

MILITARY

Tom Cruise really did get US carrier for his mission

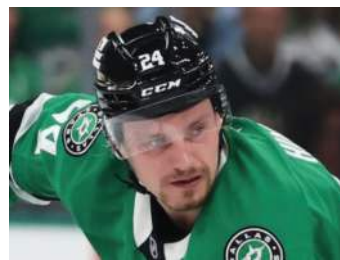
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US military spent \$6B in past 3 years to recruit and retain

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NHL PLAYOFFS

Finland players feature prominently in conference finals

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'Golden age of America'



ADAM GRAY/AP

President Donald Trump arrives for United States Military Academy commencement ceremonies in West Point, N.Y., on Saturday.

Trump speaks to graduating class after major shifts at West Point

BY EMILY DAVIES,
CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
AND DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WEST POINT, N.Y. — When President Donald Trump last addressed the graduating class of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, protests inspired by the police killing of George Floyd had swept the country — forcing a reckoning on college campuses that extended to the storied institution.

Then, school officials directed cadets to spend an academic year exploring how to “unearth and confront racism, sexism, and other biases that persist at this academy and that undermine American society.”

Now, five years later, the academy has banished talk of systemic inequity, abolished student affinity clubs for women and minorities, and instructed faculty to purge terms such as “feminist” and “systemic racism” from syllabi, all at the order of their commander in chief.

SEE GOLDEN ON PAGE 8

American WWI troops honored at Memorial Day tribute in France

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

BONY, France — The commander in charge of Army operations in Europe led Memorial Day tributes Sunday at the Somme American Cemetery, where some of the first American troops to die in combat on European soil are buried.

Gen. Christopher T. Donahue, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, said that although the nearly 1,850 soldiers

interred at the site died more than a century ago, their service must never be forgotten.

“Honoring their sacrifices reminds us that freedom isn’t free and that the American soldier will go and fight wherever, and whenever, their nation calls,” Donahue said.

The event was one of about two dozen held in Europe over Memorial Day weekend at cemeteries run by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

More than 100,000 Americans

who fought in both world wars are buried at ABMC sites in Europe beneath white crosses and Stars of David — enduring reminders of the sacrifice that helped secure the Continent’s freedom.

French and American officials were joined by British and Australian representatives at the ceremony, where several wreaths were laid. French soldiers stood in formation, while a U.S. Air Force contingent that included members of the Ramstein Air Base, Germany, honor guard partici-

pated.

An Army formation from the 7th Engineer Brigade, based in Ansbach, Germany, and part of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command based in Kaiserslautern, Germany, also took part.

“Being in the military, recognizing that there were those who gave their ultimate sacrifice for love of the country and the defense of the nation and our allies, it’s definitely something that we all feel con-

SEE HONORED ON PAGE 7



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

U.S. soldiers salute in front of the memorial at the Somme American Cemetery in Bony, France, on Sunday.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Trump signals he'll OK US Steel bid by Japan-based Nippon

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Friday that U.S. Steel will keep its headquarters in Pittsburgh as part of what he called a “planned partnership” that seemed to signal that he’ll approve a bid by Japan-based Nippon Steel to make a big investment in the American steelmaker.
Still, Trump’s statement left it vague as to whether he is approving the bid after he vowed repeatedly to block the deal to prevent it from being foreign-owned.

More recently, Trump suggested that Nippon Steel would invest in U.S. Steel, not buy it, and one union official suggested that the government will have a role in the company’s management going forward. But investors seemed to take Trump’s statement as a sign that he’s approving some sort of merger, sharply pushing up U.S. Steel’s shares, and the companies issued approving statements.
Nippon Steel said the partnership is a “game changer — for U.S. Steel and all of its stakeholders, in-

cluding the American steel industry, and the broader American manufacturing base.” U.S. Steel said it “will remain American, and we will grow bigger and stronger through a partnership with Nippon Steel that brings massive investment, new technologies and thousands of jobs over the next four years.”
Nippon Steel’s nearly \$15 billion bid to buy U.S. Steel was blocked by former President Joe Biden and is subject to another national security review.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)	0.8209
Euro costs (May 26)	0.86	Thailand (Baht)	32.48
Britain (Pound)	\$1.32	Turkey (NewLira)	39.0297
Japanese yen (May 26)	139.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (May 26)	1342.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	7.50
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Britain (Pound)	1.3531	Federal funds market rate	4.38
Canada (Dollar)	1.3722	3-month bill	5.03
China (Yuan)	7.2043	30-year bond	5.03
Denmark (Krone)	6.5664		
Egypt (Pound)	49.9014		
Euro	0.8803		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8322		
Hungary (Forint)	355.37		
Israel (Shekel)	3.6110		
Japan (Yen)	142.52		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3065		
Norway (Krone)	10.0976		
Philippines (Peso)	55.35		
Poland (Zloty)	3.75		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2843		
South Korea (Won)	1367.99		

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MILITARY

S. Korea denies US troop withdrawal talks

By DAVID CHOI
AND YOOJIN LEE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — South Korea’s military on Friday firmly denied that any discussions have taken place with the United States regarding a potential withdrawal of American troops from the peninsula, following a media report suggesting the White House was considering such a move.

“Absolutely nothing was discussed,” the Ministry of National Defense said in a text message to reporters. It emphasized that the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the South remain a “core strategy” of the U.S.-South Korea alliance and a key deterrent to North Korean aggression.

The statement came hours after The Wall Street Journal, citing two unnamed U.S. military officials, reported that President Donald Trump’s administration was evaluating a possible redeployment of 4,500 troops from South Korea to other Indo-Pacific locations, including Guam.

The report said the idea was among several under consideration and had not yet been present-



WILFRED SALTERS/U.S. Army

U.S. and South Korean soldiers march together at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on April 25.

ed to Trump.

The U.S. Department of Defense did not immediately respond to a request for comment early Friday.

In a post to X later that day, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said that “anyone who’s covered the Pentagon knows that we always evaluate force posture. That said, the U.S. remains firmly com-

mitted to [South Korea.] Our alliance is iron clad.

“Reports that the DoD will reduce U.S. troops in [South Korea] are not true,” Parnell wrote.

The idea of reducing the U.S. military footprint in South Korea has surfaced before.

Trump reportedly floated such proposals during his first term, arguing that Seoul was not contrib-

uting enough financially to host U.S. forces.

In his 2022 memoir, “A Sacred Oath,” former Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who was fired by Trump, described a 2020 incident in which the president nearly ordered the withdrawal of all 7,000 U.S. military dependents from South Korea.

“There was nothing to explain

it,” Esper wrote. “There was nothing to warrant it.” The plan was eventually abandoned, he added.

North Korea has repeatedly called for the removal of U.S. forces from the peninsula, claiming their presence threatens its sovereignty and regional stability.

At a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on April 10, Adm. Samuel Paparo, head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and Army Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, warned that any reduction in troops would diminish America’s ability to respond to threats in the region.

“To reduce the force becomes problematic,” Brunson said. “I won’t speak to policy, but what we do provide there is the potential to impose cost in the East Sea to Russia, the potential to impose cost in the West Sea to China, and to continue to deter against North Korea.”

The Sea of Japan and Yellow Sea are known in Korea as the East and West seas, respectively.

Paparo, seated next to Brunson, echoed those concerns, saying a withdrawal “would reduce our ability to prevail in conflict.”

More than 1,100 troops OK’d for border mission

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 1,100 troops have been approved to deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border, U.S. Northern Command announced Thursday.

Some of the duties for the approximately 1,115 service members with Joint Task Force-Southern Border will include coordinating logistics, providing food and water to personnel in the field and constructing mobility routes and force protection infrastructure, NORTHCOM said in a statement.

There are now more than 10,000 military troops — including active-duty soldiers and Marines and National Guard forces — stationed along the border to assist Border Patrol officers. Those troops include infantry forces with Stryker combat vehicles, troops that fly drones and helicopters, logisticians and engineering forces. Navy ships are also part of the border mission.

The Department of Homeland Security announced last week it has requested 20,000 National Guard troops to bolster efforts to remove undocumented migrants from the United States.

National Guard forces have long been mobilized to conduct domestic operations, including disaster response and aiding other

federal agencies, including Homeland Security — especially at the U.S.-Mexico border where they have operated since 2018. It remains unclear how the latest Guard troops could be used.

Since President Donald Trump’s return to the White House, his administration has made the crackdown on undocumented migrants one of its highest priorities.

Under Trump’s orders, the Pentagon has surged thousands of active-duty troops to the U.S. southern border and declared large swaths of border-adjacent land in New Mexico and Texas as military installations to increase its authorities to arrest and charge people caught crossing the border illegally.

The personnel announced Thursday include:

- 65 Joint Individual Augmentees from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force to fill in at Joint Task Force-Southern Border headquarters.
- 250 soldiers from an Expeditionary Sustainment Command will coordinate logistics and manage sustainment requirements.
- 140 soldiers from a Quartermaster Field Feeding Company will provide field feeding support to deployed personnel.
- 125 soldiers from an Engineer



REMOI BROWN/U.S. Army

Soldiers move to a patrol base near Tucson, Ariz., on May 11, as part of the border security mission.

Brigade Headquarters and 145 soldiers from an Engineer Battalion will coordinate and execute construction missions.

•310 soldiers from two Engineer Construction Companies will construct mobility routes, force protection infrastructure and mission-critical facilities.

•75 soldiers from a Medical Area Support Company will provide health resources.

•Five airmen from an Air Force Logistics Support Element from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., will coordinate rapid logistics and sustainment planning.

DOD lost contact with helo that caused 2 jets to nix landing at DC airport

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military air traffic controllers lost contact with an Army helicopter for about 20 seconds as it neared the Pentagon on the flight that caused two commercial jets to abort their landings this month at a Washington airport, the Army told The Associated Press on Friday.

The aborted landings on May 1 added to general unease about continued close calls between government helicopters and commercial airplanes near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport following a deadly midair collision in January between a passenger jet and an Army helicopter that killed 67 people.

In March, the Federal Aviation Administration announced that helicopters would be permanently restricted from flying on the same route where the collision occurred. After the May 1 incident, the Army paused all flights in and out of the Pentagon as it works with the FAA to address safety issues.

Brig. Gen. Matthew Braman, the head of Army aviation, told the AP in an exclusive interview that the controllers lost contact with the Black Hawk because a temporary control tower antenna was not set up in a location where it

would be able to maintain contact with the helicopter as it flew low and rounded the Pentagon to land. He said the antenna was set up during construction of a new control tower and has now been moved to the roof of the Pentagon.

Braman said federal air traffic controllers inside the Washington airport also didn’t have a good fix on the location of the helicopter. The Black Hawk was transmitting data that should have given controllers its precise location, but Braman said FAA officials told him in meetings last week that the data the controllers were getting from multiple feeds and sensors was inconclusive, with some of it deviating by as much as three-quarters of a mile.

“It certainly led to confusion of air traffic control of where they were,” Braman said.

Former FAA and NTSB crash investigator Jeff Guzzetti said he thinks the air traffic controller did the right thing by ordering the two planes to go around that day.

The FAA declined to comment on whether its controllers could not get a good fix on the Black Hawk’s location due to their own equipment issues, citing the ongoing investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board.

MILITARY

DOD spent \$6B to recruit, retain troops

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

The U.S. military spent more than \$6 billion over the past three years to recruit and retain service members, in what has been a growing campaign to counter enlistment shortfalls.

The financial incentives to reenlist in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines increased dramatically from 2022 through last year, with the Navy vastly outspending the others, according to funding totals provided by the services. The overall amount of recruiting bonuses also rose steadily, fueled by significant jumps in spending by the Army and Marine Corps.

The military services have routinely poured money into recruiting and retention bonuses over the years. But the totals spiked as Pentagon leaders tried to reverse falling enlistment numbers, particularly as COVID-19 restrictions locked down public events, fairs and school visits that recruiters relied on to meet with young people.

Coupled with an array of new programs, an increased number of recruiters and adjustments to enlistment requirements, the additional incentives have helped the services bounce back from the shortfalls. All but the Navy met their recruiting targets last year and all are expected to do so this year.

President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth repeatedly point to Trump's election as a reason for the recruiting rebound. But the enlistment increases began long before last November, and officials have tied them more directly to the widespread overhauls that the services have done, including the increased financial incentives.

The Army, the military's largest service, spent more on recruiting



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

U.S. soldiers cross a floating bridge during a joint river-crossing exercise between South Korea and the United States as part of the Freedom Shield exercise in Yeoncheon, South Korea, earlier this year.

bonuses in 2022 and 2024 than the other services. But it was significantly outspent by the Navy in 2023, when the sea service was struggling to overcome a large enlistment shortfall.

As a result, even though the Navy is a smaller service, it spent more overall in the three years than the Army did.

The Navy also has spent considerably more than the others to entice sailors to reenlist, doling out retention bonuses to roughly 70,000 service members for each of the past three years. That total is more than double the number of troops the Army gave retention bonuses to each year, even though the Army is a much larger service.

"Navy is dedicated to retaining

our most capable sailors; retention is a critical component of achieving our end-strength goals," Adm. James Kilby, the vice chief of naval operations, told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee in March.

He said reenlistment for enlisted sailors "remains healthy" but officers are a challenge in specific jobs, including aviation, explosive ordnance disposal, surface and submarine warfare, health professionals and naval special operations.

He added that the Navy has struggled to fill all of its at-sea jobs and is using financial incentives as one way to combat the problem.

The Army has seen the greatest recruiting struggles over the past

decade, and by using a range of new programs and policies has had one of the largest comebacks. The Navy has had the most trouble more recently, and took a number of steps to expand those eligible for service and spend more in bonuses.

While the Army spends hundreds of millions each year to recruit troops, it also has relied on an array of new programs and policies to woo young people. A key driver of the Army's rebound has been its decision to create the Future Soldier Prep Course, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in August 2022.

That program gives lower-performing recruits up to 90 days of academic or fitness instruction to

help them meet military standards and move on to basic training. It has resulted in thousands of enlistments.

The Air Force increased its spending on recruiting bonuses in 2023 as it also struggled to overcome shortfalls, but lowered the amount the following year. The payments were for jobs including munitions systems, aircraft maintenance and security forces. The Space Force does not currently authorize enlistment bonuses.

The Marine Corps and the tiny Space Force have consistently hit their recruiting goals, although the Marines had to dig deep into their pool of delayed entry candidates in 2022 to meet their target. The Corps, which is much smaller than the Army and Air Force, spends the least on bonuses and tends to spread the amount among a larger number of service members.

Maj. Jacoby Getty, a Marine spokesman, said the spike in retention bonuses from \$126 million in 2023 to \$201 million in 2024 was because Marines were allowed to reenlist a year early for the first time. More than 7,000 Marines got bonuses as a result, a jump of nearly 2,200 over the previous year.

When asked about bonuses in 2023, Gen. Eric Smith, the Marine commandant, famously told a naval conference that "your bonus is you get to call yourself a Marine."

"That's your bonus, right?" he said. "There's no dollar amount that goes with that."

The services tailor their recruiting and retention money to bolster harder-to-fill jobs, including cyber, intelligence and special operations forces.

The Army and Marine Corps also use the money to woo troops to some combat, armor and artillery jobs.

Hegseth orders more press restrictions to plug leaks

Associated Press

Bedeveled by leaks to the media during his short tenure, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a series of restrictions on the press late Friday that include banning reporters from entering wide swaths of the Pentagon without a government escort — areas where the press has had access in past administrations as it covers the activities of the world's most powerful military.

Newly restricted areas include his office and those of his top aides and all of the different locations across the mammoth building where the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Space Force maintain press offices.

The media will also be barred

from offices of the Pentagon's senior military leadership, including Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine, without Hegseth's approval and an escort from his aides.

The staff of the Joint Chiefs has traditionally maintained a good relationship with the press.

Hegseth, the former Fox News Channel personality, issued his order via a posting on X late on a Friday afternoon before a holiday weekend. He said it was necessary for national security.

"While the department remains committed to transparency, the department is equally obligated to protect (classified intelligence information) and sensitive information, the

unauthorized disclosure of which could put the lives of U.S. service members in danger," wrote Hegseth.



Hegseth

linked the move to previous actions by Hegseth's office that impede journalists and their coverage.

"There is no way to sugarcoat it. Today's memo by Secretary Hegseth appears to be a direct attack on the freedom of the press

and America's right to know what its military is doing," it said in a statement Friday night. "The Pentagon Press Association is extremely concerned by the decision to restrict movement of accredited journalists within the Pentagon through non-secured, unclassified hallways."

Hegseth also said reporters will be required to sign a form to protect sensitive information and would be issued a new badge that more clearly identifies them as press. It was not clear whether signing the form would be a condition of continued access to the building.

Two months ago, the department was embarrassed by a leak to The New York Times that bil-

lionaire Elon Musk was to get a briefing on the U.S. military's plans in case a war broke out with China. That briefing never took place, on President Donald Trump's orders, and Hegseth suspended two Pentagon officials as part of an investigation into how that news got out.

The Pentagon was also embarrassed when the editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg, was inadvertently included in a group chat on the Signal messaging app where Hegseth discussed plans for upcoming military strikes in Yemen. Trump's former national security adviser, Mike Waltz, took responsibility for Goldberg being included and was shifted to another job.

MILITARY

Hegseth boosts pay, oversight for moves

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Tuesday ordered sweeping changes to the military's household goods moving system, citing frustration among service members with a newly instituted contracting system.

"We know it's not working, and it's only getting worse," he said in a news release Thursday. "We've heard your concerns about contractor performance, quality and accountability."

Hegseth ordered the formation of a Pentagon task force to improve the workflow behind permanent change of station moves under the Global Household Goods Contract, or GHC.

Moves under the contract began with a slow rollout more than a year ago but ramped up in earnest this year.

Under the contract, U.S. Transportation Command is transferring oversight of roughly 300,000 to 400,000 annual military and Coast Guard moves to HomeSafe Alliance, a joint venture between Tier One Relocation and KBR, formerly known as Kellogg Brown & Root.

HomeSafe oversees all contracts for packing, trucking, ship-



WESLEY BURGOS/U.S. Navy

Capt. Sean Andrews, commander of Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor, tours a local agent's household goods storage on April 3.

ping and storage of goods in GHC moves.

The command's legacy system for relocations has continued to operate in parallel with GHC, which was expected to handle most domestic moves by peak PCS season this summer.

The moving industry in large

part has declined to sign on to GHC because, among other issues, the new system's payment rates are on average 30% lower than what the government pays in the legacy system.

