stripes

The Guam Governor’s Office hopes to relocate Guam Memorial Hospital in Tamuning, shown in 2022, to Mangilao as part of a proposed medical complex.

citing a Defense Department briefing.

Guam has 1.9 hospital beds per 1,000 residents — below the U.S. average of 2.7 reported by the World Health Organization in 2020. The island also struggles with staffing shortages, aging infrastructure and limited access to specialty care.

Its remote location — 1,600 miles from Japan or the Philippines and 3,800 miles from Hawaii — contributes to its classification as medically underserved

by the U.S. government. Maternity care is particularly scarce, according to the GAO.

Adding to the challenge is Guam’s high cost of living — 41% above the U.S. average — and income levels that leave many ineligible for Medicaid, according to 2021 congressional testimony from Guam’s Department of Public Health and Social Services.

Paco-San Agustin said the new medical complex is also intended to help recruit health care specialists to the island.

Ex-sergeant gets 8 years for attempted assault at Texas woman’s home

By Rose L. Thayer
Stars and Stripes

A former Fort Bliss, Texas, sergeant was sentenced to eight years in state prison for breaking into a woman’s El Paso home and attempting to sexually assault her, according to local prosecutors.

Christopher Aaron Rey, 30, was scheduled for a jury trial this week but instead took a plea deal in December, according to the El Paso District Attorney’s Office. He pleaded guilty to burglary of a habitation with intent to commit an-



Rey

other felony.

Once released from prison, Rey will have to register as a sex offender. He is serving his sentence at Rogelio Sanchez State Prison in El Paso and is eligible for parole in 2027, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice online records.

Rey was arrested in April 2023 after a woman, who was 19 years

old at the time, told police she was leaving her apartment to walk her dog when Rey forced his way inside.

The woman began to scream, and Rey told her to shut up and covered her mouth, according to an arrest affidavit from the El Paso Police Department. He moved his hands to her throat and then pushed her onto a couch in the living room. She told police that he removed some of her clothing and began to touch her while she screamed and kicked. He then

stopped and ran out of the apartment.

The woman told police that she had seen Rey the week prior at a laundromat, according to the affidavit. Police reviewed video surveillance footage from the laundromat and a nearby car dealership and found video of Rey and his vehicle, a blue Hyundai Tucson.

Four days after the attempted assault, the woman called police because she could see Rey in his military uniform through a doorbell video camera standing outside

her apartment checking the doorknob.

Police arrived at the woman’s apartment and found Rey driving his vehicle slowly along the street, according to the affidavit.

At the time of the attack, Rey was an infantryman stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso. He was discharged in November 2024, according to his official service record. Rey served in the Army from July 2012 until November 2015. He then re-enlisted in November 2017. He deployed once to Djibouti.

MILITARY

Sergeant convicted of attempted murder, rape

Fort Cavazos NCO attacked 5 women during yearlong base crime spree

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

FORT CAVAZOS, Texas — A Fort Cavazos sergeant was convicted Tuesday of attempted murder for strangling a woman with a lamp cord in her barracks room and for raping her and another woman, among dozens of other crimes that he committed against fellow soldiers.

Sgt. Greville Clarke, 32, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison for his crime spree that spanned more than a year at the central Texas Army base. Military Judge Col. Maureen Kohn will hear evidence this week to determine a sentence for Clarke.

He was convicted of other charges, including assault with the intent to commit rape, kidnapping, burglary, robbery, aggravated sexual contact, aggravated assault, assault with intent to commit kidnapping, assault consummated by battery, indecent visual recording and obstruction of justice.

The court-martial is expected to conclude this week.

From March 2021 until October 2022, Clarke broke into the rooms of five women living in the barracks at Fort Cavazos. In four of the attacks, he held the women in their rooms using a knife or a gun.



ROSE L. THAYER/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Greville Clarke waived his right to be present at the court-martial, which is expected to conclude this week.

He tied up three of the women and stole from them. He sexually assaulted the women and raped two of them.

In one attack, he held a woman for three to four hours before he strangled her with the cord of her Army-issued lamp. He only stopped because he thought she was dead, according to evidence presented in court.

The woman remained unconscious for more than a day, only waking twice to vomit. Doctors later determined she had experienced seizures because of the loss of oxygen, Maj. Allyson Montgomery, the Army prosecutor for the case, said Monday during her

closing argument.

"She barely made it out alive," the attorney said.

Stars and Stripes does not name sexual assault victims, unless given permission to do so.

Montgomery spent nearly four hours Monday describing in detail how Clarke committed his crimes — often using the soldier's own words when he confessed to an investigator with the Army Criminal Investigation Division on the October 2022 day that he was caught.

In each of the attacks, Clarke learned, adapted and found ways to better shield his identity, Montgomery said.

In Clarke's first attack on March 16, 2021, he broke into a woman's room using the window and woke her, showing her a pre-typed message on his cellphone: "You're being robbed. Don't make a sound."

She saw his knife as he ordered her to the ground to be tied up, Montgomery said.

However, the woman and her girlfriend had both fallen asleep during a video chat, and the girlfriend woke up to the noise of the attack and began to ask questions. This scared Clarke away.

"He admitted that she was on FaceTime with a woman who said things to him that made him panic," Montgomery said.

In the next attack roughly one year later, Clarke entered the room with a key that he had from living in that barracks building. He couldn't successfully tie up the woman, but he threatened her with the knife, blindfolded her, forced her to undress and then or-

dered her to tell him where to find specific lingerie and high heels in her room.

She told the court that he seemed to know what he was looking for.

At one point, he held her by the throat and rubbed his clothed body against her naked one, Montgomery said. Then he told the woman that they had the entire weekend together before he would kill her.

She "had a physical reaction to being so repulsed by him" and began to have a panic attack, Montgomery said. Clarke fled, promising to return.

In his third break-in on July 15, 2022, Clarke banged on the woman's barracks room door at about 2 a.m. with a gun tucked into his uniform pants. The young private answered because she saw a sergeant at her door in uniform. But her roommate spoke up and frightened him away, Montgomery said.

That same night, he banged on the door to another room, where he held a woman captive at gunpoint for hours.

He tied her up, raped her, took explicit photos and forced her into the shower.

She began to panic and get loud, prosecutors said. In Clarke's own words, he "freaks out" on her, first trying to pour water on her blindfolded face to calm her down. It escalated her volume as she began to choke.

He then took the lamp cord and wrapped it twice around her neck attempting to strangle her.

He was acquitted of two charges

— a second attempted premeditated murder count and a charge of attempted fraudulent use of an access device. Both related to his fifth and final attack in October 2022. He used the woman's cellphone to try and move \$14,000 from her bank accounts to his.

He hid in the woman's shower while she was in the barracks laundry room.

After hours, she escaped while he was emptying a large plastic bin that he said he planned to use to move her to another location and kill her. As she ran from him naked and screaming, he pointed his pistol at her but never fired a shot.

He was caught that day because he dropped one of his cellphones as soldiers chased him from the building.

While in police custody, he still had access to his second cellphone and created a cartoon version of himself smiling behind a shower curtain.

Clarke, who has been in pretrial confinement at Bell County Jail since he was arrested Oct. 2, 2022, has been absent from court since the trial began April 7. He waived his right to be present and the judge accepted.

Maj. Kimberly Hurt, an attorney for Clarke, successfully argued Clarke should not be convicted of premeditated murder in this attack because he did not have a plan to kill this woman, only threats.

"While in those rooms, he's often confused about what he intends to do," she said Monday in her closing argument.

STARS AND STRIPES

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation

944

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NATION

Musk to spend more time running Tesla

Trump adviser to cut back on DOGE duties as car sales slide

By **BERNARD CONDON**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Elon Musk says he'll be spending less time in Washington slashing government costs and more time running Tesla after his electric vehicle company reported a big drop in profits.

Musk said on a conference call with analysts Tuesday that "now that the major work of establishing Department of Government Efficiency is done," that he will be "allocating far more of my time to Tesla" starting in May. Musk said he now expects to spend just "a day or two per week on government matters."

Tesla struggled to sell vehicles as it faced angry protests over Musk's leadership of DOGE, a jobs-cutting group that has divided the country. The Austin, Texas, company reported a 71% drop in profits and a 9% decline in revenue for the first quarter.

"Investors wanted to see him recommit to Tesla," said Wedbush Securities' Dan Ives. "This is a big step in the right direction."

Investors sent Tesla shares up more than 5% in after-hours trading, although they are still down more than 40% for the year.

The company reconfirmed that it expects to roll out a cheaper version of its best-selling vehicle, the Model Y sport utility vehicle, in the first half of this year. It also stuck with its predictions that it will be able to launch a paid driverless robotaxi service in Austin in June and have much of its fleet operating by itself next year.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Elon Musk flashes his T-shirt that reads "DOGE" to the media as he walks on South Lawn of the White House, in Washington, March 9.

verless robotaxi service in Austin in June and have much of its fleet operating by itself next year.

"There will be millions of Teslas operating autonomously in the second half of the year," Musk said in a conference call after the results were announced. He later added about the personal use of autonomous vehicles, "Can you go to sleep in our cars and wake up at your destination? I'm confident that will be available in many cities in the U.S. by the end of this year."

Auto analyst Sam Abuelsamid at Telemetry Insight said he doubts Musk's predictions.

"The system is not robust enough to operate unsupervised. It still makes far too many errors,"

he said. "It will suddenly make mistakes that will lead to a crash."

The planned rollout of the robotaxi without a steering wheel or pedals comes as federal regulators still have open investigations into whether the technology that Tesla hopes will allow cars to drive themselves is completely safe.

Tesla's driver-assistance technology that can steer or stop a car but still requires humans to take over at any time — its so-called Autopilot — is being probed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for whether it alerts drivers sufficiently when their attention wanders. And the company's Full Self-Driving, which is only partial self-driving and has drawn criticism for mis-

leading drivers with the name, has come under scrutiny for its tie to accidents in low-visibility conditions like when there is sun glare.

Another challenge to Tesla, which once dominated the EV business: It is facing fierce competition for the first time.

Earlier this year, Chinese EV maker BYD announced it had developed an electric battery that can charge within minutes. And Tesla's European rivals have begun offering new models with advanced technology that is making them real Tesla alternatives just as popular opinion has turned against Musk. The Tesla CEO has alienated potential buyers in Europe by publicly supporting far-right politicians there.

Tesla said Tuesday that quarterly profits fell from \$1.39 billion to \$409 million, or 12 cents a share. That's far below analyst estimates. Tesla's revenue fell from \$21.3 billion to \$19.3 billion in the January through March period, also below Wall Street's forecast. Tesla's gross margins, a measure of earnings for each dollar of revenue, fell from 17.4% to 16.3%.

Tesla has said it will be hurt less by the Trump administration's tariffs than most U.S. car companies because it makes most of its U.S. cars domestically. But it won't be completely unscathed. It sources some materials for its vehicles from abroad and will now face import taxes.

Tesla warned in announcing its results that tariffs will hit its energy storage business, too.

Retaliation from China will also hurt Tesla. The company was forced earlier this month to stop taking orders from mainland customers for two models, its Model S and Model X. It makes the Model Y and Model 3 for the Chinese market at its factory in Shanghai.

The company's side business of selling "regulatory credits" to other automakers that fall short of emission standards boosted results for the quarter.

Tesla generated \$595 million from credit sales, up from \$442 million a year ago.

The company generated \$2.2 billion in cash flow versus \$242 million a year earlier.

Morningstar analyst Seth Goldstein said earlier reports of plunging sales that had tanked the stock made the quarterly results almost predictable.

"They're not particularly surprising given that deliveries were down," he said. "It was good to see positive cash flow."

Secretary: China trade war is 'unsustainable'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a Tuesday speech that the ongoing tariffs showdown against China is unsustainable and he expects a "de-escalation" in the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

But in a private speech in Washington for JPMorgan Chase, Bessent also cautioned that talks between the United States and China had yet to formally start.

President Donald Trump placed import taxes of 145% on China, which has countered with 125% tariffs on U.S. goods. Trump has placed tariffs on several dozen countries, causing the stock mar-

ket to stumble and interest rates to increase on U.S. debt as investors worry about slower economic growth and higher inflationary pressures.

Details of the speech were confirmed by two people familiar with the remarks who insisted on anonymity to discuss them.

The S&P 500 stock index rose 2.5% after Bloomberg News initially reported Bessent's remarks.

Trump acknowledged the increase in the stock market in remarks to reporters afterward on Tuesday, but he avoided confirming if he, too, thought the situation with China was unsustainable as Bessent had said behind closed doors.

Trump says he has 'no intention' of firing the Federal Reserve chair

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday he has no plans to fire Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, just days after his statement that he would like to terminate the head of the U.S. central bank caused a stock market selloff.

"I have no intention of firing him," Trump told reporters.

The U.S. president had previously insinuated otherwise as he said he could fire Powell if he wanted to, having been frustrated by the Fed putting a pause on cuts to short-term interest rates. Powell has said that Trump's tariffs are creating uncertainty about slower growth and higher infla-

tionary pressures, while the president maintains that inflationary worries are nonexistent.

The president maintains that energy and grocery prices are falling, so the Fed should cut its benchmark rates because inflation is no longer a threat to the economy. His remarks indicated that he still plans to use the bully pulpit to pressure a U.S. central bank committed to resisting political pressure as part of its mandate to stabilize prices and maximize employment.

Trump's frustration led him to post on social media last Thursday: "Powell's termination cannot come fast enough!"

The Fed chair's term ends in

May 2026.

The Fed has held off on further reductions to its federal funds rate, which influences the money supply by setting the interest rate that banks can charge each other for overnight loans. That rate is effectively 4.33%, down a fully percentage point since last August as inflationary pressures appeared to ease.

But Powell has also been willing to challenge the president's trade policies. He said last week in a Chicago speech that Trump's tariff policies would hurt the U.S. economy, a direct warning to a White House trying to sell the import taxes as a long-term positive for the country.