Hegseth directed Transportation Command "to develop and implement rates similar to the leg-

acy system within GHC to increase vendor capacity and ensure enough companies are willing to move military family household goods to the next duty station," according to the release.

GHC was created, paradoxically, because of service member complaints over the performance of the legacy system.

But GHC has been plagued by late pickups and deliveries, and several U.S. senators commenced inquiries this spring into its shortcomings.

In late April, the Army suspended the use of GHC for all moves "pending further leadership review," the service said in an April 30 memo.

Thursday's release said Transportation Command should "fully leverage" both GHC and the legacy tender-of-service program in dealing with peak season.

"We're going to split this year's peak moving season between our new and legacy systems," Hegseth said in the release. "[T]hose systems can talk to each other and work together, so we're going to use both in every way possible."

HomeSafe welcomed the move.

"DoD raising our rates to account for significant inflation from the last four years would

substantially benefit our ability to facilitate world-class moving services for our nation's heroes," the company said in a statement Thursday.

Federal News Network reported Wednesday that Andy Dawson, director of the command's Defense Personal Property Program overseeing GHC, was recently removed from his position.

Transportation Command did not respond to questions emailed Wednesday regarding Dawson and the status of GHC.

Hegseth's memo also requires GHC and the legacy program to provide weekly updates to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and establish internal controls within Transportation Command, such as a hotline, "to maintain direct access with global transportation shipping offices to mitigate any GHC or [tender-of-service] interruptions."

The memo also directs that the government's reimbursement rate for do-it-yourself moves be increased by 30%.

Hegseth said that in some cases the reimbursements for personally procured moves were so low that service members were paying out of pocket.

36th Wing commander on Guam ends 39-year career

BY ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

Brig. Gen. Thomas Palenske, who guided the 36th Wing through one of Guam's most destructive storms in decades, stepped down Thursday, marking the end of a 39-year military career defined by an unorthodox public style.

Palenske relinquished command to Col. Charles Cooley during a ceremony inside one of Andersen Air Force Base's massive hangars, according to a news release from the wing.

Palenske's retirement follows two years at the helm of a critical forward base in the Indo-Pacific, a post he assumed just weeks after Typhoon Mawar devastated the island in May 2023.

Much of his tenure focused on the base's recovery and mission

continuity, efforts that earned him a reputation for both hands-on leadership and a vibrant online presence.

"Thank you for having the minerals to make the cuts necessary to be where you're at right now but to also have the value to serve something greater than yourself," Palenske told airmen during Thursday's ceremony, according to the release. "It's been an honor to serve alongside you."

In his final Facebook post as commander, he expressed confidence in his successor and gratitude toward his team.

"BG P signing off for the last time," he wrote. "I love you guys! 'Murica!"

Palenske, who signed off his frequent Facebook posts with that patriotic flourish, plans to pursue



JOSEPH MAYE/U.S. Air Force

Col. Charles Cooley, left, poses with Brig Gen. Thomas Palenske after relieving him as commander of the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, May 22.

civilian work at a microdistillery, he told "The Ray Gibson Show," a local radio program, on May 14.

Cooley last served as deputy commander of the 618th Air Oper-

ations Center at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"As we prepare for the pacing threat, there is no doubt the wing is well-postured to deliver combat power from this base for the Joint Force, our allies, and our partners," he said, according to the release. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to join this team and look forward to spending time with each and every one of you."

In a phone interview Friday, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero praised the cooperation between the island and U.S. military leaders but acknowledged frequent turnover presents challenges.

"For me at least, and for the government and our community, we adjust to one style of admiral — and we work very well — and then they have to change," she said. "I

think it makes it a bit less of a continuity style of management."

Still, the governor added, outgoing commanders often become effective cheerleaders for the U.S. territory in Washington, D.C.

"They are our advocates here in Guam, and it also brings to the Pentagon a much better perspective and a closer understanding about Guam," she said.

Cooley was commissioned in 1999 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at West Virginia University, according to his official Air Force bio. He's a veteran command pilot with more than 1,000 combat and combat support flight hours and over 3,100 flight hours aboard C-17 Globemaster III transports and KC-135 R/T Stratotanker aerial refueling tankers.

Sanctions aimed at Sudan after reported chemical weapons use

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. is imposing sanctions on Sudan over reports that it used chemical weapons against rebel forces during the African country's ongoing civil war, the State Department said this week.

The sanctions include restrictions on American exports and ac-

cess to U.S. government lines of credit. They will go into effect on or around June 6.

The Sudanese military used what is believed to have been chlorine gas at least twice against paramilitaries from the Rapid Support Forces, The New York Times reported on Jan. 16.

Sudan has been locked in a

bloody civil war with the rival group since April 2023.

The war has claimed upward of 150,000 lives and displaced over 10 million, the Times report said.

Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce called on Sudan to cease chemical weapons use.

The U.S. has stepped up its military involvement in other parts of

Africa in recent months.

Friday marked the scheduled end of U.S. Africa Command's largest exercise on the continent, African Lion. This year's edition, held across northern and western Africa, featured over 10,000 troops from 40 nations.

AFRICOM is also on pace this year to exceed the record 63

strikes launched against Islamic State fighters in Somalia in 2019; there were 25 as of May 8.

On Monday, acting chief of naval operations Adm. James Kilby said the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group recently launched more than 125,000 pounds of munitions into Somalia to fight the militant group.

MILITARY

Mission accepted: How Cruise got a carrier

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

For fans of Tom Cruise’s Mission: Impossible series, the Pentagon can answer the incredulous question at the climax of its latest trailer: “You gave him an aircraft carrier?”

Yes, the U.S. Navy and Air Force Special Operations decided to accept the mission: help Cruise’s secret agent Ethan Hunt save the world. Or, at least make a movie about it.

For Paramount Global’s The Final Reckoning, released Friday in the U.S., Cruise and the crew spent three days in the Adriatic Sea filming aboard the USS George H.W. Bush, a nuclear powered Nimitz-class carrier commissioned in 2009.

It’s the latest cinematic incarnation of Cruise’s career-long affinity for the U.S. military and its aircraft (as well as doing his own stunts). It’s also an example of the Pentagon’s willingness to showcase its hardware and martial might through a classic piece of American soft power, the Hollywood blockbuster.

The Pentagon has a long history as a supporting character, most famously the 1990 spy thriller The Hunt for Red October — the one where Scotsman Sean Connery plays a Soviet submarine captain.

Before getting on board, the Defense Department reviews scripts for accuracy and depictions of the military. (The Pentagon declined, for instance, to support Oliver Stone’s multi-Oscar-winning Viet-



SAMUEL WAGNER/U.S. Navy

Tom Cruise addresses the crew during a visit to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush in March 2023.

nam War drama Platoon.)

The U.S. military also charges for equipment use, as well as transportation and lodging for personnel. For 2022’s Top Gun: Maverick, for example, the Navy was paid as much as \$11,374 an hour to use its F/A-18 Super Hornets — which Cruise couldn’t control as he flew in the fighter jet’s backseat.

For The Final Reckoning, however, Paramount’s reported blo-

wout budget of \$400 million got a break because the carrier and crew were already on scheduled training missions.

“Most, if not all, of the aircraft time was logged as official training requirements, and therefore not reimbursable,” the Pentagon said in a statement.

The cast and crew — including Cruise, co-star Hannah Waddingham and director Christopher McQuarrie — were ferried to the

carrier aboard Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. MH-60S Seahawks, flown by the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5 based in Norfolk, Va.

While aboard from Feb. 28 to March 3, 2023, Cruise hosted a Top Gun: Maverick viewing in the ship’s hangar bay and visited with sailors, who had been deployed for about six months at that time, the Navy said in a statement Friday.

“Given that we were on deployment, operational and safety plans

were in place so that if called upon, we were ready to execute our mission on a moment’s notice,” spokesman Lieutenant Commander Matthew Stroup said in the statement.

The crew also filmed flight sequences, a scene in the navigation bridge and Hunt’s departure aboard a CV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, from the 352nd Special Operations Wing out of Souda Bay, Crete, which was on a joint training exercise with the carrier group.

The film “supplemented the already scheduled training and did not interfere with any requirements,” said Air Force Special Operations Command spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Rebecca Heyse.

The USS Hyman G. Rickover, a Virginia-class attack submarine, also makes a cameo, shot off the coast of Massachusetts. The interiors, however, were pure Hollywood: stage sets and actors for sailors. They did, however, have the help of a Navy representative and a retired submarine commander as a technical adviser.

“Being able to namecheck an aircraft carrier that you’ve actually filmed on lends a dimension of accuracy to the film that elevates it,” Paramount said in a response to questions, referencing a scene where Cruise’s Hunt specifically requests the Bush carrier. The Pentagon’s support “lends authenticity to the military involvement necessary to help Ethan Hunt accomplish his mission.”

Air Force set to phase out UH-1N Hueys at Tokyo hub

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The distinctive “whomp, whomp” of UH-1N Huey helicopters is set to fade from the skies over western Tokyo as the Air Force prepares to retire the aircraft after more than six decades of service.

A banner displayed during Yokota’s recent Japanese-American Friendship Festival marked the moment: “SEEEYUH! 1980-2025. USAF Yokota AB UH-1N Huey.”

The sign, featuring images of the helicopters and the 459th Airlift Squadron’s centaur logo, signaled the end of the Huey era to approximately 117,000 festivalgoers at the annual flightline event.

The squadron, based at Yokota, operates a small fleet of UH-1Ns and C-12J Huron aircraft. The Hueys support a range of missions, including flying VIPs across U.S. military installations around Tokyo, airlifting patients to the hospital at Yokosuka Naval Base south of Yokohama, and providing search and rescue or operational support.

“After 61 years of service, the UH-1N Huey fleet is set to retire,” a spokesman for

Yokota’s 374th Airlift Wing, Master Sgt. Nathan Allen, said in an email Thursday.

Allen and Pacific Air Forces officials did not respond to additional questions emailed Thursday and Friday about the timing of the Hueys’ departure or their replacements.

Photos posted on Yokota’s official website show two UH-1Ns flying in formation over Japan on May 9. One image shows a Huey flying past the Tokyo Skytree, a 2,080-foot broadcasting tower with observation decks.

The first Hueys at Yokota — UH-1P models — arrived in 1971 and were later replaced by the twin-engine UH-1N variant, according to the wing’s website.

The UH-1 series, developed by Bell Helicopter in the 1950s and widely used during the Vietnam War, became a symbol of U.S. military aviation. Known for its unique rotor sound and battlefield versatility, the Huey was used by the Army for medical evacuations, troop transports and combat air support.

The Huey has flown more combat hours than any other aircraft in history, according to a 2011 release from the Joint Multi-



ALEXZANDRA GRACEY/U.S. Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Taylor, a 459th Airlift Squadron special mission aviator, waves as a UH-1N Huey takes off for a formation flight at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on May 9.

national Readiness Center in Germany, issued when the Army retired its remaining Hueys in the country.

The Air Force plans to replace its UH-1Ns with Boeing’s MH-139A Grey Wolf. That helicopter, based on the commercial AW139, offers improved performance — cruising 50% faster, flying 50%

farther and lifting 5,000 more pounds than the Huey, while offering a 30% larger cabin, according to the service’s website.

However, the Air Force last year reduced its planned purchase of the Grey Wolf from 74 to 42 aircraft, according to budget documents cited in a March 2024 report by defense publisher Janes.

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

Visitors to USAA’s Poppy Wall of Honor view the display on Saturday in Washington. The Poppy Wall of Honor focuses on the impact of each life lost and all they gave through their military service.

600,000 poppies
Wall of Honor in Washington recalls troops who fell in America’s wars

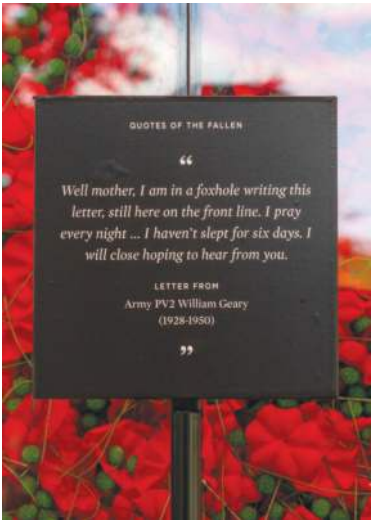
BY ERIC KAYNE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thousands of visitors and veterans strolled through USAA’s Poppy Wall of Honor over Memorial Day weekend.

One side of the exhibit shared the history of the poppy flower as a symbol of remembrance, along with overviews of military campaigns from World War I through the Global War on Terror. On the other side stood a striking wall of 600,000 poppy flowers behind plexiglass, interspersed with quotes from veterans’ letters sent home from the front lines.

One veteran, John Schoon, a former Army staff sergeant with the Third Army, U.S. Central Command, became emotional as he stood before the section dedicated to Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the campaign in which he served.

“[The war] still stands with me, because nobody wins the war,” he



A placard displays a quote from a soldier to his mother against a wall of poppy flowers.

said. “The hardest part of the war is coming home. You have to deal with everything. You have to deal with the ones you lost that you never forget. ... I can at least come here to pay my respects to my



Visitors to the Poppy Wall of Honor view the display covering America’s wars. The experience centered around the poppy flower, the international symbol of remembrance. The 600,000 flowers symbolize the 600,000 military members lost in service to our country.



John Schoon, a former Army sergeant who served in Operation Desert Storm, left, pauses with emotion as USAA employee and Air Force veteran Shelina Frey seeks to comfort him Saturday.

brethren and my sisters at Section 60 at Arlington [National Cemetery] and see my buddy’s name on

did I make it home?”

Other visitors reflected on the meaning of remembrance and the sacrifice made by service members who gave their lives to preserve freedom.

“Memorial Day holds a special place in the hearts of Americans as we unite to honor our fallen heroes,” said Juan C. Andrade, president and CEO of USAA. “Let us remember the sacrifices they made, support their loved ones, and cherish the freedoms our nation’s service members have so bravely defended. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II and the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. We must never forget the enduring cost of freedom and the profound impact these, and all, conflicts have had on our country.”

Honored: ‘It’s not just a history lesson; it’s a deeply moving experience’

FROM PAGE 1

nected to because we have all sworn to uphold that same oath and take it to that ultimate level if need be,” Army 1st Sgt. Issac Turrentine said.

The 14.3-acre cemetery features rows of white headstones like other ABMC sites. A massive bronze door with an American eagle leads into the chapel, whose outer walls contain sculpted pieces of military equipment and bear the names of 333 missing soldiers.

They are among more than 20,000 missing U.S. service members memorialized at ABMC sites in Europe. A rosette — a small bronze circular marker resembling a flower or laurel wreath — is placed beside a name when a missing service member’s re-

mains are identified.

Sunday’s ceremony came about a week before the start of the annual D-Day commemorations in nearby Normandy, which mark the World War II Allied landings of June 6, 1944.

While World War II is widely remembered as a fight against tyranny and Nazi oppression in Europe, World War I occupies a more complicated place in public memory.

The United States remained neutral for nearly three years, reluctant to become entangled in a distant European conflict that many Americans saw as not their fight. But by early 1917, German submarine attacks on American ships and the infamous Zimmermann telegram — in which Ger-

many proposed a military alliance with Mexico — forced a reckoning. On April 6, 1917, Congress declared war.

President Woodrow Wilson framed the decision as a moral imperative: to make the world “safe for democracy.”

By the time American troops began fighting in the Somme region, it had already been devastated by years of trench warfare.

The 1916 Battle of the Somme resulted in more than 1 million casualties and is considered one of the bloodiest battles in human history.

The American cemetery in Bony contains the graves of U.S. soldiers who fought in the final offensives of the war, mainly in September and October 1918, during

the assault on the Hindenburg Line — Germany’s last major defensive position — while serving under British command. Others fell near Cantigny, the site of the first major American-led attack of the war.

The operations marked the emergence of U.S. forces as a serious presence on the Western Front.

“When we visit these cemeteries, or any of the American cemeteries in Europe and Africa, it’s not just a history lesson; it’s a deeply moving experience that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and paid the ultimate sacrifice,” Donahue said. “It’s a sacred reminder that as Allies, we have a collective duty to transform, adapt, and innovate

ahead of war to ensure we don’t repeat the experience of the First World War’s trench warfare.”

By the end of World War I, about 116,000 U.S. troops had died.

Last year, approximately 3 million people visited ABMC sites worldwide, including 1.5 million at Normandy American Cemetery. In 2024, about 700 visitors came to Somme American Cemetery, an increase of 200 from the year before.

“By continuing to honor the fallen, we perpetuate their legacies and pass on to future generations an understanding of the collective sacrifice required to safeguard our freedom and prosperity,” said Stephen Munro, superintendent of the Somme American Cemetery.

MILITARY

At Annapolis, Vance deplores ‘ideological crusades’

By BRIDGET BYRNE
Capital Gazette

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Vice President JD Vance used his keynote address at the U.S. Naval Academy Friday to lambast the foreign policy of previous administrations and offer advice to the new graduates.

“You’re not just graduates of some random university about to embark on careers in the private sector. And I’m not just giving another political speech. I’m your vice president, and the minute you walk off this stage with your diploma and your commission, you will be officers in the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps, and that is an incredible thing,” Vance said.



Vice President JD Vance receives a U.S. Naval Academy jacket during the Naval Academy's graduation ceremony Friday in Annapolis, Md.

This year, while graduates marked the end of commencement by tossing their hats into the air, at least 150 people gathered at

the corner of Rowe Boulevard and Taylor Avenue to protest Vance.

His motorcade passed a banner that read, “Congrats Mids! Teach VP honor.”

Vance used his time at the podium to congratulate the graduates and discuss foreign policy in what he called “this new and very dangerous era for our country.”

A former Marine, Vance criticized past administrations, seemingly both Republican and Democrat, for pursuing “ideological crusades.”

“No more undefined missions, no more open-ended conflicts,” Vance said. “This doesn’t mean that we ignore threats, but it means that we approach them with discipline.”

He added that the Trump administration would never deploy servicemembers without a “clear path home.”

Rather, the administration will favor efficient military actions, he said, pointing to the bombing that Trump recently ordered against Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Speaking as a veteran, Vance offered advice from “a junior enlisted guy to a bunch of new officers.”

“People will look at you as graduates of the Naval Academy in a different way,” Vance said. “More often than not, you will be giving them orders, and just as I see you as our most precious resource, so you must see the men and women who call you ‘sir’ and ‘ma’am’ as your most sacred charge.”