NATION

New Jersey wildfire expected to expand

Associated Press

CHATSWORTH, N.J. — A fast-moving wildfire engulfing part of New Jersey’s Pine Barrens has not resulted in any injuries, officials said, though it’s expected to continue to grow before forecast rain later this week.

The fire in southern New Jersey’s Lacey and Ocean townships grew to roughly 18 square miles and could continue to burn for days, officials said during an update on Wednesday. No one has been injured so far in the blaze, and 5,000 residents were evacuated but have been permitted to return home.

“This is still a very active fire,” said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn LaTourette. “As we continue to get this under full control the expectation is that the number of acres will grow and will grow in a place that is unpopulated.”

The Garden State Parkway, one of New Jersey’s busiest highways, also reopened Wednesday morning after officials closed a roughly 7-mile stretch in the southern part of the state.

Video released by the state



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Firefighters battle a house fire Wednesday in Lacey Township, N.J.

agency overseeing the fire service showed billowing white and black clouds of smoke, intense flames engulfing pines and firefighters dousing a charred structure.

The cause of the fire is still un-

der investigation, authorities said.

Forest fires are a common occurrence in the Pine Barrens, a 1.1 million-acre state and federally protected reserve about the size of the Grand Canyon lying halfway

between Philadelphia to the west and the Atlantic coast to the east. The region, with its quick-draining sandy soil, is amid peak forest fire season. The trees are still developing leaves, humidity re-

mains low and winds can kick up, drying out the forest floor.

The area had been under a severe drought until recently, when early spring rains helped dampen the region.

The Jersey Central Power and Light Co. cut power to about 25,000 customers at the request of the Forest Fire Service and the wildfire’s command post Tuesday evening, including thousands in Barnegat Township.

A spokesman for the company said Wednesday that some customers could have power restored later in the day.

“This is for the safety of crews battling the fire,” the company wrote on X.

Debi Schaffer was caught in gridlocked traffic after evacuating with her two dogs while her husband agreed to stay with their 22 chickens, The Press of Atlantic City reported.

“I wanted to take them in the car with me; can you imagine 22 chickens in a car?” she told the newspaper.

The blaze is the second major forest fire in the region in less than a week.

Weinstein sexual assault retrial begins in new era

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Opening statements in Harvey Weinstein’s #MeToo rape retrial began Wednesday, five years after his original #MeToo trial delivered a searing reckoning for one of Hollywood’s most powerful figures.

The trial started with a prosecutor telling jurors about the three allegations at issue in the case, including one involving a woman who wasn’t part of the original trial in 2020. Weinstein’s lawyer countered that the women and the one-time Hollywood powerbroker had consensual relationships.

Kaja Sokola, a former model from Poland, alleges that Weinstein pinned her to a bed and forci-

bly performed oral sex on her in 2006 after luring her to his Manhattan hotel room with the promise of movie scripts. Four years earlier, Sokola alleges, he molested her at his apartment when she was just 16, Assistant District Attorney Shannon Lucey told jurors.



Weinstein

Weinstein, 73, is charged in connection with the 2006 allegation, but not the earlier one. Sokola previously sued and received \$3.5 million in compensation, Lucey said.

It’s the first time Manhattan

prosecutors have detailed Sokola’s allegations, which were added to the case after New York’s highest court overturned Weinstein’s conviction last year.

The rest of the retrial involves allegations from two women who were part of the original trial — Miriam Haley and Jessica Mann.

The trial is taking place in the same Manhattan courthouse as his first trial, but Weinstein’s retrial is playing out at a different cultural moment than the first, which happened during the height of the #MeToo movement.

The jury counts seven women and five men — unlike the seven-man, five-woman panel that convicted him in 2020 — and there’s a

different judge. The #MeToo movement, which exploded in 2017 with allegations against Weinstein, has also evolved and ebbed.

At the start of Weinstein’s first trial, chants of “rapist” could be heard from protesters outside. TV trucks lined the street, and reporters queued for hours to get a seat in the packed courtroom. His lawyers decried the “carnival-like atmosphere” and fought unsuccessfully to get the trial moved. This time though, over five days of jury selection, there was none of that.

Those realities, coupled with the New York Court of Appeals’ ruling last year vacating his 2020 conviction and 23-year prison sentence — because the judge allowed testimo-

ny about allegations Weinstein was not charged with — are shaping everything from retrial legal strategy to the atmosphere in court.

Weinstein, 73, is being retried on a criminal sex act charge for allegedly forcibly performing oral sex on a movie and TV production assistant, Miriam Haley, in 2006 and a third-degree rape charge for allegedly assaulting an aspiring actor, Jessica Mann, in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013.

Weinstein has pleaded not guilty and denies raping or sexually assaulting anyone. His acquittals on the two most serious charges from his 2020 trial — predatory sexual assault and first-degree rape — still stand.

US hits Iranian oil networks with sanctions amid Houthi fight

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

An Iranian gas mogul this week became the latest target of American sanctions against Tehran’s petroleum networks, which U.S. officials say generate vast revenue for funding attacks by Middle East militants.

Seyed Asadoollah Emamjomeh was named Tuesday in a Treasury Department statement, which said he oversees an expansive set of liquefied petroleum gas operations based in Iran and the Unit-

ed Arab Emirates.

“The United States remains committed to holding accountable those who seek to provide the Iranian regime with the funding it needs to further its destabilizing activities in the region and around the world,” Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

Gas and oil operations help bankroll Iran’s nuclear weapons program as well as groups like the Houthis, Hamas and Hezbollah, the statement said.

The sanctions are part of the

White House’s effort to exert economic pressure on Iran amid American strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen that have been going on for a month.

Emamjomeh and a company he used to own, Pearl Petrochemical FZE, conducted tens of billions of dollars in business on behalf of a company that the U.S. had previously sanctioned for financially supporting Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, according to the statement.

Nine other Iranian companies

are owned or controlled by Emamjomeh, the Treasury Department said.

In 2024, a ship in Emamjomeh’s network unsuccessfully tried to load cargo off the coast of Houston and transport it to China, the statement said.

The sanctions announced Tuesday add to a list of entities that includes the International Bank of Yemen, which the U.S. says is supporting the Houthis, and the petroleum shipping operations of an Indian man based in the United

Arab Emirates.

The U.S. also recently designated a China-based refinery that it says played a role in purchasing more than \$1 billion worth of Iranian crude oil from an Iranian front company.

Meanwhile, diplomatic negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program are progressing.

Steve Witkoff, the Middle East envoy, is reportedly preparing for a third round of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi later this week.

WORLD

Faithful pay their final respects to Pope Francis

By COLLEEN BARRY
AND NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Thousands of people filed through the central aisle of St. Peter's Basilica to pay their final respects to Pope Francis on Wednesday, the start of three days of public viewing ahead of the pontiff's funeral.

Thronges of faithful made their way slowly to the 16th-century basilica's main altar, where Francis' simple open wooden casket was perched on a slight ramp, as four Swiss Guards stood at attention. Over the coming days, tens of thousands of people are expected to pass through the basilica, and the Vatican said that it may keep the basilica open past midnight due to high first-day turnout.

Many people paying their respects had come to Rome to celebrate Easter, on a spring vacation or other personal business, only to be met with the news of Francis' death on Easter Monday. Out of devotion to the Argentine pope and his message of inclusion, they joined the procession of mourners that wended through the Holy Door and down the central aisle of the basilica.

Francis was laid out in red robes, clasping a rosary and wearing a bishop's miter, the traditional pointed headdress. Mourners waited hours to reach the casket — which sat behind a cordon — some holding their cellphones aloft as they neared him to snap photos in what has become a modern ritual.

"It gave me chills," said Ivenes



ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP

The body of Pope Francis is placed into St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, on Wednesday, where he will lie in state for three days.

Bianco, as she left the basilica. She was in Rome from the city of Brindisi for medical care, and had come to pay her respects. "He was important to me because he encouraged coexistence. He brought many people together."

Cardinals, meanwhile, met to finalize preparations for Saturday's funeral and plan the conclave to elect Francis' successor.

Francis died on Monday at age 88, capping a 12-year pontificate characterized by his concern for the poor and message of inclusion, but also some criticism from conservatives who sometimes felt alienated by his progressive bent.

Wednesday opened with the bells of St. Peter's tolling as pallbearers carried Francis' body from the Vatican hotel where he lived into the basilica in a proces-

sion through the same piazza where he had delivered what became his final goodbye. Francis made a surprise popemobile tour through the faithful on Easter Sunday, after being assured by his nurse he could despite his continued frail health from a bout of pneumonia.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who is running the Vatican temporarily until a new pope is elected, led the procession down the central aisle to the altar, with clouds of incense preceding him and the choir chanting the Litany of Saints hymn. In pairs, cardinals in red cassocks approached the casket, bowed and made a sign of the cross, followed by small groups of purple-robed bishops, black-clad ushers, priests and nuns — and then the doors were thrown open



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Francis' body is carried through St. Peter's Square to the Basilica.

to the public.

Heads of state are expected for Francis' funeral, but the three days of public viewing in the basilica allow ordinary Catholics to grieve the Argentine pope. The viewing ends Friday at 7 p.m., after which Francis' casket will be closed and sealed.

Francis' death and funeral inaugurates a carefully orchestrated period of transition in the 1.4 billion-strong Catholic Church, with cardinals gathering over the coming days before entering into a conclave, the secretive ritual voting in the Sistine Chapel to elect a new pope. There are 135 cardinals under age 80 and eligible to vote, and the new pontiff will likely come from within their ranks. The conclave is not expected to begin before May 5.

South Korean Cardinal Lazarus You Heung-sik, who heads the Vatican's office for priests, predicted a short conclave, but ac-

knowledgeed the transition is full of uncertainties.

"We'll see what the Holy Spirit says," he said Wednesday. Asked if the next pope could come from Asia, where the Catholic Church is growing, he insisted: "For the Lord, there's no East or West."

Francis first lay in state in the Domus Santa Marta hotel in a private viewing for Vatican residents and the papal household. Images released by the Vatican on Tuesday showed the pope in an open casket, wearing the pointed head-dress of bishops and red robes, his hands folded over a rosary.

Once inside the basilica, Francis' casket wasn't put on an elevated bier — as was the case with past popes — but placed on a ramp, facing the pews. It was in keeping with Francis' wishes for all the rituals surrounding a papal funeral to be simplified to reflect his belief that the pope's role is that of simple pastor, not world leader.

Talks: French official acknowledges Russia entrenched in 5 Ukrainian areas

FROM PAGE 1

When those "ideas" surfaced in media reports several days later, Ukrainian officials were surprised to find that Washington portrayed them as final, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Zelenskyy said Wednesday that Ukraine is ready for any format of negotiations that might bring a ceasefire and open the door to full peace negotiations, as he mourned nine civilians killed when a Russian drone struck a bus earlier in the day.

"We insist on an immediate, complete and unconditional ceasefire," Zelenskyy wrote on his Telegram page, in accordance with a proposal he said the United States tabled six weeks ago.

Later Wednesday, President Donald Trump lashed out at Zelenskyy, saying the Ukrainian leader is prolonging the 'killing field' after he pushed back on ceding Crimea to Russia.

Ukraine and some European governments have accused Rus-

sian President Vladimir Putin of dragging his feet on that proposal as his army tries to capture more Ukrainian land. Western analysts say Moscow is in no rush to conclude peace talks because it has battlefield momentum.

U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy announced that the talks in London to find an end to the more than three-year war would involve only lower-ranking officials after the U.S. State Department said Tuesday that Secretary of State Marco Rubio was unable to attend because of a scheduling issue.

Rubio's abrupt cancelation raised doubts about the direction of the negotiations.

Commenting on those attending the London talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "as far as we understand, they so far have failed to bring their positions closer on some issues." He said the Kremlin was still in consultations with American officials but wouldn't publicly discuss details.

U.S. special envoy Steve Wit-

koff is expected to visit Moscow again later this week, according to Russian officials.

Even achieving a limited, 30-day ceasefire has been beyond the reach of negotiators, as both sides have continued to attack each other in a grinding war of attrition.

A Russian drone struck a bus carrying workers in Marganets, in eastern Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region on Wednesday morning, killing eight women and one man, regional head Serhii Lysak wrote on his Telegram channel. More than 40 people were injured, he said.

Lysak published photos of a bus with its windows blown out and shards of glass mixed with blood spattered on the bus floor.

Trump has pushed for an end to the war and said last week that negotiations were "coming to a head." That comment came after Rubio suggested that the U.S. might soon back away from negotiations if they don't progress.

Rubio had indicated that Wednesday's meeting could be

decisive in determining whether the Trump administration remains engaged.

Those still attending the meeting included retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Trump's envoy for Ukraine and Russia.

Andrii Yermak, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, said on X that a delegation including him, Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and Defense Minister Rustem Umerov had arrived in London for the talks despite the alterations.

"The path to peace is not easy, but Ukraine has been and remains committed to peaceful efforts," Yermak said.

Officials would "discuss ways to achieve a full and unconditional ceasefire as the first step toward a comprehensive settlement and the achievement of a just and lasting peace," he said.

During similar talks last week in Paris, U.S. officials presented a proposal that included allowing Russia to keep control of occupied Ukrainian territory as part of a

deal, according to a European official familiar with the matter.

Zelenskyy pushed back against that during an appearance in Kyiv, saying: "There is nothing to talk about — it is our land, the land of the Ukrainian people."

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister, Yuliia Svyrydenko, said Wednesday: "Ukraine is ready to negotiate — but not to surrender."

Russia, meanwhile, has effectively rejected a U.S. proposal for an immediate and full 30-day halt in the fighting by imposing far-reaching conditions.

Some European allies are wary of the American proposal for Ukraine to exchange land for peace. But an official said there's also acknowledgment by some allies that Russia is firmly entrenched wholly or partially in five regions of Ukraine — Crimea, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

If the goal is to obtain a ceasefire immediately, "it should be based on the line of contact as it is," said a senior French official.

STARS AND STRIPES®

MONTH OF THE
MILITARY
CHILD

WORLDWIDE
EXPERIENCES

Military children grow up in many different places and have opportunities and experiences unique to their lifestyle. In this final edition we present personal accounts from kids about events and circumstances that were impactful in their lives.



Olympic Memories

One of my favorite family vacations we've taken since I've lived in Germany has been to drive to Paris, France and go to the 2024 Paralympics. We went to cheer for our family friend, Mr. Jason Tabansky, while he competed for and won the gold medal in para-archery. Mr. Jason served in the Army with my daddy many years ago. I also got to meet Mr. Matt Stutzman, Mr. Jason's para-archery teammate. Mr. Matt doesn't have arms and shoots his compound bow with his legs and feet. Mr. Matt won a gold medal, too!

While we were in Paris we also visited the Eiffel Tower, The Arc de Triomphe, The Louvre, the Musee de Orsay, and we cruised the Seine River. My favorite part of this trip was meeting Mr. Jason and trying on his gold medal!

Eliza P. / 4th grade, Aukamm Elementary School

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MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Students from Landstuhl Elementary School tell us what it is like to be a military child in Europe.

An intristing experience I have had is when I made friends with a german and hearing their language and trieing to understand them. My favorite trip has been going to greese and swiming in the ocean because it felt lik being in hawii again. A cultural difference from being stationed in Europe has been recycleing, because in hawii it was 1 garbage can now its 4 garbage cans.

Calvin

Being a military child is very interesting because of the different experiences, vacations, and the cultural difference in Europe.

It's an interesting experiences because of how the roads are so narrow and small

My favorite trip was probably Legoland because of the rides and games.

A culteral difference is how germans don't celebrate Halloween or Thanksgiving.

Jaleea

The place in Europe my famly has been stationed in is Grmany. Being stationed in Grmany is ok excpt for the fakt that it's alwas raining and cloudy and everyone thinks your crazy for speaking English. But other than that I have never seen snow or so many trees in my life! And also this is my first time trying goloto! And also I have a Grmnan/English getar techr. Grmany is allright. Also one time I was between 3 borders at onec and I looked at France: sun and happy people, I looked at Grmany one big cloud covering it, and then Switserland tons of fog.

Henry

An interesting experience I had before is that it is much colder than where I lived before. A favorite vacation I have had before is we went some-where here and there were so many tulips. A Difference here in Germany than the states is that not many places are opened on Sundays.

Rebekah

Moving: The best and worst part of my life

Picture this: You're sitting in a class at the start of the school year, answering an "About Me" survey on your computer. One of the questions says, "What's the worst part of your life?" The next question asks, "What's the best part of your life?" You think hard about these two questions. What would you say? How would you describe your answer?

Hello! My name is Lucy, and I've been in a military family since I was born. I have moved six-going-on-seven times and have been to more than 10 schools in my life. As of right now, I'm about halfway through my 8th grade school year.

At the start of the year, I was asked those same two questions in a survey. What's the best and worst part of your life? There were an infinite number of answers I could give. Surprisingly, I answered both questions with the same word. "Moving."

As I said before, I've been in a military family since I was a child, and I've lived in six different places. This means that I've been able to see amazing things: the Seattle Space Needle, the city of Tokyo, the Eiffel Tower, the Sistine Chapel, the Bamboo Forests of Kyoto and so much more. I've gotten to meet so many people and make friends from all of those places, and I've even learned a bit of some different languages.

But, there is a downside to all of this. There's a sort of existential dread over the entire time that I live somewhere because I know I'll eventually have to say goodbye to it all. I'll be leaving my house and my friends and taking a long trip on an airplane to live in a new house in a new place that's who knows how far away.

The worst- and best- example of this was my move from Spokane, Washington to Okinawa, Japan. We'd only been living in Spokane for a year and a half, but I'd already made so many great friends and seen so many amazing things. I found a genuine best friend for the first time in my life, and I even got a new little brother.

Then one day in August, we had to say goodbye. We had to leave everything behind and move to a new place that I'd never been before. When we first stepped into our empty husk of a house in Japan, I cried. I cried for a long time. I kept on saying that Spokane was the best place we've ever lived.

Little did I know that my time on Okinawa would take the cake as the best time of my life. I went to three amazing schools on Kadena Air Base and learned so many new things about Japanese culture, both from school and the trips we took.

Okinawa is actually just a small island off the south coast of Japan, so in the winter, we would take trips to Tokyo and Kyoto and learn all sorts of things about the culture and way of life there. I learned what things like "Tanjobi Omedato Gozaimas" means ("Happy Birthday" in Japanese). I learned what authentic Asian sushi tastes like. I made mochi, which is a Japanese rice-jelly dessert. Plus, I've seen all of the stereotypical "ninja architecture" in real life, as well as Buddhist rock gardens, Shinto shrines, and temples.

But like I said before, we eventually had to say goodbye.

So that's why moving is the best and worst part of my life. So many new opportunities and experiences can be found with moving, and yet so much sadness and loss can be found as well. I hope this gave you a new understanding about the life of a military child, made you think about how you would answer those two questions on a survey now, and perhaps gave you insight into the complicated emotions that accompany the organized mess of a military lifestyle.

By Lucy C. / Grade 8, AFNorth MHS



Kaliyah / Bahrain

Growing as a Military Child

I've been a military child my whole life & it definitely comes with obstacles. Things like moving locations & my parents going on deployment at a young age. Adapting to new environments can also be a struggle specifically at a young age.

Traveling...

Traveling is a major part of being a military child, some military kids get to travel due to their parents military orders. Though it may be a hassle, we get to experience cool things. Learning about different cultures is very cool & expands your knowledge that's why I chose a airplane as a military symbol.

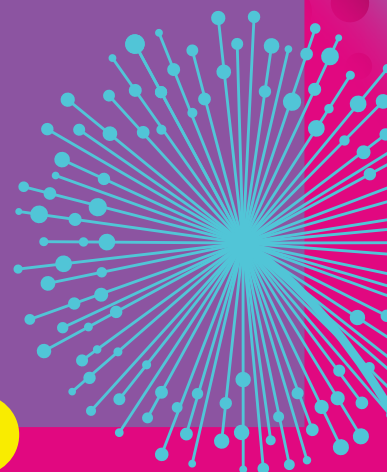
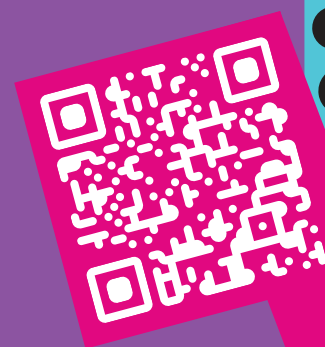


HOME Sickness

Being a military child comes with ups but it also comes with downs. Something I struggle with the most was home sickness. At first home sickness doesn't hit you but over time it does affect you, but with my other family calling me, it keeps it at bay.

Skills ive got from being a military child

Some of the skills me & other military kids have developed is adapting. Over time we learned to adapt to certain things like our parents leaving & getting stationed other places. With this also comes better understanding, at first our understanding is not so good but over time we know that there's...



View more entries at europe.stripes.com/military-child

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MONTH OF THE
MILITARY
CHILD

Students from Sembach Elementary School share portraits of their external self on the left and their military-child self on the right.



Brooklyn / 5th Grade



Mayli / 5th Grade

These military kids shared what being a military-connected child means to them.

Haleah / 2nd Grade



Being a military child is sad. But trying new food and thing are great!



Noella / 2nd Grade

Anonymous



I love being a military child because...

I love speanding it with my family. I also like to meat new freind's and travel. That is why I love beaing a military child.

FACES

People names Demi Moore the World’s Most Beautiful

BY JAMI GANZ
New York Daily News

There’s no one Moore beautiful than Demi! While the “Substance” star may have lost her first Oscars race, People has crowned her the World’s Most Beautiful of 2025.

Demi Moore, 62, who last month lost the best actress Academy Award to “Anora” star Mikey Madison, opened up about her life and being catapulted back into the zeitgeist in People’s World’s Most Beautiful 2025 issue.

Though her life is now “peaceful — and free,” Moore shared that fame has “put me through the wringer.”

“Not unlike what ‘The Substance’ is and why they made the character an actor,” she said of the body horror film, which centers on a former starlet who goes to physical extremes to avoid being aged out of relevance. “It really forced me to address my issues of self-judgment and lack of appreciation.”

The “About Last Night” star admitted she used to “torture” her body and do “crazy things” in the name of vanity, like cycling the 26 miles from Malibu “all the way to Paramount.”

Now, Moore believes her 80-year-old future self would tell her present self to “take care of us.”

“Don’t take this body for granted,” said Moore, who last week al-



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Demi Moore, shown March 2, has had an eventful year so far.

so landed on the Time100 list of most influential people.

It’s been nearly a year since “The Substance” premiered at Cannes, and Moore likened the experience to “a full pregnancy — really joyous moments, exhausting moments.”

“I had no idea what might happen with this film,” said Moore, who this year nabbed her first Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards. “And I certainly could never have imagined it unfolding the way that it did.”

Taylor Swift, Kendrick Lamar, Simone Biles win Webby Awards

BY JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

Kendrick Lamar, Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Travis Kelce and Simone Biles won honors at the Webby Awards, which recognize the best internet content and creators.

The International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences announced winners Tuesday in a variety of categories.

The Webby Entrepreneur of the Year Award went to Snoop Dogg for breaking through as a versatile businessman with Death Row Records along with brands of ice cream, cannabis and alcohol.

Walton Goggins won the best actor award for his parts in streaming projects including “The White Lotus,” “The Righteous Gemstones” and “Fallout.”

“This year’s winners represent a masterclass of creativity and innovation,” said Jesse Feister, executive director for the Webby Media Group.

“They’ve harnessed the power of the internet to drive change, spark conversations and connect us in new ways. With the introduction of new categories, these creators are being recognized for

shaping the future of the digital world.”

The awards started in 1996 by recognizing websites. They have grown to embrace new technologies, from apps and software to social media and games.

Google won its first-ever Brand of the Year achievement. NBC Universal was honored for being best Media Company.

Special achievement recipients include Amelia Dimoldenberg, Rep. Jasmine Crockett, Jools Lebron, Marcello Hernández, the MeidasTouch Podcast and Norman Teague.

Other winners include Lady Gaga for her website, Mariah Carey’s “It’s Time” partnership with KAY Jewelers, RuPaul’s “Drag Race: The Pit Stop,” Lamar’s “Not Like Us” music video and Brian Cox’s “Brian Cox Goes to College.”

Some mission-driven organizations that won included The Elton John AIDS Foundation, National Immigration Law Center and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

New categories this year were intended to shed a spotlight on the booming creator economy and growing influence of creators.



ARAYA DOHENY, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Amanda Sudano, left, and Abner Ramirez of Johnnyswim are shown Feb. 6. The band’s latest album, “When The War Is Over,” contains 11 tracks of folk-pop-themed introspection.

Tussling with trauma

Musical duo Johnnyswim finds creativity in areas of vulnerability

BY CHARLIE VARGAS
The Orange County Register

Abner Ramirez and Amanda Sudano, the husband-and-wife duo that comprises Johnnyswim, aren’t afraid to explore their inner struggles to create music.

“Being vulnerable out loud is the clearest path to moving through something that you’d rather avoid but can’t,” Ramirez said during a Zoom interview. “Ultimately, what we’ve learned in therapy is that oftentimes, it’s the very thing we’d like to avoid. You can’t ever get around a defining moment in your life unless you visit it verbally. The greatest benefit of vulnerability is growth and healing.”

Johnnyswim’s latest album, “When The War Is Over,” is an 11-track folk-pop introspection that journeys deep into the crevasses of the couple’s hearts, offering an honest glimpse of their tussles with trauma.

“We essentially journaled much of this album and a lot of our songs,” Ramirez said. “One thing that we discovered in the process of writing songs together over decades is that often we don’t have the words to describe what we’re going through or explain how we feel about something until we write a song about it. The songwriting in this album has been an act of self-exploration as much as anything else.”

Sudano added that the duo’s approach to vulnerability isn’t new but rather an everyday practice shared between lifelong friends and at home with each family member. Their previous music has a vulnerable tone that was inspired by the hardships of friends and others in their support system. With the latest album, though, she felt like “It cost more” because it dealt with more personal battles of mental and physical health.

The song “She Checks The Weather” delves into Sudano’s dealing with an unknown chronic illness that lingered after two stints with the coronavirus. During the early months of her battle, she dealt with profound and debilitating exhaustion, leaving her mostly confined to bed, isolated and fearful that her day-to-day life was slipping away. She said the song was written in one sitting, with her husband playing

the piano part and Sudano immediately singing the title, a reference to having her daily check-ins with her body while delicately balancing hope and reality.

“I felt like an island unto myself, and the night before we released this song specifically about me, I just cried,” Sudano said. “I’d never had that experience before releasing a song, but I just felt so overwhelmed with emotion. Then, as soon as the song came out, this kind of community of people came to me and said, ‘I know what that feels like,’ and it was the most rewarding thing to watch myself be absorbed into this community with the release of this song. It makes it easier to continue to be vulnerable when you see its fruits.”

Her husband, whose lively, upbeat attitude is often captured live and in interviews, found himself battling mental anguish, captured in the song “Psilocybin.” The song was named after the naturally occurring psychedelic compound found in species of mushrooms that, according to the Food and Drug Administration, may be beneficial in treating depression by helping the brain explore new thought patterns. It also serves as a metaphor for embracing change within a relationship, allowing it to evolve organically and choosing to love it in its new form.

Sudano sings about the noticeable changes in her husband but reaffirms her love, singing, “Maybe it’s all just the season / Or maybe now you’re something new / Well if you change, I’m changing too / Yeah if you change, I’ll change with you.”

Ramirez also explores his own battles associated with his family’s lineage in Cuba. The album features the back-to-back tracks “I’m Alright” and “Cuando Salí de Cuba.” The first song includes a line about being the first family of color to move into an all-white neighborhood in Jacksonville, Fla. He recalls his mom working four jobs at one point and his father taking on several others to save up to buy a home, part of their American dream.