Golden: Trump highlights changes as fallout from moves continues

FROM PAGE 1

Returning to address graduates on Saturday, he arrived at a different West Point: one his administration has swiftly reshaped to reflect his worldview.

“You are the first West Point graduates of the golden age of America,” Trump said, adding later, “We’ve turned it around.”

Trump, who gave the speech wearing a hat emblazoned with his campaign slogan “Make America Great Again,” intertwined his political ideology with words about the military’s success. He said that as president, he had rebuilt the military “better than ever before” and rid it of “social experiments” like the teaching of critical race theory and efforts to support transgender soldiers. And he took credit for a rise in military recruitment.

Trump also made a point to criticize his predecessor, Joe Biden, and what he cast as liberal ideas, claiming that politicians “subjected the armed forces to all manner of social projects” and declaring, “We will not have men playing women’s sports.”

“It’s a feeling of real whiplash,” said Graham Parsons, a former West Point professor who resigned from America’s oldest service academy after publicly criticizing the impact of Trump’s policies. “We used to raise the possibility that in the military and beyond, there are still real structural problems with racism and sexism. That would not fly now.”

Since reclaiming the White House, Trump has set his sights on institutions of higher education as keys to unraveling the diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives that he says have corrupted American culture.

In some instances, he has experienced challenges from the courts or universities as they dispute the limits of his power. But at

West Point, an institution run by the Pentagon, the president can, for the most part, have his way.

Several professors and military observers said the changes implemented at the academy in response to Trump’s executive orders have thrust the historically nonpartisan institution into the partisan fray.

“Critics are saying that the administration does not seem to understand that and is making reckless changes to the ways we develop military leaders,” said Peter Feaver, a professor at Duke University and an expert on civil-military relations.

In a statement, the White House said Trump’s predecessor had politicized the armed services.

“After Joe Biden spent four years injecting DEI, gender ideology, and woke politics into military policy, President Trump is restoring a military that is solely based on excellence, readiness, and lethality,” White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said in a statement. “On the battlefield, there can be no accommodation for anything less than resilience, strength, and the ability to withstand extraordinary physical demands.”

Less than six months into his second term, Trump has already made his mark on the military.

In January, he endured a bruising political fight over his pick for defense secretary, former “Fox & Friends Weekend” co-host Pete Hegseth, batting down allegations of misconduct to elevate a leader who shared his view that a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion had weakened the military.

Since then, Trump and Hegseth have fired at least nine senior military officers who regularly touted diversity training as a strength during the Biden administration. They have declared that DEI policies “are incompatible with the

values” of the Defense Department and prohibited academies from teaching what they have called “critical race theory,” which Republicans made a flash point during the presidential campaign.

Hegseth has said the policy changes are aimed at increasing the lethality of the nation’s fighting forces, even as the administration has stated its intention to limit the nation’s participation in armed conflict.

In signing the executive order, Trump said he was “committed to meritocracy and to the elimination of race-based and sex-based discrimination” in the U.S. Armed Forces.

This holiday weekend, Trump’s schedule will be bookended by military-centric events. On Monday, he is scheduled to attend a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Vice President JD Vance, who is also expected to attend the Arlington ceremony on Monday, gave his own address to military graduates on Friday, telling U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen that the administration’s change in approach to deploying military force meant the United States “ought to be cautious in deciding to throw a punch.”

He did not spend time discussing the academic standards at the institution.

And on June 14, the White House has planned a multimillion-dollar military parade on the National Mall to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army — a date that coincides with the president’s birthday.

Across military academies, some students and faculty have subtly resisted the Trump administration’s decrees, hoping to maintain an academic culture that tolerates disparate political views and fosters racial diversity.

At the U.S. Naval Academy, some midshipmen have started using nongovernment email addresses to run underground versions of the same affinity clubs disbanded by their administration.

Others have used the new email addresses to communicate their concerns about banned books or shuttered clubs to professors, according to three faculty members interviewed by The Washington Post.

The faculty spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid professional retribution.

Military officers who use “contemptuous words” against the president and other federal officials can be court-martialed, according to the military code of conduct.

At West Point, some faculty have tweaked language in their syllabi to comply while continuing to teach the same topics, said Parsons.

Parsons, who taught philosophy and military ethics at the academy, wrote in a New York Times opinion piece that Trump had so changed West Point that Parsons was “ashamed to be associated with the academy.”

“Once a school that strove to give cadets the broad-based, critical-minded, nonpartisan education they need for careers as Army officers, [West Point] was suddenly eliminating courses, modifying syllabuses and censoring arguments to comport with the ideological tastes of the Trump administration.”

After it published, the school launched an investigation into “allegations of misconduct,” he said. Parsons said he resigned before he was fired.

Spokespeople for the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy did not return requests for comment Friday.

A Naval Academy professor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said he has told his students “there is a point where compliance turns into complicity.”

That professor said he has already seen academic consequences related to Trump’s rhetoric and directives.

Students once felt free to debate affirmative action, abortion and gun control. They argued about whether the country should lean more interventionist or more isolationist, the professor said.

Then Trump issued the executive order, which was soon followed by Hegseth’s memo that abolished “DEI offices and any vestiges of such offices,” banned instruction on race or gender and told professors to teach that “America and its founding documents remain the most powerful force for good in human history.”

Faculty have since been told to run their research through an AI screening tool to determine whether they are compliant with the new guidelines, documents show.

The device then flags words including “barrier,” “Black,” “allyship,” “cultural differences” and the “Gulf of Mexico” that do not comply with Trump’s executive order, the provost told faculty in a newsletter that was reviewed by The Post.

The tension has come up in class and in individual exchanges with cadets.

The professor said he has counseled students who feel torn about deployment, caught between their belief in service to the country and their worries about the president who would give their orders.

He advised them to serve until they face an order they believe to be illegal. If that point comes, he told them, “reject it rather than compromise yourself.”



JULIANA YAMADA/AP

The new iPhone 16 is displayed during an announcement of new products at Apple headquarters Sept. 9, in Cupertino, Calif.

Trump threatens 50% tariffs on EU and 25% penalties on smart phones

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday threatened a 50% tax on all imports from the European Union as well a 25% tariff on smartphones unless those products are made in America.

The threats, delivered over social media, reflect Trump’s ability to disrupt the global economy with a burst of typing, as well as the reality that his tariffs have yet to produce the trade deals he is seeking or the return of domestic manufacturing he has promised voters.

The Republican president said he wants to charge higher import taxes on goods from the EU, a longstanding US ally, than from China, a geopolitical rival that had its tariffs cut to 30% this month so Washington and Beijing could hold negotiations. Trump was upset by the lack of progress in trade talks with the EU, which has proposed mutually cutting tariffs to

zero even as the president has publicly insisted on preserving a baseline 10% tax on most imports.

“Our discussions with them are going nowhere!” Trump posted on Truth Social. “Therefore, I am recommending a straight 50% Tariff on the European Union, starting on June 1, 2025. There is no Tariff if the product is built or manufactured in the United States.”

Speaking later in the Oval Office, Trump stressed that he was not seeking a deal with the EU and might delay the tariffs if more companies invested in the United States.

“I’m not looking for a deal,” Trump told the reporters. “We’ve set the deal. It’s at 50%.”

The EU’s top trade official, Maros Sefcovic, posted on X that he spoke Friday with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

“The EU’s fully engaged, committed to securing a deal that works for both,” Sefcovic said. “EU-US trade is unmatched & must be guided by mutual respect, not threats. We stand ready to defend our interests.”

Trump’s tariffs against Europe had been preceded by a threat of import taxes against Apple for its plans to continue making its iPhone in Asia.

“I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect their iPhone’s that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anyplace else,” Trump wrote. “If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25% must be paid by Apple to the U.S.”

Trump later clarified his post to say that all smartphones made abroad would be taxed and the tariffs could be coming as soon as the end of June.

National Security Council hit with major staff cuts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is ordering a major overhaul of the National Security Council that will shrink its size, lead to the ouster of some political appointees and return many career government employees back to their home agencies, according to two U.S. officials and one person familiar with the reorganization.

The number of staff at the NSC is expected to be significantly reduced, according to the officials, who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive personnel matter.

The shake-up is just the latest shoe to drop at the NSC, which is being dramatically made over after the ouster early this month of Trump’s national security adviser Mike Waltz, who in many ways had hewed to traditional Republican foreign policy.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio has been serving as national security adviser since the ouster of Waltz, who was nominated to serve as Trump’s ambassador to the United Nations.

The move is expected to elevate the importance of the State Department and Pentagon in advising Trump on important foreign policy moves. But, ultimately, Trump relies on his own instincts above all else when making decisions.

The NSC, created during the Truman administration, is an arm of the White House tasked with advising and assisting the president on national security and foreign policy and coordinating among various government agencies.

Trump was frustrated in his first term by political appointees and advisers who he felt gummed up his “America First” agenda.

There were roughly 395 people working at the NSC, including about 180 support staff, according to one official. About 90 to 95 of those being ousted are policy or subject-matter experts seconded from other government agencies. They will be given an opportunity to return to their home agencies if they want.

Many of the political appointees will also be given positions elsewhere in the administration, the official said.

The NSC has been in a continual state of tumult during the early going of Trump’s second go-around in the White House.

Waltz was ousted weeks after Trump fired several NSC officials, just a day after the influential far-right activist Laura Loomer raised concerns directly to him about staff loyalty.

This latest shake-up amounts to a “liquidation” of NSC staffing, with both career government detailees on assignment to the NSC being sent back to their home agencies and several political appointees being pushed out of their positions, according to the person familiar with the decision.

A White House official who spoke on the condition of anonymity confirmed that the overhaul, first reported by Axios, was underway. Andy Baker, the national security adviser to Vice President JD Vance, and Robert Gabriel, an assistant to the president for policy, will serve as deputy national security advisers, according to the White House official.

Judge orders Guatemalan returned to US after deportation to Mexico

Associated Press

A federal judge ordered the Trump administration late Friday to facilitate the return of a Guatemalan man it deported to Mexico in spite of his fears of being harmed there.

The man, who is gay, was protected from being returned to his home country under a U.S. immigration judge’s order at the time. But the U.S. put him on a bus and sent him to Mexico instead, a removal that U.S. District Judge Brian Murphy found likely “lacked any semblance of due process.”

Mexico has since returned him

to Guatemala, where he is in hiding, according to court documents.

An earlier court proceeding that determined the man, identified by the initials O.C.G., risked persecution or torture if returned to Guatemala, but he also feared returning to Mexico.

He presented evidence of being raped and held for ransom there while seeking asylum in the United States.

“No one has ever suggested that O.C.G. poses any sort of security threat,” Murphy wrote. “In general, this case presents no special facts or legal circumstances, only

the banal horror of a man being wrongfully loaded onto a bus and sent back to a country where he was allegedly just raped and kidnapped.”

Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said O.C.G. was in the country illegally, was “granted withholding of removal to Guatemala” and was instead sent to Mexico, which she said was “a safe third option for him, pending his asylum claim.”

McLaughlin called the judge a “federal activist judge” and said the administration expects to be vindicated by a higher court.

Murphy’s order adds to a string of findings by federal courts against recent Trump administration deportations.

Those have included other deportations to third countries and the erroneous deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, an El Salvadoran who had lived in Maryland for roughly 14 years working and raising a family.

The U.S. Supreme Court ordered the Trump administration to facilitate Abrego Garcia’s return to the U.S. from a notorious Salvadoran prison, rejecting the White House’s claim that it couldn’t retrieve him after mis-

takenly deporting him.

In his Friday ruling, Murphy nodded to the dispute over the verb “facilitate” in that case and others, saying that returning O.C.G. to the U.S. is not that complicated.

“The Court notes that ‘facilitate’ in this context should carry less baggage than in several other notable cases,” he wrote. “O.C.G. is not held by any foreign government. Defendants have declined to make any argument that facilitating his return would be costly, burdensome, or otherwise impede the government’s objectives.”

NATION

Harvard's foreign enrollment ban on hold

By COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Friday blocked the Trump administration from cutting off Harvard's enrollment of foreign students, an action the Ivy League school decried as unconstitutional retaliation for defying the White House's political demands.

In its lawsuit filed earlier Friday in federal court in Boston, Harvard said the government's action violates the First Amendment and will have an "immediate and devastating effect for Harvard and more than 7,000 visa holders."

"With the stroke of a pen, the government has sought to erase a quarter of Harvard's student body, international students who contribute significantly to the University and its mission," Harvard said in its suit. "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard."

The ruling from U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs puts the sanction against Harvard on hold, pending the lawsuit.

The Trump administration move has thrown campus into disarray days before graduation, Harvard said in the suit. International students who run labs, teach

courses, assist professors and participate in Harvard sports are now left deciding whether to transfer or risk losing legal status to stay in the country, according to the filing.

The impact would be heaviest at graduate schools such as the Harvard Kennedy School, where about half the student body comes from abroad, and Harvard Business School, which is about one-third international. Along with the impact on current students, the move would block thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes.

Harvard said it immediately puts the school at a disadvantage

as it competes for the world's top students. Even if it regains the ability to host students, "future applicants may shy away from applying out of fear of further reprisals from the government," the suit said.

If the government's action stands, Harvard said, the university would be unable to offer admission to new international students for at least the next two academic years. Schools that have that certification withdrawn by the federal government are ineligible to reapply until one year afterward, Harvard said.

Harvard enrolls almost 6,800

foreign students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Most are graduate students, and they come from more than 100 countries.

The Department of Homeland Security announced the action Thursday, accusing Harvard of creating an unsafe campus environment by allowing "anti-American, pro-terrorist agitators" to assault Jewish students on campus. It also accused Harvard of coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party, contending the school had hosted and trained members of a Chinese paramilitary group as recently as 2024.



SETH WENIG/AP

Students react as Columbia University's acting president Claire Shipman speaks during Columbia University commencement ceremony on Columbia's main campus on Wednesday in New York.

White House: Columbia violated the civil rights of Jewish students

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Trump administration is accusing Columbia University of violating the civil rights of Jewish students by "acting with deliberate indifference" toward what it describes as rampant antisemitism on campus.

The finding was announced late Thursday by the Health and Human Services Department, marking the latest blow for an Ivy League school already shaken by federal cutbacks and sustained government pressure to crack down on student speech.

It comes hours after the Department of Homeland Security said it would revoke Harvard University's ability to enroll international students, a major escalation in the administration's monthslong attack on higher education.

The civil rights division of HHS said it had found Columbia in viola-

tion of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which blocks federal funding recipients from discrimination based on race, color or national origin. That final category, the press release notes, includes "discrimination against individuals that is based on their actual or perceived Israeli or Jewish identity or ancestry."

The announcement did not include new sanctions against Columbia, which is already facing \$400 million in federal cuts by the Trump administration over its response to pro-Palestinian campus protests.

A spokesperson for Columbia said the university is currently in negotiations with the government about resolving its claims of antisemitism.

"We understand this finding is part of our ongoing discussions with the government," the spokesperson said in an email. "Columbia is deeply committed to combatting anti-

semitism and all forms of harassment and discrimination on our campus."

The civil rights investigation into Columbia was based on witness interviews, media reports and other sources, according to HHS. The findings were not made public. A spokesperson did not respond to a request for further information.

"The findings carefully document the hostile environment Jewish students at Columbia University have had to endure for over 19 months, disrupting their education, safety, and well-being," Anthony Archeval, acting director of the HHS civil rights office, said in a statement.

Last spring, Columbia became the epicenter of protests against the war in Gaza, spurring a national movement of campus demonstrations that demanded universities cut ties with Israel.

Executive orders to boost nuclear power, speed up approvals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed executive orders Friday intended to quadruple domestic production of nuclear power within the next 25 years, a goal experts say the United States is highly unlikely to reach.

To speed up the development of nuclear power, the orders grant the U.S. energy secretary authority to approve some advanced reactor designs and projects, taking authority away from the independent safety agency that has regulated the U.S. nuclear industry for five decades.

The order comes as demand for electricity surges amid a boom in energy-hungry data centers and artificial intelligence. Tech companies, venture capitalists, states and others are competing for electricity and straining the nation's electric grid.

"We've got enough electricity to win the AI arms race with China," Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said. "What we do in the next five years related to electricity is going to determine the next 50" years in the industry.

Still, it's unlikely the U.S. could quadruple its nuclear production in the time frame the White House specified. The United States lacks any next-generation reactors operating commercially and only two new large reactors have been built from scratch in nearly 50 years. Those two reactors, at a nuclear plant in Georgia, were completed years late and at least \$17 billion over budget.

The nation's 94 nuclear reactors supply about 19% of U.S. electricity, compared to about 60% for fossil fuels and 21% for renewables, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

At the Oval Office signing,

Trump, surrounded by industry executives, called nuclear a "hot industry," adding, "It's time for nuclear, and we're going to do it very big."

Burgum and other speakers said the industry has stagnated and has been choked by overregulation.

"Mark this day on your calendar. This is going to turn the clock back on over 50 years of overregulation of an industry," said Burgum, who chairs Trump's newly formed Energy Dominance Council.

The orders would reorganize the independent Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure quicker reviews of nuclear projects, including an 18-month deadline for the NRC to act on industry applications. The measures also create a pilot program intended to place three new experimental reactors online by July 4, 2026 — 13 months from now — and invoke the Defense Production Act to allow emergency measures to ensure the U.S. has enough uranium and other reactor fuel for a modernized nuclear energy sector.

The orders also call for the Energy and Defense departments to assess the feasibility of restarting closed nuclear power plants and explore siting reactors on federal lands and military bases.

The NRC is assessing the executive orders and will comply with White House directives, spokesperson Scott Burnell said Friday.

Critics say the White House moves could compromise safety and violate legal frameworks such as the Atomic Energy Act. Compromising the independence of the NRC or encouraging it to be circumvented could weaken the agency and make regulation less effective, said Edwin Lyman, director of nuclear power safety at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

NATION

Cities mark 5 years since Floyd's murder

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Police reform and civil rights activists joined thousands of ordinary people Sunday to mark the fifth anniversary of George Floyd's murder at religious services, concerts and vigils nationwide and decry the Trump administration for setting their efforts back decades.

The Rev. Al Sharpton said at a Houston graveside service that Floyd represented all of those "who are defenseless against people who thought they could put their knee on our neck."

He compared Floyd's killing to that of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black child who was abducted and lynched in Mississippi in 1955 after being accused of offending a white woman.

"What Emmett Till was in his time, George Floyd has been for this time in history," Sharpton said.

In a park about 2 miles away from the gravesite, a memorial service was set to take place, followed by five hours of music, preaching and poetry readings and a balloon release.