The duo said they are excited to perform their new music on tour with a full band and play other songs from their catalog with a refreshed instrumentation. Their current tour includes tour dates in the U.S., as well as May appearances in London and Amsterdam.



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OPINION

Is Kilmar Abrego Garcia a criminal? Great question

BY JONAH GOLDBERG
 Tribune Content Agency
 Is Kilmar Abrego Garcia a good person? I don't know.

In 2021 his wife petitioned for, and received, an order of protection against him after she alleged domestic violence; she said last week that their marriage grew stronger after they worked through that low point and that Abrego Garcia “has always been a loving partner and father.”

The government has claimed that he is a member of a truly heinous criminal gang, MS-13. If that were true, given that he was in the United States illegally, I'd have no problem with deporting him, though perhaps not to a prison that our own State Department has condemned. We'll get back to that.

The Trump administration, by its own admission, mistakenly deported Abrego Garcia in defiance of a court order to a Salvadoran prison. A judge had previously granted Abrego Garcia's request not to be deported to his native El Salvador, because he feared for his safety. No one said he couldn't be deported somewhere else.

On the other hand, is Abrego Garcia a terrorist or vicious criminal, as the administration claims? I don't know that either. Is he even a member of MS-13? When the president sought to back up that claim, he posted a doctored image of Abrego Garcia's hand tattoos to which the characters “MS13” had been digitally added. The Trump administration has offered no evidence, in court or out, that Abrego Garcia is guilty of any violent crimes (save for the allegations that he abused his wife, and he never faced charges over those claims). He was originally apprehended for “loitering.” Andrew McCarthy, a former federal prosecutor and prominent conservative legal analyst, wrote

for National Review that “the proceedings in the lower courts have shown that, to date, the government's evidence tying Abrego Garcia to MS-13 is gossamer thin.”

As for the charge of being a terrorist, this is ... misleading. Trump has arrogated to himself war powers to thwart what he incessantly calls an “invasion.” His administration has invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 as a way to bypass what it considers onerous legal and constitutional niceties in pursuit of deporting illegal immigrants it deems “terrorists.” So the administration can now apply that label without much, if any, factual rigor.

MS-13 and Tren de Aragua, another gang the administration has designated as a foreign terrorist organization, are terrible. But the argument that they meet anything but a politically convenient definition of terrorist organizations is weak.

Much of the political argument over Abrego Garcia is what legal scholars might call “stupid.” The Trump administration and its supporters are going full tilt to paint Abrego Garcia as a vile and dangerous terrorist. Many Democrats, outraged by Trump's methods, prefer benign descriptions like “Kilmar Abrego Garcia is an innocent man and the father of three,” as Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., put it.

This framing — “Abrego Garcia innocent and good” vs. “Abrego Garcia guilty and bad” — is what is so stupid. None of the relevant legal and constitutional issues have anything to do with whether this individual is good (or a father). By insisting that he is an innocent man, Democrats are implying that if he were not innocent, what the Trump administration has done to him would be unobjectionable.

The relevant questions are whether the administration has the power to bypass due process — a right conferred to even illegal im-

No more delays: The May 7 REAL ID deadline must stick

BY SHELDON H. JACOBSON
 Tribune News Service

It has become as predictable as the sun rising and setting each day, that the REAL ID requirement for air travel gets delayed.

The current deadline requiring REAL ID for air travel is May 7, with no word from the Department of Homeland Security that it will be moved. The Transportation Security Administration will enforce the deadline, while also giving its officers some flexibility at airport checkpoints.

The REAL ID Act of 2005 has now been on the books for 20 years. It was recommended by the 9/11 Commission in response to the terrorist attacks of 2001. It was designed to secure and harden federal buildings, military installations, nuclear power plants and the air system against terrorist threats.

REAL IDs are now widely available. Department of Defense ID cards, Global Entry cards and U.S. passports all qualify, as do state driver's licenses and identification cards that are issued meeting the standards of REAL IDs. The latter require a person to provide additional residence information and documentation proof, upgrading the form of identification with an additional layer of security.

Legal immigrants are eligible for a REAL ID. Undocumented immigrants are ineligible, which will keep them from flying — something with which the current administration will presumably be pleased.

So why has there been pushback in the past against mandating REAL IDs for air travel?

From the airlines' point of view, any obstacle that might prevent ticket purchases represents a loss of revenue. Those lacking REAL ID will be prevented from getting through airport security checkpoints, effectively reducing the pool of potential air travelers.

From the TSA's point of view, turning people away at airport security checkpoints is an opportunity for chaos and disruption. Airport security checkpoints follow well-defined protocols to maintain consistency across airports. When any disruption occurs, whether with the REAL ID requirement or a prohibited item found in a carry-on bag, the stability of the entire checkpoint operation can be compromised. Even if TSA officers are following the rules by turning passengers away, travelers may respond with anger and bad behavior, creating turmoil around the checkpoint that may affect all travelers.

The data on how well states are doing in issuing REAL IDs suggest that the nation is ready to require them for air travel. All states and the District of Columbia are now REAL ID compliant, so they can issue REAL ID driver's licenses or identification cards.

However, just because a REAL ID is available does not mean that people are asking for them. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that 151 million REAL IDs have been issued — enough for just over half of all people eligible. In Illinois, for example, fewer than one-quarter of eligible residents are holding a REAL ID driver's license or state identification card.

The bigger issue is that the REAL ID dead-

migrants — and whether it has to try to remedy the mistake it made in sending Abrego Garcia to a foreign prison.

The administration has contracted with the authoritarian Salvadoran government to take “terrorists” off our hands, but Trump officials also claim that they are powerless to retrieve anybody mistakenly sent there. Judges, including the nine on the Supreme Court, think this is problematic, because it is problematic.

The idea that the government can simply assert that people on American soil, possibly including American citizens or legal residents, are criminals or terrorists runs completely counter to our legal system. The government has broad authority to deport illegal immigrants. It also has the authority to put convicted criminals in any prison it deems appropriate. It doesn't have any authority to put people in prison without first proving — in court — that they are charging the right person and then convicting them of a crime.

If you were snatched up by ICE by mistake, you would want a chance to prove they got the wrong person. That right goes by habeas corpus, which has been a keystone of Anglo-American law and the heart of due process for centuries. The administration doesn't seem to know this — or care.

The Constitution is designed to limit abusive government power. That is the only relevant issue here. Consider Ernesto Arturo Miranda. He was a truly awful person. But so what? His case gave us the “Miranda rights” that are read to suspects upon arrest. The only way to make sure innocent people get such protections is to make sure everyone gets them.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

line for air travel continues to be “kicked down the road,” with excuses about states not being ready and the COVID pandemic cited to justify delays for two decades. By this point, every possible excuse du jour has been used to delay the REAL ID requirement.

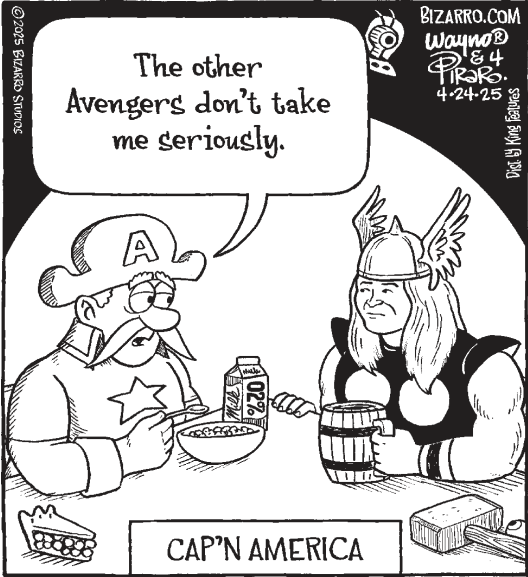
Yet another delay would only cast doubt upon whether this law will ever be implemented. The challenge with many such laws is that they have one-size-fits-all requirements that rarely come with the funding necessary to support and enforce, nor the foresight to see the unintended consequences associated with them. The REAL ID Act is a poster child for such government dysfunction.

What is set to occur on May 7 is the right approach. Keep the deadline in place and accept the short-term negative consequences of enforcing it. The TSA decision to implement a phased process risks that the requirement could eventually be dropped, unnecessarily adding risk to the air travel system.

Anytime someone flies commercially out of a U.S. airport, it is impossible to miss signs reminding passengers the REAL ID requirement deadline for air travel is fast approaching. There was no need to delay its full implementation in the past. Once May 7 arrives, we can get on with the business of secure flying and protecting critical infrastructure, which the REAL ID Act was designed to support.

Sheldon H. Jacobson is a professor in the Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He has researched risk-based aviation security for more than 25 years, providing the technical foundations for TSA PreCheck. This piece was originally published by The Hill.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

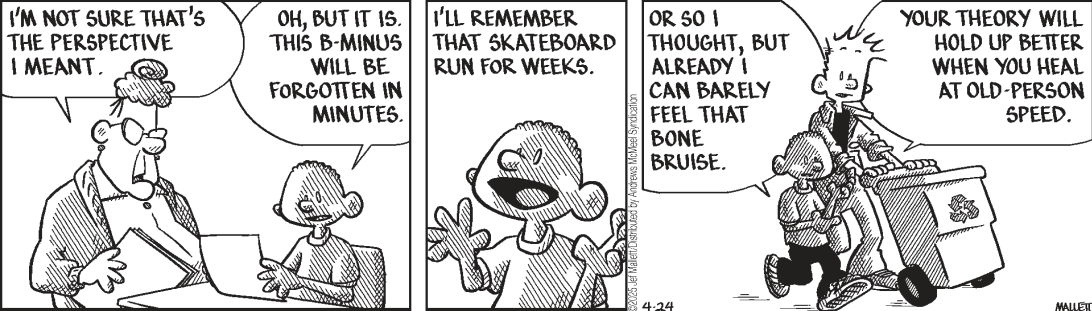
1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
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46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS**
1 Bankroll
4 Mythic man-goat
8 Getz of jazz
12 Night before the big day
13 Bart's sister
14 Blood (Pref.)
15 Threw off track
17 401(k) relatives
18 Corn spike
19 Self-respect
21 Tell
24 Free (of)
25 Yale grad
26 Tibetan bovine
28 Allowed
32 Lessons for tots
34 Bubble —
36 Greek pita sandwich
37 "Cry, the Beloved Country" author Alan
39 Fabric amts.
41 Parcel of land
42 Sailor
44 Canary cousins
46 Mecca visitor
50 Chaney of horror films
51 Feng —
52 Purple shade
56 First-rate
57 "— Eyes" (Eagles hit)
58 SASE, e.g.
- DOWN**
1 Marry
2 "Hail!"
3 Remiss
4 Coquettish
5 Have a cold
6 Secondhand
7 Bottom
8 Big bash
9 Actress Hatcher
10 Latin
101 word
11 Inquisitive
16 Motorist's org.
20 Baseball's Hodges
21 Harvest
22 "The Wire" actor Idris
- 59 Mast
60 Luke's teacher
61 Vitamin stat
23 "Dig in!"
27 Crucial
29 Piston locale
30 Laundry appliance
31 Youngsters
33 More waterlogged
35 Billboards
38 Neither mate
40 Singer Gomez
43 Nanny's mate
45 Director Howard
46 Unpaid TV ads (Abbr.)
47 Denny's rival
48 Moth variety
49 BLT spread
53 YouTube clip, for short
54 Conclude
55 HDTV brand

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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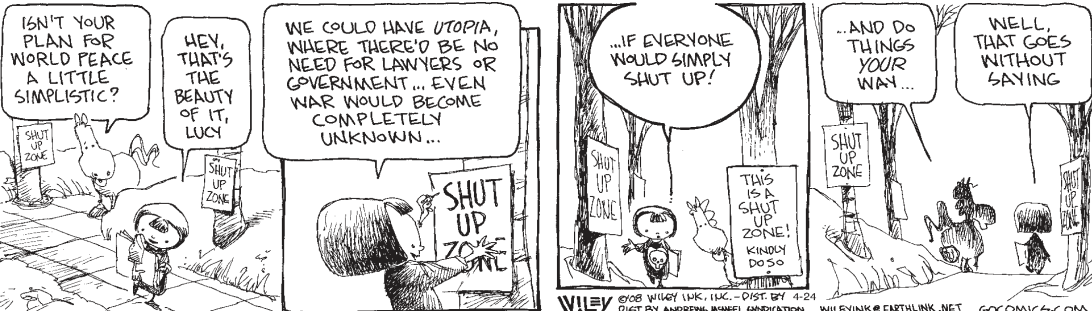
Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



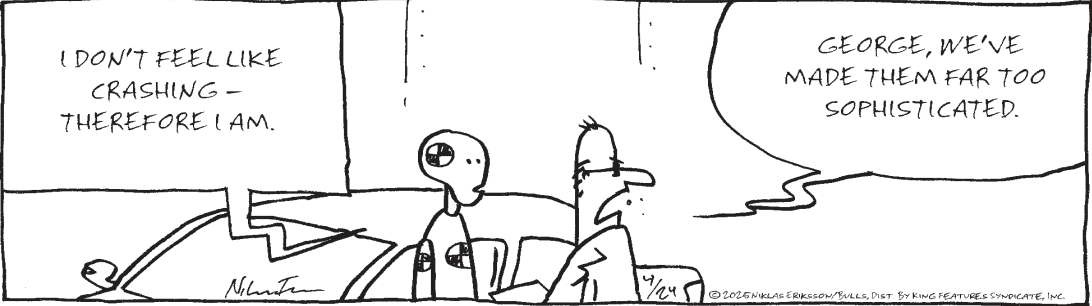
Non Sequitur



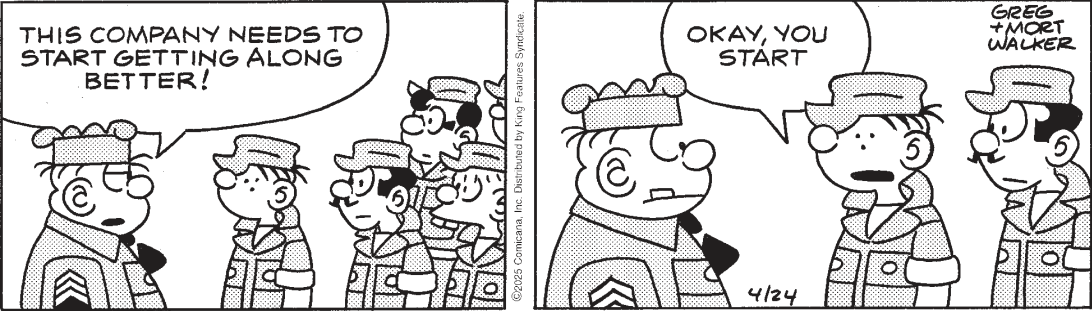
Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

RNGJ IYVKL EC CBMYJL GBP
JNP AELJ LEMDNJ-GCJPB GL
OPPBAGIYVD YVDBPKYPVJL?
OBPR-OPBBYPL.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THAT SMUG MAN CENSURED THE WAY I WAS SAYING MY WORDS, IT WAS AN ENUNCIATION DENUNCIATION.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals R

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Disorderly person in Trump Tower arrested

NY NEW YORK — Police arrested a 30-year-old person inside Trump Tower on Monday after getting a report of a disorderly person on an “elevated surface” inside the building, authorities said.

New York City Police responded at around 4:30 p.m. to the skyscraper where President Donald Trump keeps a penthouse.

Independent journalists on the scene posted video of security officials evacuating people from the atrium and police officers later exiting the building.

The NYPD’s emergency service unit took the person into custody without further incident, police said.

Judge orders visa status restored for 2 students

OR EUGENE — A federal judge in Oregon on Monday ordered the U.S. government to restore the visa status of two international students and temporarily blocked their deportation from the country.

U.S. District Judge Michael McShane’s 14-day temporary restraining order came in response to lawsuits filed by a student at Oregon State University and another at the University of Oregon following the termination of their visas earlier this month.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon and an immigration law firm filed both lawsuits against the Trump administration, arguing the students’ visas were terminated “without any notice or meaningful explanation” to the students or their universities.

The suits were filed on behalf of Aaron Ortega Gonzalez, 32, a citizen of Mexico pursuing a doctoral degree in rangeland ecology at Oregon State, and a 29-year-old British graduate student identified as Jane Doe who is pursuing two master’s degrees at Oregon.

State Senate votes out treasurer on \$1.8B error

SC COLUMBIA — South Carolina’s Republican-dominated Senate voted 33-8 on Monday to kick the Republican treasurer out of office over a \$1.8 billion accounting error.

It will now be up to the House, also dominated by the GOP, to decide whether to hold its own hearing. If at least two-thirds of its members vote against Treasurer Curtis Loftis, he will be removed from office.

Monday’s extraordinary hearing was the culmination of over two years of investigation by the Senate that began when state accountants unintentionally exaggerated money given to colleges and universities by \$3.5 billion. That led to the discovery of an account error that started a decade ago when the state was changing from one accounting system to another.



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Sequoia dreams

Robyn Redding plants a sequoia tree seedling in Detroit, the pilot city for the Giant Sequoia Filter Forest. The nonprofit Archangel Ancient Tree Archive donated sequoia saplings to be planted by Arboretum Detroit to mark Earth Day. Archangel also plans to plant sequoia groves in Los Angeles; Oakland, Calif.; and London.

other. If accountants couldn’t balance the entries in the two sets of books as they moved thousands of accounts with different definitions, they kept adding it to a special account year after year until it grew to \$1.8 billion.

Passengers evacuate after plane catches fire

FL ORLANDO — A Delta Air Lines airplane caught fire on Monday before it was supposed to take off at a central Florida airport, forcing the evacuation of passengers, airport officials said.

There were no reports of any injuries during the fire on the plane at Orlando International Airport, Delta said in a statement.

The engine fire broke out late Monday morning on Delta Flight 1213 while the plane was at the ramp before a scheduled departure from Orlando to Atlanta, airport officials said on social media.

Judge halts mayor from allowing ICE into jail

NY NEW YORK — A New York judge has ordered city officials to temporarily halt a plan allowing federal immigration agents to operate within the Rikers Island jail complex ahead of a hearing later this week.

In a written order Monday, Judge Mary Rosado barred the city from “taking any steps toward

negotiating, signing, or implementing any Memorandum of Understanding with the federal government” before an April 25 hearing in a suit challenging the plan.

The suit accuses Mayor Eric Adams, a Democrat, of entering into a “corrupt quid pro quo bargain” with the Trump administration in exchange for the Justice Department dropping criminal charges against him.

Adams has repeatedly denied making any deal with the administration over the criminal case. He has said the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other federal agencies will allow them to assist in gang and drug-related investigations.

6 charged after woman dragged out of meeting

ID COEUR D’ALENE — Prosecutors in northern Idaho have filed misdemeanor charges against six men in connection with the forcible removal of a woman from a legislative town hall meeting in February.

Theresa Borrenpohl, the woman who was dragged out of the meeting in a Coeur d’Alene school building by plain-clothed private security officers, also formally notified Kootenai County officials on Monday of her intent to sue by filing a tort claim notice.

Videos of the event show the room erupting into cheers and jeering at times. At at least one

point, Borrenpohl, a Democratic legislative candidate who has run unsuccessfully in the deeply Republican region, joined the shouting.

The video of the event showed Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris, who was in plain clothes but wearing his badge on his belt, approached Borrenpohl. He introduced himself and told her to leave or she would be escorted out. Then the sheriff stepped back and began recording on his cellphone as three unidentified men approached and began grabbing Borrenpohl.

Congresswoman joins race for open Senate seat

MI LANSING — Fourth-term U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens has launched her run for Michigan’s open U.S. Senate seat on Tuesday with a video focused on the economic crisis caused by President Donald Trump’s volatile tariffs policies.

Walking through a lot full of pickup trucks and SUVs to make the case that she’s the candidate who will protect the state’s critical auto industry, she says “His chaos and reckless tariffs are putting tens of thousands of Michigan jobs at risk.”

Stevens, a Democrat, is the fourth well-known candidate to join what is quickly becoming one of the nation’s most-watched Senate races, with the Republicans’

53-47 majority at stake in a battleground state Trump won in November.

Quickly a top possible contender after Democratic Sen. Gary Peters chose not to seek reelection, Stevens will oppose State Sen. Mallory McMorrow and former gubernatorial candidate and public health official Abdul El-Sayed in the Democratic primary.

On the Republican side, former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers is trying again after losing to Democrat Elissa Slotkin in the state’s 2024 U.S. Senate race by just 19,000 votes.

Abortions resume at clinic after judge suspends laws

WY CHEYENNE — Wyoming’s only abortion clinic is resuming abortions after a judge on Monday suspended two state laws.

One suspended law would require clinics providing surgical abortions to be licensed as outpatient surgical centers. The other would require women to get an ultrasound before a medication abortion.

Wyoming Health Access in Casper had stopped providing abortions Feb. 28, the day after Republican Gov. Mark Gordon signed the licensing requirement into effect.

SCOREBOARD/NFL

DEALS

Tuesday’s transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled RHP Brandon Young from Triple-A Norfolk (IL). Placed RHP Cody Poteet on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 21.

BOSTON RED SOX — Activated RHP Brayan Bello from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Zack Kelly to Worcester (IL).

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Placed CF Lane Thomas on the 10-day IL retroactive to April 20. Transferred RHP Trevor Stephan from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of SS Will Wilson from Columbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned RHP Keider Montero to Toledo (IL). Recalled RHP Chase Lee from Toledo.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Sent RHP Michael Tonkin on a rehab assignment to St. Paul (IL). Released RHP Matt Canterino from a minor league contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with LHP Tyler Matzek on a Major League contract and selected him to the active roster. Designated RHP Yoendrys Gómez for assignment. Transferred the rehab assignment of RHP Clayton Beeter from Tampa (FSL) to Somerset (EL). Sent 3B DJ LeMahieu on a rehab assignment to Somerset.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Sent RHP Casey Lawrence outright to Tacoma (PCL).

TEXAS RANGERS — Sent RHP Jack Leiter to Round Rock (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Sent CF Daulton Varsho on a rehab assignment to Buffalo (IL). Sent RHP Jacob Barnes outright to Buffalo.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Recalled OF Jorge Barrosa from Reno (PCL). Optioned OF Jake McCarthy to Reno. Released INF Gabe Kessinger.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Released RHP Amos Willingham. Selected the contract of RHP Nathan Wiles from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned RHP Michael Petersen to Gwinnett.

CHICAGO CUBS — Recalled RHP Gavin Hollowell from Iowa (IL). Optioned LHP Jordan Wicks to Iowa.

CINCINNATI REDS — Sent LHP Sam Moll on a rehab assignment to Louisville (IL). Sent C Tyler Stephenson on a rehab assignment to Louisville.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Sent LHP Clayton Kershaw on a rehab assignment to Tulsa (PCL).

NEW YORK METS — Sent C Francisco Alvarez on a rehab assignment to Syracuse (IL). Sent 2B Jeff McNeil on a rehab assignment to Syracuse.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Sent LHP Ranger Suárez on a rehab assignment to Lehigh Valley (IL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Optioned CF Michael Siani to Memphis (IL). Activated SS Masyn Winn from the 10-day IL.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Sent RHP Sean Reynolds to El Paso (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

TENNIS

Madrid Open

Wednesday
At Caja Magica Madrid

Purse: Euro 8,055,385
Surface: Red clay
Seedings in parentheses
Women’s Singles
Round of 128

Katie Volynets, United States, def. Petra Kvitova, Czechia, 6-4, 6-0.

Ann Li, United States, def. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, 6-3, 6-2.

Diane Parry, France, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-3, 6-4.

Maya Joint, Australia, def. Carlota Martinez Cirez, Spain, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Anastasija Sevastova, Latvia, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, 6-4, 7-5.

Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, def. Zeynep Sonmez, Turkiye, 6-0, 6-2.

Bernarda Pera, United States, def. Jana Fett, Croatia, 6-4, 6-3.

Alycia Parks, United States, def. Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva, Andorra, 6-3, 6-3.

Maria Carle, Argentina, def. Rebecca Sramkova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-2.

Maria Sakkari, Greece, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-4, 7-6 (7).

Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Panna Udvardy, Hungary, 6-4, 6-2.

Emma Raducanu, Britain, def. Suzan Lamens, Netherlands, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

AP SPORTLIGHT

April 24

1962 — Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Sandy Koufax throws his second career 18-strikeout game in a 10-2 win over the Cubs in Chicago.

1963 — Bob Cousy ends his 13-year career by scoring 18 points as the Boston Celtics win their fifth consecutive NBA championship, beating the Los Angeles Lakers 112-109 in Game 6.

1974 — Tampa, Fla., is awarded the NFL’s 27th franchise.

1978 — The California Angels’ Nolan Ryan gets his 20th 15-strikeout game, but the Seattle Mariners come back to win

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Sent RHP Michael Soroka on a rehab assignment to Harrisburg (EL). Sent SS CJ Abrams on a rehab assignment to Harrisburg. Sent RHP Zach Brzykcy to Wilmington (IL) on a rehab assignment.

BASKETBALL
Women’s National Basketball Association

CHICAGO SKY — Signed F Maddy Westbeld to a rookie scale contract.

DALLAS WINGS — Signed G Paige Bueckers to a rookie scale contract.

NEW YORK LIBERTY — Signed F Annika Soltau to a rookie scale contract.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Received an international exemption for TE Bernhard Seikovits.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed QB Joe Flacco to a one-year contract. Received an international exemption for OT Roy Mbadeka.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed OT Michael Niese to a contract.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed C Dylan McMahon to a one-year contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Waived OL Trevor Reid with a non-football injury designation.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Received an international exemption for K Jude McAtamney.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed RB Jaylen Warren to a restricted free agent one-year tender.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed DLs Evan Anderson, Alex Barrett, LB Jalen Graham and TE Brayden Willis to one-year contracts.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Received an international exemption for TE Thomas Odukoya.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

EDMONTON OILERS — Recalled G Olivier Rodrigue from Bakersfield (AHL).

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Activated LW Matthew Tkachuk from long-term injured reserve. Recalled RW Jesse Puljujarvi from Charlotte (AHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Reassigned C Zack Ostapchuk and D Jack Thompson to San Jose (AHL).

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

MLS Independent Review Panel — Unanimously rescinded the one-game suspension and accompanying fine for the red card issued to Real Salt Lake M Diego Luna from being sent off in Saturday’s 1-0 loss to visiting Toronto FC.

HOUSTON DYNAMO FC — Acquired a 2025 International Roster Slot from Columbus Crew in exchange for \$125,000 in 2025 general allocation money (GAM) and \$125,000 in 2026 GAM.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES — Acquired M DeJuan Jones from Columbus Crew in exchange for \$175,000 general allocation money (GAM) and an international slot in 2025, and an additional \$250,000 GAM in 2026.

Rebeka Masarova, Switzerland, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5.

Yuliia Starodubtseva, Ukraine, def. Linda Fruhvirtova, Czechia, 6-2, 6-2.

Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, def. Polina Kudermetova, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.

Anastasia Potapova, Russia, def. Ashlyn Krueger, United States, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2.

Men’s Singles
Round of 128

Federico Cina, Italy, def. Coleman Wong, Hong Kong, China, 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Arthur Rinderknech, France, def. Roman Safiullin, Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Mariano Navone, Argentina, def. Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, France, 6-4, 6-4.

Christopher O’Connell, Australia, def. Camilo Ugo Carabelli, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Benjamin Bonzi, France, def. Marin Cilic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-2.

Nuno Borges, Portugal, def. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Harold Mayot, France, def. Corentin Moutet, France, 6-3, 4-2, ret.

Ethan Quinn, United States, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-3, 6-4.

Sebastian Ofner, Austria, def. Hugo Gaston, France, 6-4, 6-3.

Laslo Djere, Serbia, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-2, 6-3.

Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, def. Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

6-5 in 12 innings.

1981 — The San Antonio Spurs block 20 shots from the Golden State Warriors to set the NBA regular-season single-game record.

1994 — David Robinson scores 71 points to win the NBA scoring title as the San Antonio Spurs end the regular season with a 112-97 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Robinson, the fourth NBA player to score more than 70 points in a game, edges Orlando’s Shaquille O’Neal for the scoring title.

1996 — Petr Nedved scores a power-play goal with 44.6 seconds left in the fourth

PRO SOCCER

MLS						
Eastern Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Charlotte FC	6	2	1	19	16	7
Cincinnati	6	2	1	19	13	11
Inter Miami CF	5	0	3	18	13	6
Columbus	5	1	3	18	12	7
Philadelphia	5	3	1	16	16	9
Nashville	4	4	1	13	12	11
Orlando City	3	2	4	13	15	12
Chicago	3	3	3	12	16	15
New York	3	3	3	12	10	9
NYC FC	3	4	2	11	11	13
New England	3	4	1	10	6	7
Atlanta	2	4	3	9	11	16
D.C. United	2	4	3	9	11	19
Toronto FC	1	4	4	7	8	13
CF Montréal	0	6	3	3	4	13

Western Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	6	1	2	20	17	6
Austin FC	5	3	1	16	7	8
Minn. United	4	1	4	16	11	7
Portland	4	2	3	15	16	13
Colorado	4	2	3	15	13	13
San Diego FC	4	3	2	14	15	12
LAFC	4	4	1	13	13	14
Seattle	3	3	3	12	12	11
FC Dallas	3	3	3	12	10	11
San Jose	3	5	1	10	19	17
Real Salt Lake	3	6	0	9	8	14
St Louis City	2	4	3	9	5	6
Sporting KC	2	6	1	7	15	19
Houston	1	4	4	7	8	14
LA Galaxy	0	6	3	3	6	16

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

Saturday’s games

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

Sunday’s games

St Louis City at Los Angeles FC
Portland at LA Galaxy

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

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

Tuesday’s game

Portland 4, Gotham FC 1

Friday’s games

Utah Royals FC at Houston
Angel City at Orlando

Saturday’s games

Gotham FC at Washington
Kansas City at North Carolina
San Diego at Chicago
Seattle at Bay FC

Sunday’s game

Louisville at Portland

Friday, May 2

Louisville at Houston
Angel City at Washington
Kansas City at Seattle

overtime, ending the longest NHL game in 60 years and giving the Pittsburgh Penguins a 3-2 victory over the Washington Capitals.

2003 — Petr Sykora scores 48 seconds into the fifth overtime as Anaheim outlasts Dallas 4-3 to win the opener of the Western Conference semifinal series. The game is the fourth-longest in NHL history.

2004 — The San Diego Chargers select Ole Miss quarterback Eli Manning with the first pick of the NFL draft, only to then immediately trade him to the New York Giants for Philip Rivers, the No. 4 pick, a third-round pick and first- and fifth-round picks for 2005.



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

49ers QB Brock Purdy is entering the final year of his contract and is seeking an extension. Purdy has reported to the offseason program.

Purdy reports, but Kittle stays away

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Brock Purdy reported to the start of the offseason program for the San Francisco 49ers on Tuesday, while star tight end George Kittle stayed away from the start of the voluntary program.

Purdy and Kittle are both entering the final years of their contracts and are seeking extensions, leading to speculation about whether they would report for the offseason program.

The 49ers have had offseason contract disputes last deep into the summer the past three seasons. Deebo Samuel missed the first few training camp practices in 2022 before signing an extension, while Nick Bosa didn’t get his deal done in 2023 until just days before the season opener and Brandon Aiyuk missed all of training camp practice last summer waiting for a new deal.

Purdy said at the end of the season in January that he hoped to have a new deal done before the start of the offseason program. That hasn’t happened yet, but he chose not to hold out as he tries to help San Francisco rebound from a 6-11 season.

“That’s Brock,” general manager John Lynch said. “He’s a pro. Brock’s very clear-minded and not going to let other people influence what he should be doing. ... We’re looking forward to having him as our quarterback for a long time.”

Purdy has made less than \$1 million a year for his first three seasons and is set to get a small raise in 2025 to about \$5.2 million under the league’s proven performance escalator for making the Pro Bowl last season.

But Purdy’s play has far exceeded that salary and he is eligible this offseason to negotiate an extension for the first time. He could be in line for a contract that will pay

him in excess of \$50 million a year.

The two sides have been talking for much of the offseason, and Lynch remains optimistic a deal will get done.

“I think there’s been some talks that have this thing going in a good direction and I’ll leave it at that,” Lynch said.

After finishing fourth in MVP voting in his first full season as a starter in 2023, Purdy was far less productive last season as injuries to several key playmakers had a major impact on the Niners’ offense.

Purdy’s passer rating dropped nearly 17 points to 96.1, he had only 20 TD passes and 12 interceptions on the season, and also came up short in several late-game scenarios when San Francisco had a chance for a comeback win.

But the belief in Purdy from the organization remains as strong as it has been from owner Jed York, to Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan.

Kittle, 31, is entering the final year of a five-year, \$75 million extension he signed in 2020. He is owed \$14.4 million in base salary for this season. The tight end market got re-set this offseason when Arizona signed Trey McBride to a \$76 million, four-year extension for the highest annual value for any tight end.

Kittle was a second-team All-Pro last season when he had 78 catches for 1,106 yards and eight TDs. Since being drafted in the fifth round in 2017, he has been a first or second-team All-Pro five times in eight seasons and has 538 catches for 7,380 yards and 45 TDs.

Lynch said he didn’t know if Kittle would show up later in the offseason program.

“We’ll see on that,” he said. “These things are voluntary right now. We’ve had good communication and good talks and we’ll see how that goes.”

NFL DRAFT

GM says Titans keeping No. 1 overall pick

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans know who they want to select with the first overall pick in Thursday night's opening round of the NFL draft, so stop asking them if that spot is available via trade.

New general manager Mike Borgonzi declined to say Tuesday exactly who the Titans will be taking with that draft pick.

"I guess you'll find out Thursday night who we pick," Borgonzi said.



Borgonzi

The presumption has been that Tennessee will take quarterback Cam Ward out of Miami to fill one of many needs it has after three straight losing seasons. The Titans have fired two general managers and one head coach in this stretch.

Borgonzi was hired after Tennessee fired Ran Carthon in January. Borgonzi said the team did have inquiries into the No. 1 pick with the Titans preparing for his first draft with the franchise. They listened and decided they're going to use the top pick themselves.

"I don't want to go into specifics of what the offer was, what the teams were, but there were offers," Borgonzi said.

Asked about the Miami quarterback, Borgonzi said Tennessee, including coach Brian Callahan, met Ward several times along with the quarterback's family.

"Just the competitive edge that he has, you can feel that talking with the kid. He's very intelligent," Borgonzi said. "We've had him on the board several times with



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Miami quarterback Cam Ward is projected to go to the Tennessee Titans, who hold the No. 1 pick in tonight's NFL draft and confirmed they will not be trading it away.

Brian."

The Titans have Will Levis, the 33rd pick overall in the 2023 draft by the previous general manager, and two journeymen quarterbacks signed this offseason on the roster. Tennessee asked Levis to go to California this offseason and work on his lower body and footwork with Jordan Palmer.

Asked about Levis' status with the team, Borgonzi noted Levis is a quarterback in their room who's still developing.

"He's a young quarterback, he's had some good moments and like any other young quarterback, they're continuing to develop," Borgonzi said.

Ward finished fourth in the voting for the Heisman Trophy after his lone season at Miami where he completed 67.2% of his

passes for 4,313 yards with a FBS-best and program-record 39 touchdown passes. He also had only seven interceptions.

Callahan also has experience developing a No. 1 overall draft pick at quarterback in Joe Burrow with Cincinnati. That's one of the reasons the Titans signed Brandon Allen to the roster.

The coach said he learned a lot of lessons on bringing in players that can help Tennessee get a rookie quarterback up to speed quickly. He noted free agency additions, which include left tackle Dan Moore and right guard Kevin Zeitler, to help a rookie quarterback.

The Titans coach also credited Borgonzi and the team's evaluation process with helping set their draft board at every position. They brought in 30 players for visits, including Ward who came in before the start of NFL free agency in March.

"There was no particular point anywhere for any of these players that is an 'a-ha' moment," Callahan said.

The bigger question will be Tennessee's second-round pick at No. 35. It doesn't have a third-round pick at this point, so trading down might give it a chance to add a much-needed selection to the eight it takes into this draft.

Borgonzi said they've had lots of discussions about their options.

"If these players are on the board, if there's a few players that are there, do we not move and take that player? Or are there a few players that we can move back and maybe pick up a pick? So those conversations have been ongoing here the last week or so," Borgonzi said.

Both: Hunter has told teams not to draft him if they plan to limit him to one position

FROM PAGE 24

ner was fired midway through his second season and his replacement, Marty Schottenheimer, squelched Bailey's ambitions to dabble in the offense.

"So it's all about timing," Bailey said. "What if he was my coach my first year? I would have never played offense."

Bailey suggested that for Hunter to really get his chance to try being a two-way player in the NFL, he'll have to land with the right team, the right coach, the right teammates, the right scheme — on both offense and defense — the right schedule and the proper amount of patience.

Hunter is widely expected to get drafted second overall by the Cleveland Browns — who need help at both of his positions — on Thursday night after the Tennessee Titans likely take Miami's Cam Ward as their new quarterback to kick off the 2025 NFL draft.

Hunter told the Browns, and every other team he met with, not to bother selecting him if they're not going to let him line up on both sides.

Deion Sanders, the Hall of Fam-

er who played defensive back and wide receiver in the NFL — he had two interceptions and a touchdown catch in 1996 for Dallas — was Hunter's coach at Jackson State and Colorado and had no qualms about letting Hunter play both ways.

Sanders, however, allowed Hunter to take several days off after games to recuperate, a luxury he won't have in the NFL.

Last season, Hunter caught 96 passes for 1,258 yards and 15 touchdowns and collected 35 tackles, 11 pass breakups, eight forced incompletions and four interceptions while allowing just one touchdown.

Hunter logged a whopping 1,484 snaps, by far the most in college football last season. Next up was Florida center Jake Slaughter at 800 snaps. By way of comparison, NFL Defensive Player of the Year Patrick Surtain II played 978 snaps in 17 games last season, all on defense.

It's unlikely Hunter will be able to play every snap in the NFL, Bailey said, so the biggest decision for the team that drafts him is figuring out which side will be his primary position. Scouts are divided

on whether it would be best for him to be a cornerback who gets a handful of offensive snaps or a wide receiver who occasionally gets into some sub-packages on defense.

"It's rare to have corners with length and athleticism and ball skills all wrapped up into one. He has that. So any defensive-minded coach is going to say, 'We want you over here,'" Bailey said. "But you can't ignore that he had 1,300 yards this past year. That's a significant amount of yards to ignore in his production on offense."

Which position is primary will have an enormous impact on Hunter's career.

"Fit is everything," Bailey said. "There are so many moving parts to this."

Bailey added that Hunter needs a head coach who won't allow his offensive and defensive coordinators to fight over him and he said that if the position meetings for defensive backs and wide receivers are held at the same time, Hunter will be putting in hours of overtime every day to catch up.

Then there's the negotiating the learning curves on the field.

"You've got to learn how to com-



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Deion Sanders, Travis Hunter's coach at Colorado, has supported Hunter continuing to play both offense and defense in the NFL.

municate with your safeties, your other corners, anybody that's on your side. Once you get that down and you understand the terminology of the defense, you can pull back a little bit from the mental side of it — a little bit — if you're playing offense," Bailey said. "But, it's risky, it's risky. Because you leave some stuff out there. It's just he has to put in more time."

What would be easier, to be a fulltime cornerback and part-time wide receiver or vice versa?

"It's both hard," Bailey said. "That's my thing. Doing one by it-

self is hard."

One thing Bailey is sure of is that Hunter needs to take his shot at playing both ways while he's young.

"If I had to bet on it, I would say he'll be at one position down the road," Bailey said. "I don't know what it would be because he's so exceptional at both. But right now with his youth and his bounce, he's a great athlete right now, he's fresh."

"You don't want to wear him out, but you also want to utilize what you have."