Events started Friday in Minneapolis with concerts, a street



ABBIE PARR/AP

A man visits the spot of George Floyd's murder at George Floyd Square on the five-year anniversary of Floyd's death Sunday in Minneapolis.

festival and a "self-care fair," and culminate with a worship service, gospel music concert and candlelight vigil on Sunday.

The remembrances come at a fraught moment for activists, who had hoped the worldwide protests that followed Floyd's murder on

May 25, 2020, would lead to permanent police reform across the U.S. and a continued focus on racial justice issues.

Events in Minneapolis center around George Floyd Square, the intersection where police Officer Derek Chauvin used his knee to pin Floyd's neck to the pavement for 9½ minutes, even as the 46-year-old Black man's cried "I can't breathe."

Even with Minneapolis officials' promises to remake the police department, some activists contend the progress has come at a glacial pace.

"We understand that change takes time," Michelle Gross, president of Communities United Against Police Brutality, said in a statement last week. "However, the progress being claimed by the city is not being felt in the streets."

The Trump administration moved Wednesday to cancel settlements with Minneapolis and Louisville that called for an overhaul of their police departments following the Floyd's murder and the killing of Breonna Taylor.

Under Democratic President Joe Biden, the U.S. Justice Department had aggressively pushed for aggressive oversight of local police it had accused of widespread abuses.

To reach Latinos, some Dems pivot from immigration to economy

BY ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Democrats have long focused on immigration when courting Latino voters in states like Arizona, Nevada, New Jersey and Florida, where generations of Mexican, Cuban and other Latin American immigrants have settled and gained permanent legal status.

But Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 presidential election and the rightward shift of Latino voters have some liberals reconsidering traditional wisdom.

"People do care about it, but they don't vote on it. They vote on the economy," said Patricia Campos-Medina, a labor activist who ran for the U.S. Senate last year in New Jersey and is now advising U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill, one of the Democrats running for governor in next month's primary.

Liberal strategists, organizers and some politicians are urging Democrats to focus on the economy in this year's elections rather than on immigration. Some argue a broad economic message would be more effective with the wide range of nationalities and experiences in the Latino community rather than customized efforts based on perceived cultural or political interests.

Last year, Trump, a Republican, made inroads in heavily Puerto Rican areas of eastern Pennsylvania and turned South Texas' Rio

Grande Valley while improving his numbers along Florida's Interstate 4 corridor. His message to Latinos focused heavily on the economy and border security.

"Latino operatives have been saying, 'Don't treat us all as a monolith,'" said Tory Gavito, who co-founded Way to Win, a progressive group formed after Trump's 2016 win that recently conducted focus groups with Latinos who skipped the 2024 election. "They were pretty monolithic."

Inflation was top of mind for nearly half of Latinos who voted last fall, according to AP VoteCast, a wide-ranging survey of the 2024 electorate. About three-quarters of Latino Trump voters were very concerned about housing costs in their community, compared with about 6 in 10 white Trump voters.

"Where we fell short was failing to fully appreciate the bread-and-butter economic issues that were driving them," said Tom Perez, a former Democratic National Committee chair who advised President Joe Biden. He is co-chair of American Bridge 21st Century, a group that does opposition research on Republicans. "Many folks felt like we were too focused on identity politics and not focused enough on the cost of eggs, the cost of gas, the cost of living."

Chuck Rocha is a Democratic strategist who mobilized Latinos for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders' presiden-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Supporters hold a sign before then-Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump arrives to speak during a campaign event, Sept. 12, in Tucson, Ariz. Trump's victory and the rightward shift of Latino voters have some liberals reconsidering traditional wisdom.

tial bid in 2020 and for U.S. Sen. Ruben Gallego last year and started a super political action committee, or PAC, to reach out to Latinos in key races. He argued that Democrats "mess up by bringing a policy book to a boxing match."

"It's about three things: affordability, affordability, affordability," he said. "Affordability is the only thing that they care about because that's what's hitting them in the face every day."

New Jersey's primary for governor is an early test of the different Democratic points of view. Last year, Trump flipped two Hispanic-

majority towns that he had lost by more than 30 and 50 percentage points in 2016. Democrat Kamala Harris won a traditionally blue state by 6 percentage points, the closest presidential contest since 2004.

Sherrill, who flipped a longtime Republican district in winning her House seat in 2018, has focused on her biography and her military service while also arguing she will stand up to Trump and billionaire adviser Elon Musk. One of her ads promises she will "drive down costs from health care to housing."

Meanwhile, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka has frequently campaigned

against U.S. immigration authorities' plans to open a detention facility in his city. The mayor was arrested by immigration authorities this month while demonstrating outside, with video of his detention and release spreading widely and leading to his competitors in the Democratic primary rallying to his side.

A May AP-NORC poll found that 38% of Hispanic adults approve of Trump's handling of the economy, which is roughly in line with U.S. adults overall. But there's growing unease as Trump's plans to revive manufacturing and reshape the global economy have been rolled out with constant changes, creating uncertainty and sparking concerns of prices rising and products disappearing from shelves.

The Libre Initiative, a Koch Network-affiliated conservative group, is running ads targeting Latinos in support of tax breaks approved during Trump's first term that may expire at year's end.

Daniel Garza, president of the group, acknowledged "nervousness" among Latino voters, with some wondering if maybe Trump took on too much and too fast. But Garza said that it's too soon to make a fair assessment of his second term, which began in January.

"My sense is that Latinos are a very patient lot," he said. "Aguanta-mos mucho."

That is Spanish for "We put up with a lot."

NATION

Boeing near deal to avoid charges over crashes

By **MADLIN MEKELBURG**
AND **RYAN BEENE**
Bloomberg News

Boeing Co. has reached a tentative agreement with the U.S. Justice Department that would allow the planemaker to avoid criminal charges for two fatal crashes of its 737 Max jets more than six years ago.

The settlement was disclosed in a federal court filing Friday, just weeks before a trial was set to start June 23 in Fort Worth, Texas. It calls for the company to pay more than \$1.1 billion and strengthen quality and safety measures, Jus-

tice Department lawyers said.

It's a stunning turnaround in the long-running legal case. Just last year, Boeing agreed to plead guilty to a criminal conspiracy. But that deal was rejected in December by U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor, who has been overseeing the case since 2021.

The new agreement — reached over strong objections from some victims' families — still needs to be approved by O'Connor. The government said a final agreement will be filed by the end of next week but provided an overview of the terms in its filing.

Among them: a \$243.6 million fine for Boeing and a order for the planemaker's board of directors to meet with family members of people killed in the crashes.

The tentative agreement would require Boeing to contribute \$444.5 million to a fund for families of victims killed in the crashes of Lion Air Flight 610 in October 2018 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 in March 2019, according to the filing. Boeing also would spend \$455 million to strengthen its compliance, safety and quality programs, the filing shows.

"Ultimately, in applying the

facts, the law, and Department policy, we are confident that this resolution is the most just outcome with practical benefits," prosecutors said in a statement, noting that they'd "met extensively" with relatives of the victims.

After the government submitted notice of the agreement, lawyers representing family members of crash victims told O'Connor they plan to object to the deal and urge him to deny any attempt by the government to dismiss the criminal case against Boeing.

"The families intend to argue that the dismissal unfairly makes

concessions to Boeing that other criminal defendants would never receive and fails to hold Boeing accountable for the deaths of 346 persons," a court filing said.

Many of the families opposed any deal that allowed Boeing to avoid criminal prosecution. They've fought for years to extract harsher penalties from the company. Both crashes were linked to a flawed flight control system on 737 Max jets. The only Boeing official to face trial was a mid-level manager overseeing the pilot manuals and training materials. He was acquitted.

Border collies fend off wildlife at West Virginia airport

By **JOHN RABY**
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Hercules and Ned have quite the spacious office at West Virginia's busiest airport.

The border collies and their handler make daily patrols along the milelong airfield to ensure birds and other wildlife stay away from planes and keep passengers and crew safe.

Hercules is also the chief ambassador, soaking in affection from passengers inside the terminal while calming some nervously waiting to board a flight at West Virginia International Yeager Airport.

Chris Keyser, the dogs' handler and the airport's wildlife specialist, said preventing a bird from hitting a plane "can make a difference for someone's life."

Collisions between wildlife and planes are common at airports nationwide. With that in mind, Yeager management in 2018 bought Hercules at the recommendation of a wildlife biologist.

Hercules spent the first 18 months of his life training to herd geese and sheep around his birthplace at Charlotte, N.C.-based Flyaway Geese, which teaches border collies to help businesses address nuisance wildlife problems.

When Hercules stepped onto Charleston's airfield for the first time, "I held my breath," Flyaway Geese owner Rebecca Gibson said. "But boy, he took hold of the reins. It was his place."

"He's done an amazing job and has just been a great dog for them. We're very proud of him."

Along the way, Hercules became a local celebrity. He has his own Instagram and TikTok accounts and regularly hosts groups of schoolchildren.

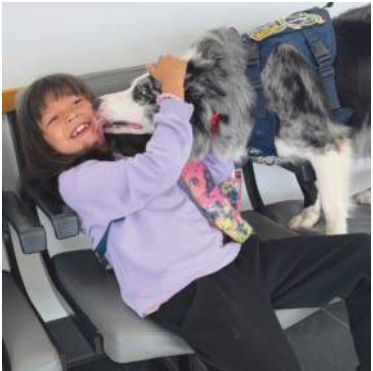
Now 8, Hercules has some help. Ned was 2 when he was welcomed into the fold last year from another kennel where he trained to herd goats and geese.

Ned has shadowed Hercules,



PHOTOS BY JOHN RABY/AP

Ned and Hercules are seen Thursday at West Virginia International Yeager Airport, where they are used to keep birds and other wildlife away from the airfield, in Charleston, W.Va.



Hercules greets a passenger Thursday at West Virginia International Yeager Airport.

following commands from Keyser and learning safety issues such as not venturing onto the runway.

"Ned's ready to go," Keyser said. "He's picked up on all that. He's doing fantastic, running birds off."

Inside the airport operations

center, Hercules is laid back until he's told it's time to work, barking at the door in anticipation.

Ned, on the other hand, is always moving.

When not outside, he'll bring his blue bouncy ball to anyone willing to play fetch.

Charleston's airport is on top of a mountain and has a menagerie of wildlife, including Canada geese, hawks, ducks, songbirds and bats. After it rains, worms come to the surface and cause an increase in bird activity, Keyser said.

In addition to taking the dogs on their regular rounds, Keyser is in constant contact with the airport tower, which looks for birds on the field or relays reports from airplanes that see wildlife nearby.

"We get plenty of exercise," Keyser said. "You don't gain no weight in this job. It's an all-day

job. You're always got your eyes on the field, you've got your ears open listening to the radio."

Border collies are among the most energetic dog breeds. They've been used for decades to shoo Canada geese off golf courses. They've also scared away birds at other airports, military bases and locks and dams.

The dogs' instincts are to herd, not to kill. "But in the mind of the bird, they're no different than a coyote or a fox, which is a natural predator for the bird," Gibson said.

About 19,000 strikes involving planes and wildlife occurred at U.S. airports in 2023, of which 95% involved birds, according to a Federal Aviation Administration database. From 1988 to 2023, wildlife collisions in the U.S. killed 76 people and destroyed 126 aircraft.

Perhaps the most famous bird-

plane strike occurred in January 2009 when a flight from New York's LaGuardia Airport almost immediately flew into a flock of Canada geese, knocking out both engines. Pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger guided the powerless jet into the frigid Hudson River. All 155 people on board survived the incident, which was captured in the 2016 movie "Sully," starring Tom Hanks.

At the Charleston airport, wildlife-plane incidents vary each year from a few to a couple dozen.

"Anytime a plane hits a bird, it has to be inspected, and it causes a delay in the flight," Keyser said. "And sometimes you don't make your connecting flights. So that's how important it is to keep everything going smooth."

In 2022 alone, there were five airplane strikes at the airport involving bats.

In December 2000, a plane collided with two deer after landing. The tip of the right engine propeller blade separated and punctured the plane's fuselage, seriously injuring a passenger, according to the FAA.

Inside the terminal, Hercules wags his tail as he moves about greeting passengers. Among them was Janet Spry, a Scott Depot, W. Va., resident waiting to board a flight to visit her daughter and grandchildren in San Antonio.

Spry needed a bit of cheering up. In addition to having a fear of flying, Spry's 15-year-old cat was euthanized the previous day after being diagnosed with an inoperable condition.

An impromptu visit from Hercules brought a smile — and more. Hercules placed a paw on Spry's arm and delivered plenty of wet kisses.

"He's making my day better," Spry said.

She also joked whether the airport might want to let Hercules stay with her a while longer.

"I think there was an empty seat on the plane beside me," Spry said.

WORLD

Russia, Ukraine swap hundreds more prisoners

BY SAMYA KULLAB
AND OLEKSII YEROSHENKO
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine swapped hundreds more prisoners on Sunday, the third and last part of a major exchange that reflected a rare moment of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to reach a ceasefire in the more than three years of war.

Hours earlier, the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and other regions came under a massive Russian drone-and-missile attack that killed at least 12 people and injured dozens. Ukrainian officials described it as the largest aerial assault since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia's Defense Ministry said each side brought home 303 more soldiers, after each released a total of 307 combatants and civilians on Saturday, and 390 on Friday — the biggest swap of the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed the exchange, saying on X on Sunday that "303 Ukrainian defenders are home." He noted that the troops returning to Ukraine were members of the "Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service, and the State Special Transport Service."

In talks held in Istanbul earlier this month — the first time the two sides met face to face for peace talks — Kyiv and Moscow agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners of war and civilian detainees each. The exchange has been the only tangible outcome from the talks.

The scale of the onslaught was stunning — Russia hit Ukraine



EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

A woman hugs a soldier who came back from Russian captivity as people show photos of missing soldiers Sunday during an exchange of prisoners between Russia and Ukraine, in Chernyiv region, Ukraine.

with 367 drones and missiles, the largest single aerial attack of the war, according to Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Air Force.

In all, Russia used 69 missiles of various types and 298 drones, including Iranian-designed Shahed drones, he told The Associated Press.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the strikes.

For Kyiv, the day was particularly somber as the city observed Kyiv Day, a national holiday that falls on the last Sunday in May, commemorating its founding in the 5th century.

Zelenskyy said Russian missiles and drones hit more than 30 cities and villages, and urged Western partners to ramp up sanctions on Russia — a longstanding demand of the Ukrainian

leader but one that despite warnings to Moscow by the United States and Europe has not materialized in ways to deter Russia.

"These were deliberate strikes on ordinary cities," Zelenskyy wrote on X, adding that Sunday's targets included Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odesa, Poltava, Dnipro, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions.

"America's silence, the silence of others in the world, only encourages" Russian President Vladimir Putin, he said. "Without truly strong pressure on the Russian leadership, this brutality cannot be stopped. Sanctions will certainly help."

Russia's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said its air defenses shot down 110 Ukrainian drones overnight.

Sounds of explosions boomed throughout the night in Kyiv and the surrounding area as Ukrainian air defense persisted for hours in efforts to shoot down Russian drones and missiles. At least four people were killed and 16 were injured in the capital itself, according to the security service.

"A difficult Sunday morning in Ukraine after a sleepless night," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on X, adding that the assault "lasted all night."

Fires broke out in homes and businesses, set off by falling drone debris.

In Zhytomyr region, west of Kyiv, the emergency service said three children were killed, aged 8, 12 and 17. Twelve people were injured in the attacks, it said. At least four people were killed in the Khmelnytskyi region, in western Ukraine. One man was killed in Mykolaiv region, in southern Ukraine.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said a student dormitory in Holiivskyi district was hit by a drone and one of the building's walls was on fire. In Dniprovskyi district, a private house was destroyed and in Shevchenkivskyi district, windows in a residential building were smashed.

The scale of Russia's use of aerial weapons aside, the attacks over the past 48 hours have been among the most intense strikes on Ukraine since the February 2022 invasion.

In Markhalivka, just outside Kyiv where several village homes were burned down, the Fedorenkos watched their ruined home in

tears.

"The street looks like Bakhmut, like Mariupol, it's just terrible," said 76-year-old Liubov Fedorenko, comparing their village to some of Ukraine's most devastated cities. She told the AP she was grateful her daughter and grandchildren hadn't joined them for the weekend.

"I was trying to persuade my daughter to come to us," Fedorenko said, adding that she told her daughter, "After all, you live on the eighth floor in Kyiv, and here it's the ground floor."

"She said, 'No, mum, I'm not coming.' And thank God she didn't come, because the rocket hit (the house) on the side where the children's rooms were," Fedorenko said.

Ivan Fedorenko, 80, said he regrets letting their two dogs into the house when the air raid siren went off. "They burned to death," he said. "I want to bury them, but I'm not allowed yet."

The POW exchange was the latest of scores of swaps since the war began but also the biggest involving Ukrainian civilians.

Still, it has not halted the fighting. Battles have continued along the roughly 620-mile front line, where tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed, and neither country has relented in its deep strikes.

Russia's Defense Ministry quoted Yaroslav Yakimkin of the "North" group of Russian forces as saying Sunday that Ukrainian troops have been pushed back from the border in the Kursk region, which Putin visited days ago.

STARS AND STRIPES
SERVICE DIRECTORY
The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market



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WORLD



PHOTOS BY HADI MIZBAN/AP

American University of Baghdad students stand together during the first graduation for the school in Iraq's capital on Saturday. Thirty-eight students — 20 male and 18 female — graduated with degrees in business administration, sciences and humanities at a ceremony attended by dignitaries, families and faculty.

First class graduates from American University in Iraq

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The American University of Baghdad celebrated the graduation of its first cohort of students Saturday at a campus that was once a palace built by Saddam Hussein.

Officials said they hope the graduation will mark the beginning of a new era in higher education in Iraq rooted in modernity, openness and international academic standards.

The university was inaugurated in 2021 on the site of the al-Faw Palace, built on an island in the middle of an artificial lake by Saddam in the 1990s to mark the retaking of the peninsula of the same name during the war.

After the U.S.-led invasion that unseated Saddam in 2003, it was used as a U.S. coalition military headquarters called Camp Victory. It was later developed into an American-style university with a core liberal arts program through funding by influential Iraqi business owner Saadi Saihood.

A total of 38 students — 20 male and 18 female — graduated Saturday with degrees in business administration, sciences and humanities at a ceremony attended by political dignitaries as well as families and faculty members.