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	10	.583	—
Boston	14	11	.560	½
Toronto	12	12	.500	2
Baltimore	9	13	.409	4
Tampa Bay	9	14	.391	4½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	14	9	.609	—
Detroit	14	10	.583	½
Kansas City	10	14	.417	4½
Minnesota	8	15	.348	6
Chicago	5	18	.217	9
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	14	9	.609	—
Houston	12	11	.522	2
Seattle	12	11	.522	2
Los Angeles	11	11	.500	2½
Athletics	10	13	.435	4
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	7	.708	—
Philadelphia	13	11	.542	4
Miami	11	12	.478	5½
Washington	10	13	.435	6½
Atlanta	9	14	.391	7½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	15	10	.600	—
Milwaukee	13	11	.542	1½
Cincinnati	11	13	.458	3½
St. Louis	10	14	.417	4½
Pittsburgh	9	15	.375	5½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	17	7	.708	—
Los Angeles	16	8	.667	1
San Francisco	15	9	.625	2
Arizona	14	9	.609	2½
Colorado	4	18	.182	12
Tuesday's games				
Milwaukee 11, San Francisco 3				
Kansas City 4, Colorado 3, 11 innings				
Pittsburgh 9, L.A. Angels 3				
Chicago Cubs 11, L.A. Dodgers 10, 10 in-				
nings				
Texas 8, Athletics 5				
Boston 8, Seattle 3				
N.Y. Mets 5, Philadelphia 1				
Washington 7, Baltimore 0				
Cleveland 3, N.Y. Yankees 2				
Miami 4, Cincinnati 3				
San Diego 2, Detroit 0				
St. Louis 10, Atlanta 4				
Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 2				
Houston 5, Toronto 1				
Arizona 5, Tampa Bay 1				
Wednesday's games				
St. Louis at Atlanta				
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets				
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland				
San Diego at Detroit				
Cincinnati at Miami				
Baltimore at Washington				
Seattle at Boston				
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago Cubs				
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota				
Colorado at Kansas City				
Toronto at Houston				
Pittsburgh at L.A. Angels				
Tampa Bay at Arizona				
Milwaukee at San Francisco				
Texas at Athletics				
Thursday's games				
Chicago White Sox (Smith 0-1) at Minne-				
sota (Paddock 0-2)				
Seattle (Woo 2-1) at Boston (Crochet				
2-1)				
Colorado (Dollander 1-2) at Kansas City				
(Ragans 1-1)				
Milwaukee (Myers 0-0) at San Francisco				
(Roupp 2-1)				
Baltimore (Povich 0-2) at Washington				
(Gore 2-2)				
Pittsburgh (Mlodzinski 1-3) at L.A. Ang-				
els (Anderson 2-0)				
Tampa Bay (Rasmussen 1-1) at Arizona				
(Burnes 0-1)				
Texas (deGrom 0-1) at Athletics (Ginn				
1-1)				
Friday's games				
Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs				
Baltimore at Detroit				
N.Y. Mets at Washington				
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees				
Boston at Cleveland				
Houston at Kansas City				
L.A. Angels at Minnesota				
Milwaukee at St. Louis				
Cincinnati at Colorado				
Tampa Bay at San Diego				
Atlanta at Arizona				
Miami at Seattle				
Chicago White Sox at Athletics				
Pittsburgh at L.A. Dodgers				
Texas at San Francisco				

ROUNDUP

Yelich, Bauers power Brewers to rout

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Christian Yelich hit his fifth career grand slam and Jake Bauers added a two-run homer as part of an eight-run sixth inning, leading the Milwaukee Brewers to an 11-3 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night.

Yelich's fifth home run this season and first grand slam in more than three years came on a 2-2 fast-ball from reliever Lou Trivino and broke open what had been a close game. Three batters later, Bauers went deep for his second homer of the season.

Brice Turang added four hits for Milwaukee. Bauers had three hits and William Contreras drove in two runs to help the Brewers win for the fourth time in 11 road games this season.

Jose Quintana (3-0) remained unbeaten after allowing one run and six hits in six innings. Quintana, who was a reliever for the Giants in 2021, had three strikeouts and two walks.

Wilmer Flores had three hits and an RBI for San Francisco.

Royals 4, Rockies 3 (11): Freddy Fermin hit a winning single in the 11th and host Kansas City rebounded from a blown two-run, ninth-inning lead to beat Colorado.

Jacob Stallings put the Rockies ahead 3-2 with three-run double after Carlos Estévez walked the bases loaded with two outs in the ninth. Salvador Perez singled off Seth Halvorsen starting the bottom half, advanced on Maikel Garcia's double and scored on Michael Massey's sacrifice fly.

With automatic runner Mark Canha on second starting the 11th, Tyler Kinley (0-1) intentionally walked Bobby Witt Jr., who extended his hitting streak to 14 games with an eighth-inning single. Kinley threw a wild pitch and intentionally walked Vinnie Pasquantino, and Fermin lined a single to center.

Pirates 9, Angels 3: Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer and visiting Pittsburgh had 18 hits for the first time in two years in a win over Los Angeles that stopped a three-game losing streak.

Bryan Reynolds and Isiah Kiner-Falefa each had three hits with two RBIs as the Pirates won the opener of a three-game series. The 18 hits were Pittsburgh's most since April 19, 2023, at Colorado, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Pirates starter Bailey Falter left after four innings with lower back tightness.

Cubs 11, Dodgers 10 (10): Ian Happ hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning, and host Chicago outlasted Los Angeles.

The Cubs were down to their last



JEFF CHIU/AP

The Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich, middle, is congratulated by Sal Frelick after hitting a grand slam against the Giants during the sixth inning in San Francisco on Tuesday. The Brewers won 11-3.

out in the ninth when Miguel Amaya hit a solo homer off Tanner Scott that landed in the basket in center field, sending a charge through the crowd of 36,425 at Wrigley Field.

After Porter Hodge (2-0) escaped a jam in the top of the 10th, Happ grounded the first pitch from Noah Davis (0-1) into right field, allowing Vidal Bruján to score easily from second.

Rangers 8, Athletics 5: Marcus Semien hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs, leading visiting Texas over the Athletics.

Wyatt Langford, Josh Smith and Jake Burger hit solo homers for the Rangers on a night the teams combined for eight long balls. Miguel Andujar, Lawrence Butler, Luis Urias and Brent Rooker hit solo homers for the A's.

Texas' Joe Pederson went 0-for-3 and extended his franchise-worst slide to 0-for-41 since a single at Cincinnati on April 2.

Red Sox 8, Mariners 3: Brayan Bello allowed one run over five innings in his season debut, Triston Casas hit a three-run homer in the seventh and host Boston beat Seattle for its sixth win in seven games.

Bello (1-0), who had been sidelined by a strained right shoulder, followed a first-inning home run from Jorge Polanco with a walk and two hit batters before Rowdy Tellez grounded into a 3-6-1 double play.

Alex Bregman hit a pair of RBI doubles for the Red Sox.

Mets 5, Phillies 1: Francisco Lindor had three hits, including an RBI single, and host New York defeated Philadelphia for its second six-game winning streak already this season.

Mark Vientos delivered an early RBI double in his return to the lineup and Pete Alonso also had a

run-scoring double for the Mets, who improved to 11-1 at home. They are tied for the best record in the majors at 17-7.

Philadelphia starter Cristopher Sánchez (2-1) was removed with left forearm soreness after laboring through two innings.

Nationals 7, Orioles 0: Mitchell Parker (3-1) pitched eight innings to combine on a one-hitter, Nathaniel Lowe and Dylan Crews homered, and host Washington beat Baltimore in the opener of a three-game series.

James Wood had three hits on his bobblehead night and scored twice for the Nationals, who won for the third time in four games. Keibert Ruiz and José Tena also had three hits for Washington.

Guardians 3, Yankees 2: Tanner Bibee recovered from giving up a home run on his first pitch to work six innings, leading host Cleveland to a win over New York that extended its winning streak to five.

Bibee (2-2) was quickly tagged by the Yankees' Ben Rice but settled in. He allowed two runs and five hits while helping the Guardians clinch the three-game series and improve to 7-1 at home.

Marlins 4, Reds 3: Agustín Ramírez walked, doubled twice and singled in his second major league game to help host Miami beat Cincinnati.

Ramírez went 2 for 3 in his MLB debut on Monday, and his five hits are the most in the first two MLB games by a Marlins player.

Padres 2, Tigers 0: Nick Pivetta allowed two hits over seven innings and visiting San Diego recorded its seventh shutout of the season with a victory over Detroit.

Pivetta (4-1) became the first pitcher in franchise history to work scoreless ball in three of his

first five starts for the club. He struck out six and only allowed one runner to reach second base.

Cardinals 10, Braves 4: Nolan Gorman hit a tiebreaking 3-run double in the eighth inning and visiting St. Louis snapped a five-game losing streak with a win over Atlanta.

Lars Nootbar was 2 for 5 with a home run, three RBIs and two runs scored for the Cardinals, who improved to 2-10 on the road this season.

Twins 4, White Sox 2: Bailey Ober (2-1) gave up one run in six innings to win his second straight start, Trevor Larnach hit a two-run homer and Byron Buxton made a diving catch to end the game and seal host Minnesota's win over Chicago.

The White Sox loaded the bases in the ninth inning on an infield single and two walks off Twins closer Joao Duran. But the 27-year-old right-hander allowed just one run and earned his second save in as many chances when center fielder Buxton made a catch at the warning track in right-center on a liner by Andrew Benintendi with runners at second and third.

Astros 5, Blue Jays 1: Jeremy Peña and Christian Walker each had three hits and an RBI, and host Houston cruised to a win over Toronto.

Astros starter Ronel Blanco (2-2) allowed two hits and one run in 6⅓ innings. Last year, Blanco threw a no-hitter against Toronto in his first start of the season on April 1.

Diamondbacks 5, Rays 1: Brandon Pfaadt won his fourth straight start, Pavin Smith hit a two-run homer and Arizona beat Tampa Bay as the Rays started their first extended road trip this season.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Tkachuk returns, Panthers roll

By Erik Erendsson
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla.— Matthew Tkachuk had two power-play goals and an assist in his first game after a two-month absence and the Florida Panthers opened defense of their Stanley Cup title with a 6-2 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Tuesday night in the first game of the first-round playoff series.

“It was a long two months away,” Tkachuk said in a televised postgame interview. “You miss everything, but you just miss competing, on the ice, in the locker room with the guys, just going through it all. I missed that the most. It’s so, so nice to be back out there with them.”

Nate Schmidt scored on a power play and finished with two goals, and Sam Bennett and Sam Reinhart each added a goal and an assist for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky made 20 saves.

Jake Guentzel and Brayden Point scored for the Lightning. Andrei Vasilevskiy had 10 stops.

The teams meet for Game 2 of the best-of-seven series on Thursday at Amalie Arena.

“Both teams will look at the game to find things they can do better somewhere,” Florida head coach Paul Maurice said. “It’ll be a complete reset by both teams for the next one.”

Tkachuk was playing for the first time in more than two months after dealing with a lower-body injury. He scored twice in the second period. Those two goals put the Panthers up 4-1 — the second goal for Florida in a 14-second span — and the next one pushing the lead to 5-1 midway through the second.

“Matthew’s good on the power play, really good. He knows what he’s doing down there,” Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. “I think we kind of gave him the second one; we threw it right on his stick.”

“I felt there was some plays in the game where I wish I could have back,” Tkachuk said. “But I feel great.”

Bennett had opened the scoring at 3:44 of the first, batting a puck out of the air. Guentzel responded for Tampa Bay, scoring with a man advantage at 12:21. The Panthers regained the lead when Reinhart tipped in a shot by Dmitry Kulikov with 45 seconds remaining the first.

“They get a 2-1 lead, and it gets momentum on their side,” Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh said.

Florida broke the game open early in the second when Schmidt scored on a rebound at 4:41. Tampa Bay lost a challenge for goaltender interference on the play, and Tkachuk scored his first on the ensuing power play — 14 seconds later — and added a second at 9:44.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Florida Panthers left wing Matthew Tkachuk celebrates with the bench after scoring against the Tampa Bay Lightning during the second period Tuesday in Game 1.

“You have to stop that bleeding,” Lightning captain Victor Hedman said. “We give up that third one, the challenge didn’t go our way, and we give up another one right away. That’s tough.”

ROUNDUP

Martinook, Andersen lift Canes past Devils

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Jordan Martinook and Frederik Andersen played with the steady veteran composure that comes only through game after game of postseason intensity.

It’s a big reason why the Carolina Hurricanes hold a 2-0 lead in a playoff series yet again.

Martinook saw an opening and pounced on his chance to break loose for what turned into the go-ahead shorthanded goal in the second period. And Andersen came up big in net all night, putting them at the forefront of the Hurricanes’ 3-1 win against the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday in Game 2 of their first-round series.

The win improved Carolina to 11-0 when playing for a chance to take a 2-0 series lead dating to its run to the Stanley Cup in 2006.

Shayne Gostisbehere also scored in the second for the Canes, while Seth Jarvis added a clinching empty-net breakaway goal in the final minute. That was enough for Carolina, which had a much tougher fight on its hands against shorthanded New Jersey than in a Game 1 romp.

Martinook, who also assisted on Jarvis’ empty-netter, continues to thrive against the Devils in the postseason. Going back to a second-round win two years ago, Martinook has four goals and nine assists with at least one point in all seven of those games against New Jersey.

“I love playoffs, I feel like it brings the best out of me,” Martinook said when asked about that success. “I don’t know. Just, I love the emotion, the energy, of the games. It’s the funnest time of the year for a reason.”

Then there was Andersen, who stood up for 25 saves and didn’t allow the Devils to find the back of the net for the final 56 minutes. That including a big stop on a shot by Nathan Bastian with about 6 minutes left.

“You see his demeanor,” Hurricanes coach Rod Brind’Amour said. “Whether he has a great game or a game he’d like to have back, you would never know. It’s just very, very calm. I think the way he plays in net is very calming, too.”

Jesper Bratt scored New Jersey’s lone goal



KARL B. DeBLAKER/AP

Carolina Hurricanes goaltender Frederik Andersen sends the puck wide of the net against the New Jersey Devils during the third period of Game 2 of the first-round playoff series on Tuesday.

while Jacob Markstrom finished with 25 saves for the Devils.

Maple Leafs 3, Senators 2 (OT): Max Domi scored at 3:09 of overtime as host Toronto survived a blown 2-0 lead to defeat Ottawa and go up 2-0 in their first-round playoff series.

The winger moved into the offensive zone in the extra period and ripped his first of the post-season upstairs past Linus Ullmark.

John Tavares, with a goal and an assist, and Morgan Rielly provided the rest of the offense for the Maple Leafs. Anthony Stolarz made 26 saves.

“Just pure jubilation,” Stolarz said of Domi’s winner that set off wild celebrations inside and outside Scotiabank Arena. “He’s a hell of a teammate in the room, and to see someone like that get rewarded, hopefully it’s the start of something big.”

Brady Tkachuk and Adam Gaudette scored for the Senators. Ullmark stopped 18 shots.

Wild 5, Golden Knights 2: Kirill Kaprizov had two goals and an assist Tuesday night as visiting Minnesota took advantage of turnover-prone Vegas and beat the Golden Knights, tying the first-round playoff series at a game apiece.

This was the Wild’s first victory over Vegas this season. The Knights won all three regular-season meetings and then took Game 1 4-2 on Sunday night.

Matt Boldy scored his third goal in two games for Minnesota and added an assist. Marcus Foligno and Mats Zuccarello also scored and Filip Gustavsson stopped 29 shots. Kaprizov has two goals and three assists this series.