Speaking to the attendees, university President Dr. Michael Mulinix reflected on the university's rocky beginnings.

"When I first arrived at the American University of Baghdad in 2018, the campus looked nothing like it does today," he said. "Years of war and neglect had left the infrastructure in ruins, with many buildings damaged or destroyed. Today, we stand before an excep-



Lights are projected from former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's al-Faw Palace on Saturday, now the location of the American University of Baghdad.

tional, nonprofit academic institution that ranks among the finest research universities."

Today AUB has a growing network of international partnerships with top universities, he said, including Vanderbilt University, Colorado School of Mines, Lawrence Technological University, Temple University, the University of Exeter, and Sapienza University of Rome.

University founder and owner Saihood called the graduation "a symbolic moment that affirms this institution was built to last and to make a real difference."

He acknowledged the economic challenges facing graduates, especially the scarcity of government employment, but emphasized that the university has equipped its students with the adaptability and ini-

tiative needed to thrive in the private sector or through entrepreneurship.

Although Iraq's security situation has improved in recent years after decades of conflict, the country still suffers from brain drain as young people seek opportunities and stability abroad.

"The future in Iraq is not easy. All of us graduates have concerns," said Mohammed Baqir from Najaf province, who graduated Saturday with a bachelor's degree in business. "But what sets us apart from other universities is that we've already received job offers through AUB, especially in the private sector. Although my education cost around ten million Iraqi dinars, it was a truly valuable investment." Ten million Iraqi dinars equals about \$7,600.

N. Korea detains shipyard officials over failed launch

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean authorities have detained three shipyard officials over the recent failed launch of a naval destroyer, an incident that leader Kim Jong Un said was caused by criminal negligence, state media said Sunday.

The 5,000-ton-class destroyer was damaged Wednesday when a transport cradle on the ship's stern detached early during a launch ceremony attended by Kim at the northeastern port of Chongjin. Satellite imagery on the site showed the vessel lying on its side and draped in blue covers, with parts of the ship submerged.

The vessel is North Korea's second known destroyer. The failed launch was subsequently an embarrassment to Kim, who is eager to build greater naval forces to deal with what he calls U.S.-led military threats.

North Korea launched its first destroyer, also a 5,000-ton-class ship, with massive fanfare last month. The ship is North Korea's largest and most advanced warship and state media reported it is designed to carry various weapons including nuclear missiles.

Law enforcement authorities

detained the chief engineer, head of the hull construction workshop and deputy manager for administrative affairs at Chongjin Shipyard, who they said were responsible for Wednesday's failed launch, the official Korean Central News Agency said.

Hong Kil Ho, the shipyard manager, also was summoned for questioning, KCNA previously reported.

Kim blamed military officials, scientists and shipyard operators for what he called a "criminal act caused by absolute carelessness, irresponsibility and unscientific empiricism."

In an instruction to investigators Thursday, North Korea's powerful Central Military Commission echoed Kim's position, saying those responsible "can never evade their responsibility for the crime."

North Korea denied the warship suffered major damage, saying the hull on the starboard side was scratched and some seawater flowed into the stern section.

North Korea said Friday it needed about 10 days to make repairs, but many outside observers said the country likely understated the damage.

Kardashian's robbers guilty, won't face more prison time

Associated Press

PARIS — A Paris court on Friday found the ringleader and seven other people guilty in the 2016 armed robbery of Kim Kardashian, but did not impose any additional time behind bars for their roles in what the celebrity described as "the most terrifying experience of my life."

The chief judge, David De Pas, said that the defendants' ages — six are in their 60s and 70s — and their health issues weighed on the court's decision to impose sentences that he said "aren't very severe."

He said that the nine years between the robbery and the trial — long even by the standards of France's famously deliberate legal system — were also taken into account in not imposing harsher sentences. The court acquitted two of the 10 defendants.

Aomar Ait Khedache, 69, the ringleader, got the stiffest sentence, eight years imprisonment but five of those were suspended. Three others got seven years, five of them suspended. Three more got prison sen-

tences ranging from five to three years, mostly or completely suspended, and an eighth person was found guilty on a weapons charge and fined.

With time already served in pre-trial detention, none of those found guilty will go to prison and all walked out free. The trial was heard by a three-judge panel and six jurors.

Still, the chief judge said that Kardashian had been traumatized by the Oct. 2, 2016, jewel heist in her hotel during Fashion Week.

"You caused harm," the judge said. "You caused fear."

Kardashian, who wasn't present for the verdict, said in a statement issued afterward that she was "deeply grateful to the French authorities for pursuing justice in this case."

"While I'll never forget what happened, I believe in the power of growth and accountability and pray for healing for all. I remain committed to advocating for justice, and promoting a fair legal system," said the celebrity who is working to become a lawyer.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Governor vetoes housing budget — by mistake

ND BISMARCK — When North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong took up an agency budget bill approved by the legislature, he vetoed a couple of line items. At least, that was his intention. Instead, he accidentally vetoed \$35 million for the state’s housing budget.

Now the state is figuring out how to deal with the unusual problem of a mistaken veto.

“I have no recollection of anything like this happening in the 37 years I’ve been here,” John Bjornson, legislative council director, said. “So, yeah, I’d say it’s a little extraordinary.”

In North Dakota, the governor’s staff called his veto of the housing budget in Senate Bill 2014 a markup error. Armstrong’s staff met with the legislative council to discuss options.

Chicks abandoned in truck have been adopted

DE CAMDEN — Thousands of chicks found abandoned inside a postal service truck for three days have gone to new homes, according to the Delaware shelter that had cared for them, with the last batch picked up on Thursday morning.

All the surviving birds, estimated as more than 5,000 chickens — it was too hard to get a specific count — plus some others like turkeys and quails, were primarily adopted by local families, rescues and farms, according to First State Animal Center and SPCA.

The chicks were part of a 12,000-bird shipment left unattended in a truck at a Delaware mail distribution center. Trapped in high temperatures without food or hydration, thousands died, according to the state Department of Agriculture. The U.S. Postal Service has said it is investigating the “process breakdown” that occurred.

For more than two weeks, the surviving birds had been cared for at an overwhelmed First State Animal Center and SPCA, said John Parana, executive director. As a no-kill operation, the shelter would not take adopters planning to use the birds for meat, Parana said.

7 Penn State campuses to close amid enrollment dip

PA HARRISBURG — Penn State University’s trustees voted to close seven of its 19 branch campuses amid declining enrollments, demographic shifts and financial pressures that backers say made it a necessary decision.

The 25-8 vote by the trustees came after a nearly two-hour public meeting that was streamed live online, and after hours of closed-door debate between the trustees.

Even after the closures, Penn State said it will continue to have



YUKI IWAMURA/AP

Liberty for Fleet Week

U.S. Navy sailors and Marines stand on the deck of USS New York as it passes the Statue of Liberty during Fleet Week in New York City.

the largest statewide footprint of any university in the Big Ten and any land-grant institution in the United States.

The campuses to close — Dubois, Fayette, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre and York — together are enrolling slightly over 3,000 students this year, or less than 4% of Penn State students, according to Penn State data. Branch campuses collectively have about 23,000 students, and the seven to be closed are among the smallest in terms of enrollment.

No campus will close before the end of the 2026-27 academic year and, under the plan, every student who begins a degree at a closing campus will have the opportunity to complete their degree at Penn State.

State to sue on Congress blocking climate waivers

CA SACRAMENTO — The Senate’s unprecedented move to revoke California’s ban on gasoline-powered cars by 2035 threatens to upend the U.S.’s status as both an economic powerhouse and a world leader on climate change mitigation, Gov. Gavin Newsom told reporters.

He and Attorney General Rob Bonta announced plans to sue to block Congress from revoking the ban at the California Environmental Protection Agency office in downtown Sacramento.

In 2020, Newsom issued an executive order directing the state to phase out all sales of gas cars to encourage consumers to purchase electric vehicles and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. Under the Clean Air Act of 1970, California can set its own climate emission standards that are more stringent than federal guidelines but must get federal approval to adopt individual rules.

The Senate’s 51-44 vote using, for the first time, the Congressional Review Act to revoke that waiver now threatens to set a political precedent of impeding upon states while “selling out” future generations who will have to live in an increasingly hotter and inhospitable world, Newsom said.

Prayer period in schools passes, sent to governor

TX AUSTIN — House lawmakers have passed a proposal allowing a period for praying and reading religious texts in Texas public schools.

School trustees would have to decide whether their districts would offer students and staff the period — outside of instruction time — under a bill that House lawmakers voted 91-51 to advance Thursday.

The Senate passed the measure in March. It passed in the House on Friday and goes to Gov. Greg Abbott to be signed into law.

If adopted by trustees, public campuses would have to provide the daily period, and parents would have to sign a form to allow or forbid their child’s participation.

GOP leaders said the bill protects religious freedom. But Democrats pushed back, calling the measure constitutionally ambiguous by infusing religion into public schools.

Colombian allegedly got over \$400K in stolen aid

MA BOSTON — A Colombian woman illegally in Massachusetts is accused of living under a stolen identity for more than 20 years and receiving more than \$400,000 in stolen federal benefits.

Lina Maria Orovio-Hernandez, 59, also allegedly voted in the 2024 presidential election, and she ob-

tained a Massachusetts Real ID and eight other state IDs, according to the Massachusetts U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Orovio-Hernandez allegedly used the stolen identity to submit a fraudulent voter registration in January 2023, and cast a fraudulent ballot in last year’s presidential election.

She’s accused of improperly receiving about \$400,000 in federal benefits: \$259,589 in Section 8 rental assistance benefits from October 2011 through January 2025; \$101,257 in Social Security disability benefits from July 2014 through January 2025; and \$43,348 in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits from April 2005 through January 2025.

Sanctuary cities, policies preventing ICE aid banned

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire Gov. Kelly Ayotte signed a ban on “sanctuary cities” into law Thursday.

While there is no strict definition of what makes a sanctuary city, the term is generally used in reference to jurisdictions that do not allow local authorities to participate in civil immigration processes.

New Hampshire doesn’t have any “sanctuary” cities or towns — officially — but does have a few communities which have acted to label themselves as “welcoming” jurisdictions.

The law expressly bans any “law, policy, practice, procedure, or custom adopted or allowed by a state entity or local governmental entity which prohibits or impedes a law enforcement agency” from activity “which prohibits or impedes a law enforcement agency from communicating or cooperating with a federal immigration agency.”

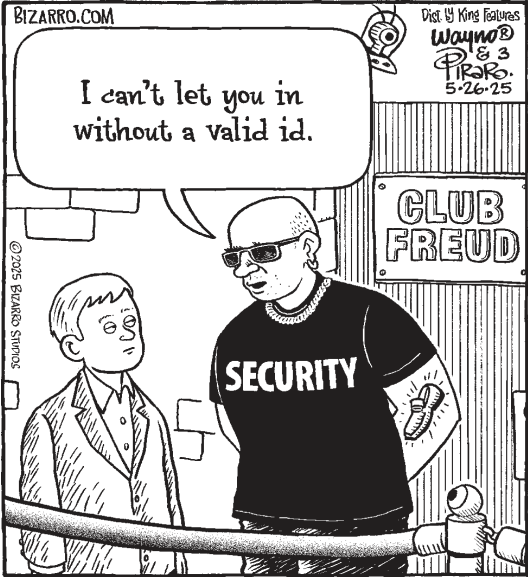
Governor bans golf and hotels on state parks

FL TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Thursday to prohibit the building of golf courses, hotels and other amenities on state park land, putting an end to a nearly yearlong controversy that united the state in support of public lands.

The Florida Senate website showed the bill, House Bill 209, called the “State Park Preservation Act,” as having been signed just before 5 p.m.

DeSantis had previously said he would sign the bill, which passed the Legislature unanimously. But the measure directly challenged an initiative his administration had rolled out and supported: to add amenities in nine parks, including golf in Jonathan Dickinson State Park and pickleball in Pinellas County’s Honeymoon Island.

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			42		43		44			
45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

ACROSS

- 1 Comfy family room
4 Moral principle
9 Pop
12 "Xanadu" band
13— Loa
14 St. crosser
15 Handshake alternatives
17 Can metal
18 Sweetie
19 "Anchors Aweigh" org.
21 Command
24 Even
25 French pal
26 "Game, —, match!"
28 Violin piece
31 Elmer's bane
33 Singer Lipa
35 Blue material?
36 Campfire leftovers
38 Econ. statistic
40 Handheld organizer
41 Joan of rock
43 Pretenses
45 "Speak up!"
47 Choice words?
48 Stately tree
49 Gas station fixtures
54 Light touch
55 Untamed

- 56 "Don't — stranger!"
57 Sounds of woe
58 Cara or Castle
59 Likely

DOWN

- 1 Dict. info
2 Yale grad
3 Refusals
4 Carve in relief
5 Heckled
6 Drone
7 Suggestions, e.g.
8 "A Chorus Line" character
9 Mega-transfers of information
10 Tel —
11 Contradict
16 Common title start
20 Tennis barriers
21 Rum cake
22 Flightless birds
23 Decathlon events
27 Towboat
29 Ranch visitor
30 Some JFK guesses
32 Start a garden
34 Luanda resident
37 Tennis star Graf
39 Red + blue
42 More loyal
44 Terre Haute sch.
45 Jared of "Panic Room"
46 Skin care brand
50 Before
51 CEO's degree, maybe
52 Vigor
53 Posed for a portrait

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

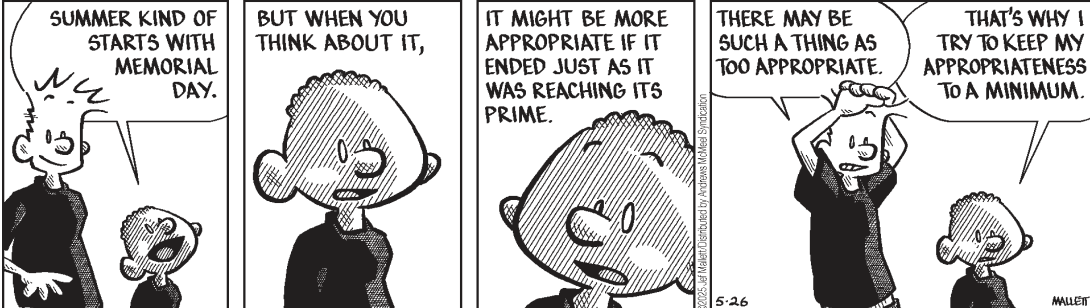
5-26

CRYPTOQUIP

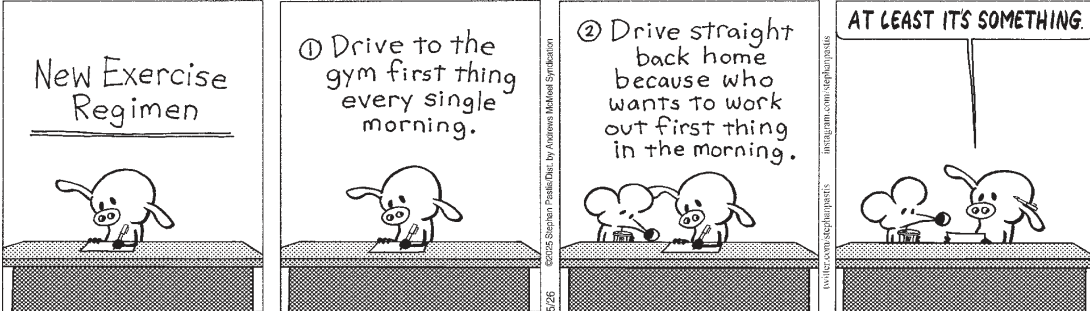
JWKSZVP QWACBG HQVBKOZZP
XOMCEOBGCWVA EIW DOKWP,
HGKMSKMS YVVH GI BDVJ IM:
Y C X Y Z V - S C X .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF SOME FRUIT FARMERS PLAY POKER, WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE HAND? TWO PEARS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals G

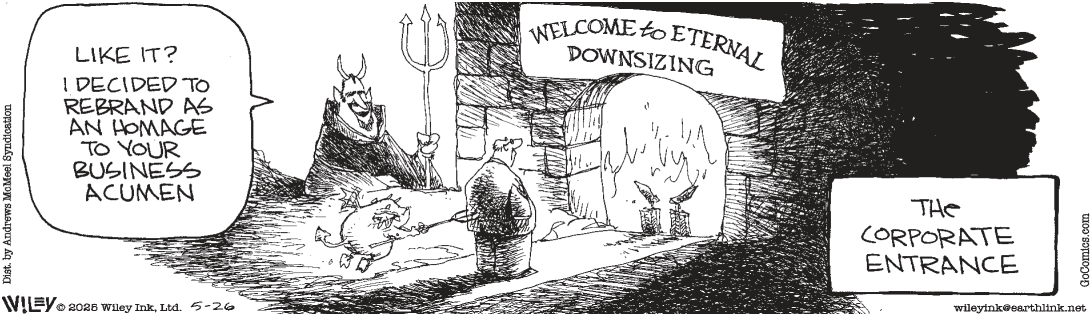
Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



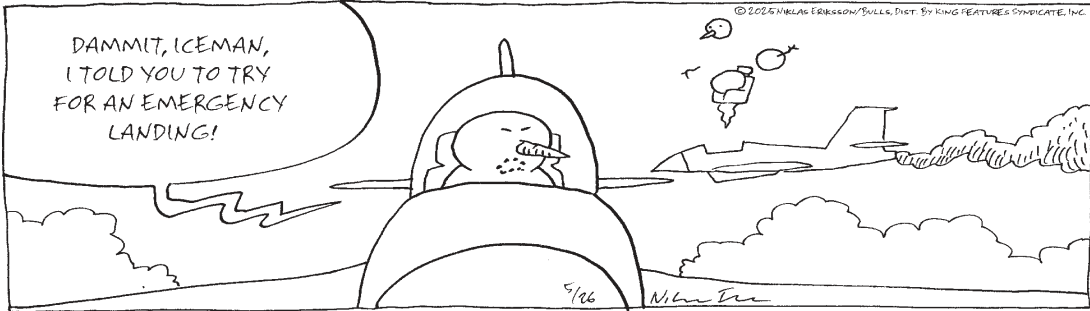
Non Sequitur



Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey





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OPINION

The common soldiers who died for America

By **GEORGE F. WILL**
The Washington Post

Most journalism is, at most, the “first rough draft of history.” Occasionally, however, there is some journalism — even of the most perishable kind: a column—that attains an immortality because of its simple sufficiency. It leaves nothing to be said, the words having perfectly suited a moment.

One such was the most famous piece by a columnist who soared from obscurity to a place in the nation’s consciousness unmatched before or since. On this Memorial Day, take a moment for Ernie Pyle’s “The Death of Captain Waskow,” a man in his mid-20s from Belton, Texas. The dispatch was datelined “AT THE FRONT LINES IN ITALY, January 10, 1944.”

Pyle was born with what was to be the war-torn 20th century, in 1900, in Dana, Ind. He was a middle-aged Middle American travel writer until Hitler tried bringing Britain to its knees by bombing. The Blitz brought the war, as reported by Edward R. Murrow of CBS Radio, to the United States, and brought Pyle to the European theater of a war he would not survive.

War, as reported by him from what he called the “worm’s eye view,” was war as the common soldiers experienced it: discomfort, weariness, mud, filthiness, loneliness and stretches of boredom punctuated by episodes of death. Death somehow simultaneously random and routine. David Chrisinger, in his 2023 book “The Soldier’s Truth: Ernie Pyle and the Story of World War II,”

tells the story of the man who wrote this:

“I was at the foot of the mule trail the night they brought Capt. Waskow’s body down. The moon was nearly full at the time, and you could see far up the trail, and even part way across the valley below. Soldiers made shadows in the moonlight as they walked.

“Dead men had been coming down the mountain all evening, lashed onto the backs of mules. They came lying belly-down across the wooden pack-saddles, their heads hanging down on the left side of the mule, their stiffened legs sticking out awkwardly from the other side, bobbing up and down as the mule walked.”

Pyle’s language was spare. His sentences were almost without cadences, like tired men not marching, just walking. You could call his style Hemingwayesque. Except Ernest Hemingway, also in the European theater, cultivated a watch-me-transform-literature antistyle: ostentatious simplicity.

Pyle would have scoffed at the notion that he had a style. His granular reporting, replete with the names and street addresses of the GIs he talked to, appeared in 400 daily newspapers and another 300 weekly publications. He appeared on the cover of Time magazine. He avoided the insult of fancy writing about the gray, grim everydayness of the infantryman’s war.

Henry T. Waskow, writes Chrisinger, worked his way up from the lowest enlisted ranks to captain, an extraordinarily beloved officer but also an “ordinary man.” Moments before his death he had a craving for toast: “When we get back to the States, I’m

going to get me one of those smart-aleck toasters where you put the bread in and it pops up.”

Chrisinger: “It all happened so quickly. ... An indiscriminate fragment of shell, red hot and sharp as a scalpel, had sliced a hole in his chest, killing him instantly.” Considering the hundreds of young Americans killed fighting for this unremembered spot, “the death of one ordinary man on a lonely mountainside was, for Ernie, an example of war on a miniature, intimate scale.”

On April 18, 1945, Pyle, 44, was killed by Japanese gunfire on an island near Okinawa. He is buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, in Honolulu.

On Christmas Eve 2019, Chrisinger visited the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy, south of Rome on the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea. He was there to see Plot G, Row 6, Grave 33, where Waskow rests, 5,700 miles from Belton, Texas. He is among the best-known of the more than 7,000 Americans buried there.

The cemetery guide told Chrisinger that Waskow’s grave is sought out by many of the thousands of Americans who still come to the cemetery each year. Fewer and fewer each year, surely, as the connections of the dead with the living become fewer, until none will come.

The guide said, “There are 30 sets of brothers and three sets of twins buried here.” Referring to all those in the cemetery, he said: “Most of these boys have never had a visitor.” Visit them in your mind this Memorial Day.

How Europe has dodged a US-style opioid epidemic

By **LEE HOCKSTADER**
The Washington Post

PARIS

There are plenty of unhappy shocks these days for an American who visits the United States after years spent in Europe. But few compare to the jaw-dropping misery I saw this month in the addiction-ravaged wasteland of Philadelphia’s Kensington neighborhood.

I went with friends, longtime Philadelphians who know the city well and warned me that Kensington, for years one of the country’s most notorious open-air drug dens, was a rough place.

Still, nothing prepared me for Kensington’s infernal tableau of ruination — throngs of addicts on the streets by an elevated Metro line, stumbling, staggering, crawling and in wheelchairs. Some shuffled or swayed bent over at a 90-degree angle, an affliction known as “the fentanyl fold.”

It was a Friday night; police cars were all around, their lights flashing. But neither the cops nor the city’s mayor, who ran on cleaning up Kensington, have made much progress in addressing the human wreckage, the wasted bodies, the torment of shattered lives. Many of the addicts were nodding off, passed out or seemed barely clinging to life; some will surely be dead in weeks or months.

These were images I’d almost never seen, even in the half-dozen wars I’ve covered. They were an agonizing sight, not only for the pitiable anguish of so many individuals but also for the sheer scale of it — at just one intersection in a single American city on a random spring evening.

Europe has no shortage of its own social problems, and those include addiction

across the Continent and in Britain. In Paris, where I live, you can easily spot addicts in substantial numbers, especially on the city’s northern fringe. Yet there is no denying the gaping disparity in overdose deaths, owing largely to Europe’s apparent success, so far, in avoiding an epidemic of synthetic opioids resembling the one that has gutted so many American communities.

In 2022, the last year for which (admittedly sketchy) data are available, there were 163 fatal overdoses from fentanyl and its derivatives in the European Union, Norway and Turkey, whose combined population is more than 500 million. That’s roughly the average daily death toll in the U.S. from synthetics such as fentanyl.

England, Ireland and some Northern European countries, including the Nordics and the Baltic states, struggle with high rates of mortality from drug overdoses compared with other parts of the Continent. But in most cases, the U.S. rate is at least four times higher than in even Europe’s most addiction-plagued countries. Owing largely to fentanyl, more than 80,000 Americans died of overdoses last year, a sharp drop from preceding years but still considerably more than the number of U.S. service members who died in the Vietnam War.

There’s no guarantee Europe will manage indefinitely to stave off the scourge of synthetics, which are 50 times more powerful than old-school opioids such as heroin that dominate most of the Continent’s market. Some European health experts warn that signs might already be emerging of a gradual epidemic.

Much of Europe’s cheap heroin originated with poppy grown in Afghanistan, where the

Taliban banned all cultivation and processing in 2022 and raided hundreds of processing labs. With that supply drying up, Europe’s drug distributors might already have started making up the shortage by adding or substituting synthetics such as fentanyl.

Still, Europe has systemic defenses that don’t exist in the U.S. They have helped keep the epidemic at bay and might mitigate its impact even as synthetics become more widely available. Critically, they include universal, cheap and generally high-quality health care, which has been broadly effective in treating suffering patients so they don’t resort to opioids to alleviate pain.

Europe is routinely vilified by conservatives for its allegedly bloated welfare states, and their sclerotic effect on the Continent’s slow-growing major economies. And it’s true that France, Italy, Germany, Spain and other European countries devote much higher shares of their total output than the U.S. does on public social spending, especially health care and pensions.

Whether Europe’s model is sustainable is a fair question, and an urgent one, given the Continent’s race to rearm in the face of Russia’s mounting security threat. But that model has also produced gentler, more humane, healthier societies that enjoy longer life expectancies, smaller wealth discrepancies, less violence and substantially lower levels of drug-related deaths.

There is no European equivalent to the scale of Kensington’s suffering. That should be food for thought for Americans.

Lee Hockstader has been The Washington Post’s European Affairs columnist, based in Paris, since 2023. Previously he was a member of the Post editorial board; a national correspondent, a foreign correspondent, and a local reporter.

FACES

Johansson's great debut as director

Veteran actress shares 'Eleanor the Great' at Cannes, starring June Squibb in comic tale of grief and empathy

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Scarlett Johansson's directorial debut, "Eleanor the Great," stars June Squibb as a 94-year-old woman who, out of grief and loneliness, does a terrible thing.

After her best friend (Rita Zohar) dies, Eleanor (Squibb) moves to New York and, after accidentally joining the wrong meeting at the Jewish Community Center, adopts her friend's story of Holocaust survival. The film builds toward a moment where Eleanor could be harshly condemned in a public forum, or not.

For Johansson, her movie speaks to the moment.

"There's a lack of empathy in the zeitgeist. It's obviously a reaction to a lot of things," says Johansson. "It feels to me like forgiveness feels less possible in the environment we're in."

Johansson brought "Eleanor the Great" to the Un Certain Regard sidebar of the Cannes Film Festival last week, unveiling a funny and tender, character-driven, New York-set indie that launches her as a filmmaker. For the 40-year-old star, it's the humble culmination of a dream that's always bounced around in her mind.

"It has been for most of my career," Johansson says. "Whether it was reading something and thinking, 'I can envision this in my mind,' or even being on a production and thinking, 'I am directing some elements of this out of necessity.'"

Johansson came to Cannes just days after

hosting the season finale of "Saturday Night Live," making for a fairly head-spinning week. "It's adding to the surrealistic element of the experience," Johansson says with a smile.

In just over a month's time, she'll be back in a big summer movie, "Jurassic World Rebirth." But even that gig is a product of her own interests. Johansson had been a fan of the "Jurassic Park" movies for years, and simply wanted to be a part of it.

Following her own instincts, and her willingness to fight for them, has been a regular feature of her career. She confronted The Walt Disney Co. over pay during the pandemic release of "Black Widow" and won a settlement. When OpenAI launched a voice system called "Sky" for ChatGPT 4.0 that sounded eerily similar to her own, she got the company to take it down.

She's increasingly produced films, including "Eleanor the Great," "Black Widow" and "Fly Me to the Moon." After working with an enviable string of directors such as Jonathan Glazer ("Under the Skin"), Spike Jonze ("Her"), the Coen brothers ("Hail, Caesar!") and Noah Baumbach ("Marriage Story"), she's become a part of Wes Anderson's troupe. After a standout performance in "Asteroid City," she appears in "The Phoenician Scheme," which also premiered this year in Cannes.

"At some point, I worked enough that I stopped worrying about not working, or not being relevant — which is very liberating," Johansson says. "I think it's something all actors feel for a long time until they don't. I



PHOTOS BY SCOTT A GARFITT, INVISION/AP

For Scarlett Johansson, directing "Eleanor the Great" is a culmination of a dream. Johansson's film premiered last week at the Cannes Film Festival in southern France.



Johansson poses in Cannes May 21 with "Eleanor the Great" actress June Squibb.

would not have had the confidence to direct this film 10 years ago.

"Which isn't to say that I don't often think many times: What the hell am I doing?" she adds. "I have that feeling, still. Certainly doing 'Jurassic,' I had many moments where I

was like: Am I the right person for this? Is this working? But I just recently saw it and the movie works."

So does "Eleanor the Great," which Sony Pictures Classics will release at some point. That's owed significantly to the performance of Squibb, who, at 95, experienced a Cannes standing ovation with Johansson.

"Something I'll never forget is holding June in that moment," says Johansson. "The pureness of her joy and her presence in that moment was very touching, I think for everyone in the theater. Maybe my way of processing it, too, is through June. It makes it less personal because it's hard for me to absorb it all."

Some parts of "Eleanor the Great" have personal touches, though. After one character says he lives in Staten Island, Squibb's character retorts, "My condolences."

"Yeah, I had to apologize to my in-laws for that," Johansson, who is married to Staten Island native Colin Jost, said laughing. "I was like: Believe it not, I didn't write that line."

'Hunger Games' movie cast adds Kieran Culkin

Los Angeles Times

Keiran Culkin is joining "The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping" as eccentric host Caesar Flickerman.

An adaptation of Suzanne Collins' novel of the same name from her hit franchise, "Sunrise on the Reaping" hits theaters Nov. 20, 2026. It is the second prequel to the original "Hunger Games" series, following "The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes."

"Kieran's scene-stealing presence and undeniable charm are perfect for Caesar Flickerman, the sickeningly watchable host of Panem's darkest spectacle," Lionsgate Motion Picture Group co-president Erin Westerman said.

Culkin recently won a supporting actor Oscar for his work in the dramedy "A Real Pain" and an Emmy for his role as Roman Roy



MIKE COPPOLA, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Kieran Culkin will play a young Caesar Flickerman in the film version of the "Hunger Games" story "Sunrise on the Reaping."

in HBO's drama "Succession."

"Sunrise" takes place 24 years before the events of the first novel featuring Katniss Everdeen (played by Jennifer Lawrence in the film franchise) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), and 40 years after "The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes." It focuses on Haymitch Abernathy's plight during the 50th Hunger Games.

In the prequel, Joseph Zada will play Abernathy.

Fictional fiction: AI-influenced summer book list has fake titles

BY DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

The recommended reading list contained some works of fiction. It also contained some works that were, in fact, actually fictional.

The content distributor King Features says it has fired a writer who used artificial intelligence to produce a story on summer reading suggestions that contained books that didn't exist.

The list appeared in "Heat Index: Your Guide to the Best of Summer," a special section distributed in the May 18 edition of Chicago Sun-Times and May 15 in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

More than half of the books listed were fake, according to the piece's author, Marco Buscaglia, who admitted to using AI for help in his research but didn't double-check what it produced.

"A really stupid error on my part," Buscaglia wrote on his Facebook page.

It's the latest instance of an AI shortcut backfiring and embarrassing news organizations. Sports Illustrated was caught in 2023 listing nonexistent authors for product reviews carried on its website. The Gannett news service had to pause an experiment using AI for sports stories after errors were discovered.

"The Heat Index summer supplement was created by a freelance contract creator who used AI in its story development without disclosing the use of AI," the syndicators King Features said in a statement, noting it has a strict policy against using AI to create material.

Only the Sun-Times and Inquirer have used the supplement, the

organization said.

Among the summer reading suggestions was "The Last Algorithm" by Andy Weir, described as "a science-driven thriller following a programmer who discovers an AI system has developed consciousness" and been secretly influencing world events.

"Nightshade Market," by Min Jin Lee, was said to be a "riveting tale set in Seoul's underground economy."

Both authors are real, but the books aren't. "I have not written and will not be writing a novel called 'Nightshade Market,'" Lee posted on X.

The Sun-Times said it was investigating whether any other inaccurate information was included in the "Heat Index" supplement, and reviewing its relationships with other content partners.

SCOREBOARD/MLB

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Placed OF Ramón Laureano on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 21. Selected the contract of 2B Terrin Vavra from Norfolk (IL). Recalled LHP Trevor Rogers from Norfolk. Selected the contract of RHP Yaramil Hiraldo from Norfolk. Designated LHP Cionel Perez for assignment. Returned LHP Trevor Rogers to Norfolk.

BOSTON RED SOX — Sent LHP Zach Penrod to FCL Red Sox on a rehab assignment. Recalled RHP Cooper Criswell from Worcester (IL). Placed 3B Alex Bregman on the 10-day IL. Transferred 1B Triston Casas to the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of SS Marcelo Mayer from Worcester (IL). Recalled RHP Luis Guerrero from Worcester (IL). Designated LHP Sean Newcomb for assignment.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Placed RHP Hunter Gaddis on the bereavement list. Recalled RHP Nic Enright from Columbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Reinstated RHP Casey Mize from the 15-day IL. Optioned OF Akil Baddoo to Toledo (IL). Sent OF Wen- ceel Pérez and RHP Sawyer Gipson-Long to Toledo on a rehab assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Richard Guasch on a minor league contract.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Sent C Luke Maile outright to Omaha (IL).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Designated RHP Shaun Anderson for assignment. Recalled RHP Caden Dana from Salt Lake (PCL).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Sent OF Jonny DeLuca to FCL Rays on a rehab assignment.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with SS Richie Martin on a minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed RHP Yimi García on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Paxton Schultz from Buffalo (IL).

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Acquired SS Jonathan Ornelas from Texas in exchange for cash considerations and optioned him to Gwinnett (IL). Agreed to terms with C Colin Burgess on a minor league contract.

CHICAGO CUBS — Selected the contract of RHP Brooks Kriske from Iowa (IL). Designated RHP Julian Merryweather for assignment.

CINCINNATI REDS — Sent OF Jake Fraley to Louisville (IL) on a rehab assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled RHP Bobby Miller from Oklahoma City (PCL). Optioned RHP Matt Sauer to Oklahoma City.

MIAMI MARLINS — Selected the contract of RHP Janson Junk from Jacksonville (IL). Optioned RHP Lake Bacher to Jacksonville. Transferred C Rob Brantly to the 60-day IL.

NEW YORK METS — Sent RHP Frankie Montas to Brooklyn (EL) on a rehab assignment. Designated OF José Azocar and LHP Génesis Cabrera for assignment. Recalled 1B Jared Young and LHP Brandon Waddell from Syracuse (IL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Recalled INF/C Luis Campusano from El Paso (PCL). Placed OF Jason Heyward on the 10-day IL.