Noah Hanifin and Tomas Hertl scored for Vegas and Adin Hill made 12 saves.

Scoreboard

First Round

Best-of-seven; x-if necessary
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Florida 1, Tampa Bay 0

Tuesday: Florida 6, Tampa Bay 2
Thursday: at Tampa Bay, **AFN-Sports2, 12:30 a.m. Friday CET, 8:30 a.m. Friday JKT**
Saturday: at Florida, **AFN-Sports2, 7 p.m. Saturday CET, 3 a.m. Sunday JKT**
Monday, April 28: at Florida
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Tampa Bay
x-Friday, May 2: at Florida
x-Sunday, May 4: at Tampa Bay
Washington 1, Montreal 0

Washington 3, Montreal 2, OT
Wednesday: at Washington
Friday: at Montreal, **AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Saturday CET, 9 a.m. Saturday JKT**
Sunday: at Montreal
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Washington
x-Friday, May 2: at Montreal
x-Sunday, May 4: at Washington

Carolina 2, New Jersey 0

Carolina 4, New Jersey 1
Tuesday: Carolina 3, New Jersey 1
Friday: at New Jersey
Sunday: at New Jersey, **AFN-Sports2, 9:30 p.m. Sunday CET, 5:30 a.m. Monday JKT**
x-Tuesday, April 29: at Carolina
x-Friday, May 2: at New Jersey
x-Sunday, May 4: at Carolina
Toronto 2, Ottawa 0

Toronto 6, Ottawa 2
Tuesday: Toronto 3, Ottawa 2, OT
Thursday: at Ottawa
Saturday: at Ottawa, **AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Sunday CET, 9 a.m. Sunday JKT**
x-Tuesday, April 29: at Toronto
x-Thursday, May 1: at Ottawa
x-Saturday, May 3: at Toronto

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Colorado 1, Dallas 1

Colorado 5, Dallas 1
Dallas 4, Colorado 3, OT
Wednesday: at Colorado
Saturday: at Colorado, **AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Sunday CET, 11:30 a.m. Sunday JKT**
Monday, April 28: at Dallas
x-Thursday, May 1: at Colorado
x-Saturday, May 3: at Dallas

Los Angeles 1, Edmonton 0

Los Angeles 6, Edmonton 5
Wednesday: at Los Angeles
Friday: at Edmonton, **AFN-Sports2, 4 a.m. Saturday CET, Noon Saturday JKT**
Sunday: at Edmonton
x-Tuesday, April 29: at Los Angeles
x-Thursday, May 1: at Edmonton
x-Saturday, May 3: at Los Angeles

Vegas 1 Minnesota 1

Vegas 4, Minnesota 2
Tuesday: Minnesota 5, Vegas 2
Thursday: at Minnesota, **AFN-Sports2, 3 a.m. Friday CET, 11 a.m. Friday JKT**
Saturday: at Minnesota, **AFN-Sports2, 10 p.m. Saturday CET, 6 a.m. Sunday JKT**
Tuesday, April 29: at Vegas
x-Thursday, May 1: at Minnesota
x-Saturday, May 3: at Vegas

Winnipeg 2, St. Louis 0

Winnipeg 5, St. Louis 3
Winnipeg 2, St. Louis 1
Thursday: at St. Louis
Sunday: at St. Louis, **AFN-Sports2, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 3 a.m. Monday JKT**
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Winnipeg
x-Friday, May 2: at St. Louis
x-Sunday, May 4: at Winnipeg

NBA PLAYOFFS



Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander shoots over Grizzlies guard Ja Morant during Game 2 of their playoff series on Tuesday.

ROUNDUP

SGA, Thunder stay on roll vs. Grizzlies

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 27 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder dominated the Memphis Grizzlies 118-99 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Oklahoma City delivered a strong follow-up to its record-setting 131-80 win Sunday in the series opener. Though Memphis was the team with something to prove, the Thunder came out with the energy. OKC opened with a 9-0 run and held the Grizzlies scoreless for the first 3½ minutes as Memphis missed its first 10 shots.

The Thunder led 32-17 at the end of the first quarter and never trailed.

“We never underestimate our opponent, no matter what,” Gilgeous-Alexander said. “Obviously they’re a very good team. They wouldn’t be here if they weren’t. And we just wanted to make an emphasis to come out and win that first quarter, set the tone for the night.”

Jalen Williams added 24 points and Chet Holmgren had 20 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for top-seeded Oklahoma City.

The Thunder’s offense produced, despite Gilgeous-Alexander making just 10 of 29 shots.

“Everybody that touched the court played with confidence, played the right way, and we’re going to need that,” OKC coach Mark Daigneault said. “You know, in all these games, it’s going to be different guys on different nights.”

The Thunder have won all six

games against the Grizzlies this season by double digits.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 26 points and Ja Morant added 23 for Memphis, which will host Game 3 on Thursday.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who had been off for the first five quarters of the series, found his shot in the second quarter. He hit two 3-pointers 55 seconds apart to put Oklahoma City up 55-38. The Thunder led 70-52 at the break after setting a team playoff record with 12 3-pointers in the first half.

The Grizzlies started hot in the third and cut their deficit to single digits, but OKC took a 90-79 lead into the fourth.

Lakers 94, Timberwolves 85: Luka Dončić had 31 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, and host Los Angeles fought back to even their first-round series with Minnesota with a victory in Game 2.

LeBron James scored 21 points and Austin Reaves added 16 for the third-seeded Lakers, who rebounded from their blowout loss in Game 1 by jumping out to an early 22-point lead and hanging on through a physical matchup with the sixth-seeded Timberwolves.

Julius Randle scored 27 points and Anthony Edwards had 25 for Minnesota, which lost most of its offensive fluidity from its impressive series-opening win.

James added 11 rebounds and seven assists for LA, which never lost control of a chippy, choppy game with 46 combined personal fouls and multiple video reviews. James and Rui Hachimura both took hard shots to the face, and Hachimura played the second half in a mask.

Double-doubles give Pacers 2-0 series lead over Bucks

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Pascal Siakam and Tyrese Haliburton played the perfect pair for the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday. Again.

Now they’re two wins away from ousting the Milwaukee Bucks in the first round of the playoffs. Again.

Siakam had 24 points, 11 rebounds and a crucial 3-pointer to start the Pacers’ decisive final run, while Haliburton added 21 points and 12 assists to lead Indiana past Milwaukee 123-115 for a 2-0 series lead.

“He’s been a steady presence for us all year, so glad that he’s on our team,” Haliburton said, referring to Siakam. “I think he could be the most underrated player in the NBA to be honest. I think what he does on a nightly basis is amazing. So consistent, so steady.”

The Bucks are learning that the hard way.

The Pacers have won five of the last six playoff games between the teams, leading this one wire to wire. And against a team that won three of this season’s four regular-season matchups, Indiana still hasn’t trailed since the early minutes of the first quarter in Game 1.

They’ll meet for 18th time in the last two seasons Friday, when Game 3 is played in Milwaukee.

“It’s kind of hard to play from behind,” two-time league MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo said after finishing with 34 points, 18 rebounds and seven assists. “We need to be more urgent. Both games, both halves they were really able to set the tone, get that feel. Need to play with more urgency at the start of the game, start of the half.”

Bucks guard Damian Lillard had 14 points in his first game back from deep vein thrombosis in his

Scoreboard

First Round
Best-of-seven; x-if necessary
Eastern Conference
New York 1, Detroit 1
New York 123, Detroit 112
Detroit 100, New York 94
Thursday: at Detroit, **AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**
Friday CET, 9 a.m. Friday JKT
Sunday: at Detroit
Tuesday, April 29: at New York
x-Thursday, May 1: at Detroit
x-Saturday, May 3: at New York
Cleveland 1, Miami 0
Cleveland 121, Miami 100
Wednesday: at Cleveland
Saturday: at Miami, **AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.**
Saturday CET, 3 a.m. Sunday JKT
Monday, April 28: at Miami
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Cleveland
x-Friday, May 2: at Miami
x-Sunday, May 4: at Cleveland
Indiana 2, Milwaukee 0
Indiana 117, Milwaukee 98
Tuesday: Indiana 123, Milwaukee 115
Friday: at Milwaukee
Sunday: at Milwaukee
x-Tuesday, April 29: at Indiana
x-Friday, May 2: at Milwaukee
x-Sunday, May 4: at Indiana
Boston 1, Orlando 0
Boston 103, Orlando 86
Wednesday: at Boston
Friday: at Orlando, **AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**
Saturday CET, 9 a.m. Saturday JKT
Sunday: at Orlando
x-Tuesday, April 29: at Boston
x-Thursday, May 1: at Orlando
x-Saturday, May 3: at Boston
Western Conference
Golden State 1, Houston 0
Golden State 95, Houston 85
Wednesday: at Houston
Saturday: at Golden State, **AFN-Sports 2:30 a.m. Sunday CET, 10:30 a.m. Sunday JKT**
Monday, April 28: at Golden State
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Houston
x-Friday, May 2: at Golden State
x-Sunday, May 4: at Houston
Denver 1, L.A. Clippers 1
Denver 112, L.A. Clippers 110, OT
L.A. Clippers 105, Denver 102
Thursday: at L.A. Clippers
Saturday: at L.A. Clippers, **AFN-Sports, 12 a.m. Sunday CET, 8 a.m. Sunday JKT**
Tuesday, April 29: at Denver
x-Thursday, May 1: at L.A. Clippers
x-Saturday, May 3: at Denver
Oklahoma City 2, Memphis 0
Oklahoma City 131, Memphis 80
Tuesday: Oklahoma City 118, Memphis 99
Thursday: at Memphis, **AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m. Friday CET, 11:30 a.m. Friday JKT**
Saturday: at Memphis, **AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m. Saturday CET, 5:30 a.m. Sunday JKT**
x-Monday, April 28: at Oklahoma City
x-Thursday, May 1: at Memphis
x-Saturday, May 3: at Oklahoma City
Minnesota 1, L.A. Lakers 1
Minnesota 117, L.A. Lakers 95
Tuesday: L.A. Lakers 94, Minnesota 85
Friday: at Minnesota, **AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m. Friday CET, 11:30 a.m. Friday JKT**
Sunday: at Minnesota
Wednesday, April 30: at L.A. Lakers
x-Friday, May 2: at Minnesota
x-Sunday, May 4: at L.A. Lakers

right calf. He was 4-for-13 from the field in 37 minutes, playing for the first time since March 18 — and for the first time in the playoffs with Antetokounmpo, who missed all six games in the playoffs last season with a calf injury.

While there were flashes of his pre-absence play, such as the 3 he made with 2:31 left to get Milwaukee within 115-113, his explosiveness was not there.

“I got a little winded, but I think everyone got a little winded,” Lillard said. “I wasn’t really thinking about if I was tired, it was just like I’m out here and I’ve got to do what I got to do.”

Bobby Portis Jr. added 28 points, including six 3s, and 12 rebounds for the Bucks.

The game had a little bit of everything.

There was a scuffle in front of the Pacers bench that led to double technical fouls in the first half, words between multiple players in the final minutes that drew more technical fouls, players repeatedly hitting the floor, a steady of 10-second counts on Antetokounmpo’s free throws, a little zone defense, a smattering of full-court pressure and, of course, plenty of points.

And a crowd featuring WNBA star Caitlin Clark and her Indiana Fever teammates, Super Bowl winner Reggie Wayne, 2022 Indianapolis 500 champion Marcus Ericsson and former Pacers star Lance Stephenson all got a front-row seat to one of the most entertaining playoff games so far.

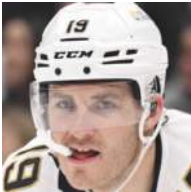
On the court, the Pacers were in complete control after they built a 31-16 lead just 7½ minutes into the game until Milwaukee went on a late 13-0 run to get within 115-103 with 2:31 left.

That’s when Siakam hit the 3 to spur the 8-2 run to close it out.



Indiana Pacers forward Pascal Siakam makes a pass over Milwaukee Bucks defenders during the second half of a first-round playoff game in Indianapolis on Tuesday. Siakam had a double-double in Indiana’s win.

SPORTS



Back in action
Tkachuk returns, helps lead Panthers to series-opening win » **NHL playoffs, Page 22**

NFL DRAFT

Having it both ways

Hall of Fame CB Bailey eager to see Hunter play offense, defense in spite of obstacles

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Take it from Hall of Famer Champ Bailey, the last true two-way star to come out of college, Heisman winner Travis Hunter will have his hands, feet and head full trying to play both wide receiver and cornerback in the NFL.

“It’s easy to just say, ‘Oh yeah, he can go play both,’” Bailey said. “Well, there’s so much preparation that goes into playing one thing. So you’ve got to consider what is it going to take to do everything all the time like he did in college?”

Digesting two playbooks.

Navigating concurrent position meetings.

Convincing coaches that switching back and forth from one side of scrimmage to the other won’t diminish his effectiveness or learning curve on either side.

Then there’s the mental toll, the physical toll, the emotional toll.



Bailey

“It’s almost unrealistic when you think about it,” Bailey said. “But we’re looking at one of the greatest athletes we’ve ever seen. It changes your mindset to think he could possibly do this. I’m not going to rule it out.”

Few can relate to what Hunter did in college and will try to do in the pros better than Bailey, who won the Bronko Nagurski Award as the nation’s top defender in his final season at Georgia in 1998, when he picked off three passes and also starred on offense, catching 47 passes for 744 yards and five touchdowns.

Bailey, however, would play almost exclusively at cornerback in the NFL after being drafted seventh overall by Washington in 1999. During his 15-year pro career, Bailey saw just nine targets at wide receiver.

Five of them came in 2000 when he caught three passes for 78 yards to go with his five interceptions. But Norv Tur-



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Despite the difficulty of playing both offense and defense in the NFL, Heisman Trophy winner Travis Hunter has enough talent to make teams consider whether he would realistically be able to pull it off.

SEE BOTH ON PAGE 20

Haliburton, Siakam give Pacers 2-0 lead » NBA playoffs, Page 23