GOLF

Charles Schwab Cahlenge		
Saturday At Colonial Country Club Fort Worth, Texas Purse: \$9.5 million Yardage: 7,289; Par: 70 Third Round		
Ben Griffin	66-63-68	-197 -13
Matti Schmid	66-63-68	-197 -13
Rickie Fowler	70-64-67	-201 -9
Akshay Bhatia	67-66-69	-202 -8
Nick Hardy	68-67-67	-202 -8
Robert Macintyre	68-70-64	-202 -8
Kurt Kitayama	69-67-67	-203 -7
Andrew Novak	67-69-67	-203 -7
Scottie Scheffler	68-71-64	-203 -7
Bud Cauley	66-69-69	-204 -6
Tommy Fleetwood	67-67-70	-204 -6
Lucas Glover	68-72-64	-204 -6
Emiliano Grillo	68-66-70	-204 -6
Ryo Hisatsune	66-67-71	-204 -6
John Pak	63-68-73	-204 -6
J.J. Spaun	66-68-70	-204 -6
Karl Vilips	70-66-68	-204 -6
Senior PGA Championship		
Saturday At Congressional Country Club Bethesda, Md. Purse: \$3.5M Yardage: 7,152; Par: 72 Third Round		
Phillip Archer	71-69-71	-211 -5
Angel Cabrera	72-69-70	-211 -5
Jason Caron	70-70-71	-211 -5
Retief Goosen	71-72-68	-211 -5
Stewart Cink	70-71-71	-212 -4
Lee Westwood	71-73-68	-212 -4
Thomas Bjorn	70-70-73	-213 -3
Padraig Harrington	71-69-73	-213 -3
Robert Karlsson	70-70-73	-213 -3
Vijay Singh	70-68-75	-213 -3
Y.E. Yang	70-68-75	-213 -3

AUTO RACING

Bet MGM 300

NASCAR Xfinity
Saturday
At Charlotte Motor Speedway
Concord, N.C.
Lap length: 1.50 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (4) William Byron, Chevrolet, 205 laps, 0 points.
2. (2) Connor Zilisch, Chevrolet, 205, 52.
3. (18) Nicholas Sanchez, Chevrolet, 205, 37.
4. (10) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 205, 51.
5. (23) Dean Thompson, Toyota, 205, 32.
6. (27) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 205, 31.
7. (3) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 205, 30.
8. (30) Ryan Ellis, Chevrolet, 205, 29.
9. (15) Christian Eckes, Chevrolet, 205, 28.
10. (8) Sheldon Creed, Ford, 205, 29.
11. (11) Sam Mayer, Ford, 205, 38.
12. (19) Jesse Love, Chevrolet, 205, 29.
13. (20) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 205, 0.
14. (7) Ryan Sieg, Ford, 205, 32.
15. (6) William Sawalich, Toyota, 205, 22.
16. (22) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 205, 21.
17. (12) Carson Kvapil, Chevrolet, 205, 20.
18. (33) Kris Wright, Chevrolet, 205, 19.
19. (5) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 205, 26.
20. (14) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 205, 23.
21. (25) Harrison Burton, Ford, 205, 16.
22. (26) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, accident, 204, 15.
23. (9) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 204, 0.
24. (21) Blaine Perkins, Chevrolet, 204, 13.
25. (17) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, 203, 12.
26. (35) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 203, 11.
27. (37) Nick Leitz, Chevrolet, 203, 10.
28. (29) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, 203, 9.
29. (38) CJ McLaughlin, Chevrolet, 203, 8.
30. (1) Taylor Gray, Toyota, 202, 18.
31. (24) Daniel Dye, Chevrolet, accident, 199, 6.
32. (31) Leland Honeyman, Chevrolet, accident, 194, 5.
33. (28) Kyle Sieg, Ford, accident, 194, 4.
34. (32) Katherine Legge, Chevrolet, accident, 188, 0.
35. (36) Brad Perez, Chevrolet, 182, 2.
36. (16) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, suspension, 81, 1.
37. (34) Parker Retzlaff, Chevrolet, engine, 52, 1.
38. (13) Sammy Smith, Chevrolet, 205, 2.

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 110.251 mph.
Time of Race: 2 hours, 47 minutes, 21 seconds.
Margin of Victory: Under Caution.
Caution Flags: 11 for 53 laps.
Lead Changes: 10 among 5 drivers.
Lap Leaders: T.Gray 0-23; W.Byron 24-30; C.Zilisch 31; W.Byron 32-48; C.Zilisch 49; W.Byron 50-94; J.Allgaier 95-144; C.Zilisch 145; B.Jones 146-150; J.Allgaier 151-203; W.Byron 204-205
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): J.Allgaier, 2 times for 103 laps; W.Byron, 4 times for 71 laps; T.Gray, 1 time for 23 laps; B.Jones, 1 time for 5 laps; C.Zilisch, 3 times for 3 laps.
Wins: A.Hill, 3; J.Allgaier, 2; J.Love, 1; B.Jones, 1; C.Zilisch, 1; S.Smith, 1; A.Almirola, 1.

Division I Super Regionals

Best-of-3
At Norman, Okla.
Oklahoma 2, Alabama 0

Friday, May 23: Oklahoma 3, Alabama 0
Saturday, May 24: Oklahoma 13 Alabama 2, 5 innings

At Gainesville, Fla.
Florida 1, Georgia 1

Friday, May 23: Florida 6, Georgia 1
Saturday, May 24: Georgia 2, Florida 1
Sunday, May 25: Florida vs. Georgia

At Fayetteville, Ark.
Mississippi 1, Arkansas 1

Friday, May 23: Mississippi 9, Arkansas 7
Saturday, May 24: Arkansas 4, Mississippi 0
Sunday, May 25: Arkansas vs. Mississippi

At Tallahassee, Fla.
Texas Tech 2, Florida St. 0

Thursday, May 22: Texas Tech 3, Florida St. 0
Friday, May 23: Texas Tech 2, Florida St. 1

At Austin, Texas
Texas 2, Clemson 1

Thursday, May 22: Clemson 7, Texas 4
Friday, May 23: Texas 7, Clemson 5, 10 innings
Saturday, May 24: Texas 6, Clemson 5

At Knoxville, Tenn.
Nebraska 1, Tennessee 1

Friday, May 23: Nebraska 5, Tennessee 2
Saturday, May 24: Tennessee 3, Nebraska 2
Sunday, May 25: Tennessee vs. Nebraska

At Columbia, S.C.
South Carolina 1, UCLA 1

Friday, May 23: South Carolina 9, UCLA 2
Saturday, May 24: UCLA 5, South Carolina 4
Sunday, May 25: South Carolina vs. UCLA

At Eugene, Ore.
Oregon 2, Liberty 0

Friday, May 23: Oregon 3 Liberty 2, 8 innings
Saturday, May 24: Oregon 13, Liberty 1

PRO SOCCER

MLS							
Western Conference							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Vancouver	9	1	4	31	27	12	
San Diego FC	8	4	3	27	27	17	
Minn. United	7	3	5	26	23	14	
LAFC	6	4	5	23	27	22	
Seattle	6	4	5	23	22	19	
Portland	6	4	5	23	23	21	
Colorado	6	5	4	22	17	20	
San Jose	5	6	4	19	32	26	
Austin FC	5	6	4	19	10	17	
Houston	4	6	5	17	18	22	
FC Dallas	4	6	4	16	15	23	
Real Salt Lake	4	9	2	14	15	22	
Sporting KC	3	8	4	13	22	27	
St Louis City	2	8	5	11	11	20	
LA Galaxy	0	11	4	4	13	35	
Eastern Conference							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Philadelphia	9	3	3	30	30	17	
Cincinnati	9	3	2	29	19	15	
Nashville	8	4	3	27	26	17	
Orlando City	7	2	6	27	28	16	
Columbus	7	2	6	27	24	17	
Inter Miami CF	6	3	5	23	27	24	
Charlotte FC	7	7	1	22	24	23	
New York	6	6	3	21	22	17	
NYC FC	6	5	3	21	15	14	
New England	5	4	4	19	15	13	
Chicago	5	4	4	19	24	24	
D.C. United	3	7	5	14	13	27	
Toronto FC	3	8	4	13	17	20	
Atlanta	2	7	5	11	14	24	
CF Montréal	1	9	5	8	10	25	
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.							
Saturday's games							
Seattle 1, FC Dallas 0 San Diego FC 2, LA Galaxy 1 Charlotte FC 3, Columbus 2 New York 2, D.C. United 0 Los Angeles FC 2, CF Montréal 2, tie Orlando City 1, Portland 0 Miami 3, Philadelphia 3, tie Nashville 2, Toronto FC 1 New England 3, Sporting Kansas City 3, tie							
Austin FC 1, Minnesota 1, tie Colorado 1, St Louis City 0 Vancouver 3, Real Salt Lake 2 Houston 3, San Jose 3, tie							
Sunday's games							
Chicago at New York City FC Cincinnati at Atlanta							
Wednesday's games							
Orlando City at Atlanta FC Dallas at Cincinnati New England at D.C. United CF Montréal at Miami Charlotte FC at New York Houston at New York City FC Philadelphia at Toronto FC Nashville at Columbus Real Salt Lake at Austin FC San Diego FC at Seattle San Jose at LA Galaxy Colorado at Portland Minnesota at Vancouver							
Saturday, May 31							
San Jose at St Louis City New York City FC at Nashville D.C. United at Cincinnati Columbus at Miami New England at CF Montréal Atlanta at New York Chicago at Orlando City Charlotte FC at Toronto FC Philadelphia at FC Dallas Sporting Kansas City at Houston Portland at Vancouver Real Salt Lake at LA Galaxy Austin FC at San Diego FC							
NWSL							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Kansas City	8	2	0	24	22	7	
Orlando	6	3	1	19	18	8	
Washington	6	3	1	19	18	16	
San Diego	5	2	2	17	16	10	
Portland	4	2	4	16	16	11	
Seattle	4	4	2	14	9	9	
Angel City	4	4	2	14	17	19	
Louisville	4	4	2	14	12	16	
Gotham FC	3	4	3	12	12	10	
North Carolina	3	3	3	12	11	10	
Bay FC	3	4	3	12	12	14	
Houston	3	5	2	11	10	16	
Utah Royals FC	1	7	2	5	8	19	
Chicago	1	8	1	4	6	22	
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.							
Friday's games							
Orlando 3, Utah Royals FC 1 Washington 2, Seattle 1							
Saturday's games							
Kansas City 3, Chicago 1 Bay FC 2, Houston 2, tie Louisville 3, Angel City 2							
Sunday's games							
North Carolina at San Diego							



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Shohei Ohtani was set to pitch batting practice on Sunday, but his return to the mound is likely to come after the All-Star break.

Ohtani likely won't pitch before break

Associated Press

NEW YORK — On the eve of Shohei Ohtani facing batters for the first time since elbow surgery in September 2023, Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said the two-way star likely won't return to a major league mound until after the All-Star break.

Ohtani was to pitch batting practice before Sunday night's series finale against the New York Mets.

"He's doing his first simulated game for two innings and in theory you got to build a starter up to five, six innings," Roberts said. "And so just the natural progression, I just don't see it being before that."

Roberts wouldn't rule out Ohtani making a minor league injury rehabilitation appearance. Normally a pitcher coming back from elbow ligament repair makes several minor league starts in the final stage of his recovery. But because Ohtani is among the top hitters in the major leagues, the defending World Series champion Dodgers wouldn't want to lose his bat for any games.

Minor league teams are off on Mondays, leaving Thursday, June 12, as the only day next month Ohtani could pitch in the minors while the Dodgers are off.

"I think anything should be on the table," Roberts said before Saturday night's 5-2 loss.

"It's not going to be five minor league starts, I do know that," Roberts explained. "I think this is just such a unique situation that there's no one kind of blueprint. So we're going to do this live session. I can't even speak to if it's going to be an up and down. ... And then we'll see what the next week brings. If he's going to be around, it's going to be simulated games, but I really don't know what that even really looks like."

Hyeseong Kim and Dalton Rushing are among the hitters likely to bat against Ohtani.

"It's a big step getting on a mound facing hitters. Rightfully so, there's a lot of anticipation but I think he's really looking forward to it," Roberts said. "I'm looking for command. I just want him to get through it healthy and be willing to get to the next step."

Ohtani had right elbow surgery on Sept. 19, 2023. He returned as a hitter last year after signing a \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Dodgers as a free agent and won his third MVP award by batting .310 with 54 homers, 130 RBIs and 59 stolen bases.

After shoulder surgery on Nov. 4 to repair a labrum tear sustained during the World Series, Ohtani threw four bullpens sessions at spring training from Feb. 15-25, then paused to prepare for opening day as a hitter.

He resumed bullpens on March 29.

"I think up to this point he's checked every box," Roberts said. "You're talking about really adding velocity — I think right now it's been tempered or controlled. You're talking throwing a slider to hitters, which he has only done in a bullpen. So those are two other boxes."

ROUNDUP

Lee gives Twins 2nd walk off in row

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Brooks Lee hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning to give the Minnesota Twins their second straight walk off against the Kansas City Royals, this time overcoming a four-run deficit for a 5-4 win on Saturday.

Harrison Bader and Kody Clemens homered for Minnesota, which won for the 16th time in 18 games.

Pinch-hitter Carlos Correa walked against Daniel Lynch IV (3-1) to open the Minnesota ninth and advanced to second two batters later when pinch-hitter Ryan Jeffers also walked. With Steven Cruz pitching, Lee grounded a ball up the middle for his first career walk-off hit.

Ty France hit a two-run home run in the ninth in the Twins 3-1 win on Friday.

Minnesota closer Jhoan Duran (3-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Vinnie Pasquantino had three hits for Kansas City, which struck out a season-high 18 times. Bobby Witt Jr. tied a career high with four of those.

Pasquantino had an RBI double and Salvador Perez an RBI single in the fifth for a 4-0 Kansas City lead, but Bader homered and France had a two-out, two-run single in the inning to get the Twins within 4-3.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 5 (10), 1st; Orioles 2, Red Sox 1, 2nd: Ryan O’Hearn hit a two-out, tiebreaking single in the eighth and reliever Seranthony Domínguez got Rafael Devers to pop out to end the bottom of the inning, helping visting Baltimore beat Boston and avoid a sweep of the split double-header.

Dylan Carlson added an RBI double for the Orioles, who have won two of their last 12.

Abraham Toro hit a solo homer for Boston — his second of the day — on a play that sent Baltimore centerfielder Jorge Mateo tumbling over the bullpen wall trying to make the catch in the ninth.

Devers grounded a single up the middle to drive in the winning run in the opener.

Cardinals 6, Diamondbacks 5: Jordan Walker had two hits and drove in three runs, rebounding from a critical fielding gaffe with an RBI single that lifted hosting St. Louis to a win over Arizona.

After his failed sliding attempt to catch Josh Naylor’s two-run triple in the eighth allowed Arizona to rally into the lead, Walker delivered the winning run with an RBI single off Justin Martinez (1-2) in the bottom half of the inning.

Nationals 3, Giants 0: James

Wood hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Jake Irvin pitched eight innings of three-hit ball as Washington beat visting San Francisco.

Irvin (4-1) struck out seven and walked two in a 96-pitch effort as Washington bounced back following a 4-0 loss to the Giants on Friday and won for the seventh time in nine games.

Pirates 2, Milwaukee 1: Oneil Cruz tripled home Isiah Kiner-Falefa with two outs in the seventh inning and host Pittsburgh edged Milwaukee.

Kiner-Falefa singled off Tyler Alexander (2-5) with one out and Cruz followed two batters later by sending a shot to the gap in right-center field.

The 6-foot-7 Cruz — coming off the first multihomer game of his career in a victory Friday night — slid head-first into third, then popped up to celebrate.

Astros 2, Mariners 1: Christian Walker and Jeremy Peña had two hits apiece and Houston scored two runs in the first inning on errors by visiting Seattle and held on for a win.

There were two outs in the first and Jose Altuve was at second base when Christian Walker singled and Altuve scored when Bryan Woo (5-2) badly overthrew first base.

Braves 7, Padres 1: Ronald Acuña Jr. homered for the second straight game in his return from a nearly year-long absence due to a knee injury, leading Atlanta to a win over visiting San Diego.

Acuña homered on the first pitch he saw in his season debut Friday. On Saturday, he hit a 411-foot, two-run shot to left field in the sixth inning, going 1 for 5.

Yankees 13, Rockies 1: Max Fried threw 7⅓ sharp innings and visting New York broke open a tight game with a 10-run fifth to beat reeling Colorado.

Fried (7-0) tied Arizona’s Brandon Pfaadt for the major league lead in wins. The Yankees lefty scattered six hits and gave up one run in an efficient outing in which he only tossed 83 pitches. Fried has allowed two earned runs or less in all 11 of his starts this season.

Reds 6, Cubs 4: Elly De La Cruz drove in four runs and hosting Cincinnati defeated Chicago to end a four-game losing streak.

Justin Turner and Michael Kelly homered as the Cubs had a three-game winning streak snapped. Kelly came into the game in the fifth inning after catcher Miguel Amaya suffered a left oblique strain.

White Sox 10, Rangers 5Andrew Benintendi hit a two-run double in Chicago’s six-run sixth



MATT KROHN/AP

The Minnesota Twins’ Brooks Lee celebrates his walk-off single against the Kansas City Royals during the ninth inning Saturday.

inning and the White Sox handed visiting Texas its sixth consecutive loss.

Joshua Palacios hit a two-run homer for the White Sox, atoning for a costly error. Mike Tauchman also went deep and Lenyn Sosa drove in three runs.

Mets 5, Dodgers 2: Slumping Juan Soto hit a tiebreaking, two-run double with the bases loaded in a three-run fourth inning and the New York Mets beat the visting Los Angeles Dodgers in their rematch of last year’s NL Championship Series.

David Peterson (3-2) matched his career high of 7 ⅔ innings, striking out Shohei Ohtani three times and inducing three double-play grounders. He allowed two runs and five hits.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 1: Junior Caminero hit a three-run home run in the first inning to back a strong start by Shane Baz, and host Tampa Bay beat Toronto for its fourth straight win.

Pete Fairbanks issued two walks before retiring Myles Straw on a fly ball to center for the final out in his second straight save and 10th this season.

Guardians 7, Tigers 5 (10): Kyle Manzardo and Angel Martínez hit RBI doubles in Cleveland’s four-run 10th inning, helping the Guardians beat hosting Detroit for the third straight game.

Bo Naylor homered and drove in two runs, including a sacrifice fly that was part of the Guardians’ big inning. Nolan Jones added an RBI single in the 10th.

Marlins 6, Angels 2: Connor Norby had three hits, including a three-run homer in the seventh inning, and visiting Miami beat Los Angeles, snapping the Angels’ eight-game win streak.

Norby’s third home run came on a 1-2 pitch from reliever Caden Dana (0-1) as Miami stopped a three-game slide.

Phillies 9, Athletics 6 (11): Kyle Schwarber hit his 18th homer, then had a tiebreaking, two-run double in the 11th inning that lifted visiting Philadelphia to a victory extending their winning streak to nine and sending the Athletics to their 11th straight loss.

Max Kepler tied the score 6-6 in the ninth with a home run on a 101.4 mph pitch from Mason Miller.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	31	20	.608	—
Boston	27	27	.500	5½
Tampa Bay	25	26	.490	6
Toronto	25	26	.490	6
Baltimore	17	34	.333	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	33	20	.623	—
Cleveland	29	22	.569	3
Minnesota	29	22	.569	3
Kansas City	28	25	.528	5
Chicago	17	35	.327	15½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	29	22	.569	—
Houston	27	25	.519	2½
Los Angeles	25	26	.490	4
Texas	25	28	.472	5
Athletics	22	31	.415	8
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	34	18	.654	—
New York	31	21	.596	3
Atlanta	25	26	.490	8½
Washington	24	28	.462	10
Miami	20	30	.400	13
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	31	21	.596	—
St. Louis	29	23	.558	2
Cincinnati	26	27	.491	5½
Milwaukee	25	28	.472	6½
Pittsburgh	19	34	.358	12½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	32	20	.615	—
San Francisco	30	22	.577	2
San Diego	28	22	.560	3
Arizona	26	26	.500	6
Colorado	9	43	.173	23
Saturday's games				
Boston 6, Baltimore 5, 10 innings				
Baltimore 2, Boston 1				
Minnesota 5, Kansas City 4				
Houston 2, Seattle 1				
N.Y. Yankees 13, Colorado 1				
Chicago White Sox 10, Texas 5				
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 1				
Cleveland 7, Detroit 5, 10 innings				
Miami 6, L.A. Angels 2				
Philadelphia 9, Athletics 6, 11 innings				
St. Louis 6, Arizona 5				
Washington 3, San Francisco 0				
Pittsburgh 2, Milwaukee 1				
Atlanta 7, San Diego 1				
Cincinnati 6, Chicago Cubs 4				
N.Y. Mets 5, L.A. Dodgers 2				
Sunday's games				
Cleveland at Detroit				
Baltimore at Boston				
Toronto at Tampa Bay				
Kansas City at Minnesota				
Seattle at Houston				
Texas at Chicago White Sox				
N.Y. Yankees at Colorado				
Philadelphia at Athletics				
Miami at L.A. Angels				
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh				
San Francisco at Washington				
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati				
Arizona at St. Louis				
San Diego at Atlanta				
L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets				
Monday's games				
San Francisco (Birdsong 2-0) at Detroit (Montero 1-1)				
Boston (Crochet 4-3) at Milwaukee (Parrack 2-4)				
St. Louis (Fedde 3-3) at Baltimore (TBD)				
Toronto (Gausman 4-4) at Texas (deGrom 4-1)				
Chicago White Sox (Houser 1-0) at N.Y. Mets (Holmes 5-3)				
Cincinnati (Martínez 2-5) at Kansas City (Lorenzen 3-5)				
L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 5-3) at Cleveland (Williams 4-2)				
Minnesota (Paddock 2-4) at Tampa Bay (Littell 3-5)				
N.Y. Yankees (Yarbrough 1-0) at L.A. Angels (Kochanowicz 3-5)				
Colorado (Palquist 0-2) at Chicago Cubs (Taillon 3-3)				
Pittsburgh (Heaney 3-3) at Arizona (Nelson 1-1)				
Miami (Weathers 1-0) at San Diego (Vásquez 3-4)				
Tuesday's games				
L.A. Dodgers at Cleveland				
St. Louis at Baltimore				
San Francisco at Detroit				
Minnesota at Tampa Bay				
Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Mets				
Boston at Milwaukee				
Cincinnati at Kansas City				
Toronto at Texas				
Athletics at Houston				
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels				
Washington at Seattle				
Atlanta at Philadelphia				
Colorado at Chicago Cubs				
Miami at San Diego				
Pittsburgh at Arizona				

FRENCH OPEN/AUTO RACING

Canadian teen Mboko wins 1st major match

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Victoria Mboko is still just 18, still rather new to the top level of professional tennis, and yet with a big serve, a terrific backhand and enviable court coverage, the Canadian is making the most of her first season on tour, including a victory in her Grand Slam debut Sunday at the French Open.

When it was mentioned that her 6-1, 7-6 (4) elimination of 2024 Wimbledon quarterfinalist Lulu Sun meant Mboko has claimed all eight sets she’s played over the past week-plus on the red clay at Roland-Garros — including six in a trio of triumphs in the qualifying rounds—the teen laughed, revealing the braces on her teeth.

“This does, obviously, feel really quick for me. Although it feels quick, I feel like I’m also adapting very quickly. I want to be in this level,” said Mboko, represented by talent agency IMG since the age of 12. “To adapt really fast is really important to me. The more I feel like I make it seem normal to me, the more normal it’s going to be in these tournaments.”

Against the left-handed Sun, Mboko’s serve — which she considers her game’s greatest strength — played a significant role in the outcome.

With her father and two of her older siblings in the stands at Court 9, a short walk from Court Suzanne-Lenglen, Mboko reached a top speed of 115 mph and delivered seven aces. She won all 10 of her service games, saving all seven break points accumulated by Sun.

“I love to dictate points on my serve, and I love to use that as an opportunity to be more aggressive



Canada’s Victoria Mboko celebrates beating New Zealand’s Lulu Sun during their first-round match of the French Open at the Roland-Garros in Paris on Sunday. It was Mboko’s first Grand Slam match.

and be up in the score,” said Mboko, who is currently ranked 120th. “Especially in women’s tennis, having a good serve and holding all the time is pretty crucial. It helps me get out of a lot of sticky situations.”

Her favorite player as a kid — not all that long ago, actually — was Serena Williams, whose 23 Grand Slam titles often came with the help of top-notch serving.

“I always modeled myself on the idea of her game. Of course, not everything I do is the same. But she had such a powerful game, and that’s something that I would love to replicate and love to present my

game off of that,” Mboko said. “It’s great to have a role model like that and try to do something like she did.”

Mboko began to really get noticed in the world of tennis at the start of this year, when she won 22 matches in a row — all in straight sets — to earn four lower-level International Tennis Federation titles. Her first WTA match arrived at the Miami Open in March, and she won that debut, too.

She’s been impressing opponents along the way, including 2023 U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff. Mboko pushed the American, who is ranked No. 2 right now,

to three sets on clay at the Italian Open this month.

“She’s playing top-level tennis,” Gauff said after that win. “For sure, on the movement, I would say she’s up there with me on that. As far as the other parts of her game, she’s obviously a big hitter, can play well, moves pretty well, has a nice backhand, same on the forehand.”

Mboko grew up playing mostly on indoor hard courts in Canada and calls that her “favorite surface for my whole life.”

That said, Mboko’s starting to get used to — and enjoy — the clay used at the French Open.

Scoreboard

French Open	
Sunday	
At Stade Roland Garros	
Paris	
Purse: Euro 20,509,000	
Surface: Red clay	
Seedings in parentheses	
Men's Singles	
First Round	
Hamad Medjedovic, Serbia, def. Kamil Majchrzak, Poland, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (2).	
Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Tristan Schoolkate, Australia, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.	
Tommy Paul (12), United States, def. Elmer Moller, Denmark, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.	
Mariano Navone, Argentina, def. Brandon Nakashima (28), United States, 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.	
Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard (31), France, def. Zizou Bergs, Belgium, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-4.	
Reilly Opelka, United States, def. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, 1-6, 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (3).	
Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, def. Francisco Comesana, Argentina, 6-2, 7-6 (3), 7-5.	
Lorenzo Musetti (8), Italy, def. Yannick Hanfmann, Germany, 7-5, 6-2, 6-0.	
Juan Manuel Cerundolo, Argentina, def. Alex Michelsen (32), United States, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.	
Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia-Herzegovina, def. Thiago Agustín Tirante, Argentina, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.	
Women's Singles	
First Round	
Elina Svitolina (13), Ukraine, def. Zeynep Sonmez, Turkiye, 6-1, 6-1.	
Eva Lys, Germany, def. Peyton Stearns (28), United States, 6-0, 6-3.	
Victoria Mboko, Canada, def. Lulu Sun, New Zealand, 6-1, 7-6 (4).	
Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, def. Petra Kvitova, Czechia, 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.	
Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, def. Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, 6-1, 6-0.	
Anna Bondar, Hungary, def. Laura Siegemund, Germany, 7-6 (2), 6-3.	
Zheng Qinwen (8), China, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, 6-4, 6-3.	
Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Destanee Aiava, Australia, 7-5, 6-1.	
Emiliana Arango, Colombia, def. Alexandra Eala, Philippines, 6-0, 2-6, 6-3.	
Jil Teichmann, Switzerland, def. Lucia Stefanini, Italy, 6-4, 6-4.	
Diana Shnaider (11), Russia, def. Anastasiia Soboljeva, Ukraine, 7-6 (3), 6-2.	
Leyre Romero Gormaz, Spain, def. Tiantsoa Sarah Rakotomanga Rajaonah, France, 7-6 (3), 6-2.	

“In the future? I guess we’ll see. You never know. I feel like I’ve been doing pretty OK on the clay so far, even though it was my least favorite surface and I thought it was my worst surface, too,” Mboko said. “But you never know.”

Norris cuts into Piastri’s F1 lead

Associated Press

MONACO — Lando Norris realized a childhood dream as he won the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday, and boosted his chances of achieving an even bigger goal, the Formula 1 title.

Norris took his first Grand Prix win since the season-opening Australian Grand Prix — though he did win a sprint race in Miami this month — and reduced his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri’s lead from 13 points to three.

Starting on pole position, Norris locked up a wheel into the first corner but still managed to hold off last year’s winner, Charles Leclerc of Ferrari.

“It feels amazing. It’s a long, grueling race, but good fun,” Norris said. “This is what I dream of. This is what I did dream of when I was a kid.”

Leclerc was second after closing in on Norris late in the race —

though he wasn’t able to attempt a pass — while Piastri was third and defending champion Max Verstappen fourth, with seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton a distant fifth.

Verstappen was the leader on track until the second-to-last lap, but only because he had yet to make his mandatory second pit stop under a rule change introduced in an attempt to spice up the Monaco Grand Prix, where overtaking is almost impossible.

Verstappen was almost certain to end the race fourth, no matter when he stopped, so he eased off, slowing down Norris and allowing Leclerc and Piastri to catch up. Verstappen seemed to be trying to pressure Norris into a costly mistake.

Norris said the end of the race was a “little bit nervous with Charles close behind and Max ahead, but we won in Monaco, so it

doesn’t matter how you win, I guess.”

Despite predictions it could allow some teams and drivers to spring a surprise, the rule had little overall impact on the results, except for a few cases of teams seemingly slowing down one car to benefit a teammate.

“We lost the race yesterday,” was Leclerc’s verdict, referring to the importance of qualifying on pole in Monaco, his home race.

It was McLaren’s record-extending 16th win in Monaco and its first since a victory for a young Lewis Hamilton in 2008. Hamilton went on to win his first championship that year.

McLaren leaves Monaco with six wins from the first eight races of 2025 as its two drivers battle for the title. Even with just a third of the season gone, a second successive constructors’ title for McLaren looks all but assured, as the



McLaren driver Lando Norris leads the field after the start during the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday.

team’s 319 points are more than double the total of any other team.

Piastri was on the podium for the second year running in Monaco, and being disappointed with third was a sign of the progress he’s made in those 12 months. Second place a year ago was only the

third career podium finish for the Australian, who had yet to win a Grand Prix. Third place Sunday was Piastri’s seventh podium finish in a row.

“If this is a bad weekend,” Piastri said, “then it’s not going too badly at all.”

NHL PLAYOFFS

Finns: Players like Aho, Rantanen already made impact before postseason

FROM PAGE 24

Team Finland won the gold medal in the 2022 Olympics, when the NHL’s decision not to send players to Beijing kept Aho, Barkov and Rantanen from participating. They were among nine of the still-playing Finns who represented their country in this year’s 4 Nations Face-Off, and will likely be part of the 2026 Olympics.

“On my end with those guys, this is the golden age of Finnish hockey,” said DeBoer, an assistant for Team Canada in the 4 Nations. “If you look at the last decade, those guys have won a lot of tournaments, under-18, world juniors, world championships. They know how to win. They have those winning habits and that’s what makes them easy to coach, easy to play.”

Jere Lehtinen, who played all 14 of his NHL seasons with the Stars and was part of their 1999 Stanley Cup championship, is the GM of the Finnish national team.

Impact players

With the Hurricanes, Aho is the top-line center and the team’s top-paid player, a 27-year-old locked up long term after signing an extension paying \$9.75 million per year through the 2031-32 season. The team’s second-round pick from 2015 has been a core piece of Carolina being the only NHL team with an active streak of winning at least one postseason series for seven straight years.

When Dallas acquired Rantanen from Carolina, that trade deadline deal was contingent on the 28-year-old forward signing a \$96 million, eight-year contract extension.



KARL B. DeBLAKER/AP

Sebastian Aho is the Carolina Hurricanes’ highest-paid player and a core member of a team that has won a playoff series seven straight years.

Rantanen had 101 points (34 goals, 67 assists) in 81 playoff games for the Avalanche the past seven years, including Colorado’s 2022 Cup run, before his 12 points against them in the first round this postseason that included his hat trick in Game 7. He had another hat trick in the second period of Game 1 in the second round against top-seeded Winnipeg.

Speaking Finnish

Florida defenseman Gustav Forsling, who is from neighboring Sweden, still sometimes doesn’t understand Mikkola.

“He’s very funny. He’s got the Finnish accent, which is hilarious — sometimes I don’t know what he’s saying,” Forsling said. “But he always comes back to the bench saying something, and it’s hilarious.”

Heiskanen, who was 19 when he made his Dallas debut in 2018, said it’s great to have Finnish teammates as he has throughout his NHL career.

“It’s fun off the ice, too,” Heiskanen said when asked about the additions of Rantanen and Granlund, who at 33 is the oldest of the playoff Finns. “Can speak Finnish and do stuff together.”

Seguin said he has learned a few swear words in Finnish, along with some simple phrases. But there are times when he and team captain Jamie Benn wonder what is being said, and “have the Google translator out trying to figure it out.”

The only word that really matters right now is “voittaa,” which generally translates as “to win.”



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Florida Panthers center Brad Marchand, center, celebrates after scoring a goal against the Carolina Hurricanes during the third period in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals Saturday in Sunrise, Fla.

Late surge pushes Panthers to verge of sweeping Canes

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — It was tied 1-1 going into the third period. It turned into a blowout. And after a five-goal barrage, one like none other in Florida playoff history, the Panthers are one win from their third consecutive trip to the Stanley Cup Final.

Niko Mikkola and Aleksander Barkov each scored twice, and Florida — fueled by five goals in a span of nine minutes — rolled past the Carolina Hurricanes 6-2 on Saturday night to take a 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Jesper Boqvist — playing for the injured Sam Reinhart — scored the go-ahead goal early in the third for the Panthers and Brad Marchand also scored for Florida, which got 23 saves from Sergei Bobrovsky.

“In the third period, I think we took over,” Barkov said.

That’s an understatement from the Panthers’ captain.

Logan Stankoven and Seth Jarvis scored for Carolina, which has now dropped 15 consecutive East finals games — getting swept by Pittsburgh in 2009, Boston in 2019, Florida in 2023 and are now on the brink of it happening again.

Game 4 is Monday in Sunrise.

“They’re a good team, for sure,” the Hurricanes’ Sebastian Aho said. “But I feel like we’ve been

Scoreboard

Conference Finals	
Best-of-7; x-if necessary	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Florida 3, Carolina 0	
Florida 5, Carolina 2	
Florida 5, Carolina 0	
Saturday: Florida 6, Carolina 2	
Monday: at Florida, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m.	
Tuesday CET, 10 a.m. Tuesday JKT	
x-Wednesday: at Carolina	
x-Friday: at Florida	
x-Sunday, June 1: at Carolina	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Dallas 1, Edmonton 1	
Dallas 6, Edmonton 3	
Edmonton 3, Dallas 0	
Sunday: at Edmonton	
Tuesday: at Edmonton, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m.	
Wednesday CET, 10 a.m. Wednesday JKT	
Thursday: at Dallas	
x-Saturday, May 31: at Edmonton	
x-Monday, June 2: at Dallas	

giving them the momentum or a goal at the wrong time — and obviously they’ve made us pay”

The Panthers’ five third-period goals were a club record for any playoff period and ruined what had seemed like a good move by Carolina to switch goaltenders going into Game 3. The Hurricanes went with Pyotr Kochetkov in net, after Frederik Andersen gave up nine goals on just 36 shots in the first five periods of the series.

Kochetkov stopped 14 of 15 shots through two periods. The third, not so much. A tie game became a rout in a hurry.

“I don’t think the way the games have been played is really an indi-

cation of what the outcomes have been score-wise,” Marchand said. “They’ve been pretty tight. It just seems like we’ve got a couple of bounces and a couple lucky breaks here and there that have kind of given us a pretty good lead.”

Florida got a break to make it 1-0. Barkov threw a pass across the goal crease, the puck hitting the stick of Evan Rodrigues before finding Mikkola — who tried to feed it back across for Barkov.

It never got there. Mikkola’s pass deflected off Carolina defenseman Dmitry Orlov and past Kochetkov, opening the scoring and giving the Panthers an 11-2 cumulative score lead in the series to that point.

Stankoven — who was flat-out robbed by Bobrovsky earlier in the game — tied it on the power play at 14:51 of the second, a breakthrough of sorts for the Canes.

Brent Burns took a shot from near the blue line that Bobrovsky stopped. The rebound skipped off Bobrovsky’s leg and Stankoven redirected it home to make it 1-1 — the first tie of the series, other than 0-0 scores to begin games.

But the third, like the bulk of the series, was all Florida.

“We have to try to put our best foot forward,” Carolina coach Rod Brind’Amour said. “I felt like we did tonight for two periods.”

NBA

Wolves’ rout cuts Thunder’s West finals lead to 2-1

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS—Anthony Edwards was determined to keep Minnesota’s spirits up, from the flight home after a frustrating trip to Oklahoma City into a crucial game in these Western Conference finals.

Positive energy is never hard for him to find.

Edwards had 30 points, nine rebounds and six assists in just three quarters for the Timberwolves in a 143-101 victory on Saturday night in Game 3 that cut the Thunder’s lead in the series to 2-1.

“Just ultimate pressure on the ball,” Edwards said, “and shoot it as much as I can.”

Julius Randle added 24 points and rookie Terrence Shannon Jr. had 15 points in 13 minutes to highlight a big boost from the bench for Minnesota, which caused all kinds of cracks in OKC’s NBA-best defense after struggling to solve it in the two lopsided losses on the road.

“Their force on that end of the floor was better than our physicality and pressure, things that we typically do well,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had just 14 points on 4-for-13 shooting

Scoreboard

Conference Finals

Best-of-7; x-if necessary

Eastern Conference

Indiana 2, New York 0

Indiana 138, New York 135, OT

Indiana 114, New York 109

Sunday: at Indiana

Tuesday: at Indiana, **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.**

Wednesday CET, 10 a.m. Wednesday JKT

x-Thursday: at New York

x-Saturday, May 31: at Indiana

x-Monday, June 2: at New York

Western Conference

Oklahoma City 2, Minnesota 1

Oklahoma City 114, Minnesota 88

Oklahoma City 118, Minnesota 103

Saturday: Minnesota 143, Oklahoma City 101

Monday: at Minnesota, **AFN-Sports, 2:40 a.m.**

Tuesday CET, 10:40 a.m. Tuesday JKT

Wednesday: at Oklahoma City

x-Friday: at Minnesota

x-Sunday, June 1: at Oklahoma City

with four turnovers, subbed out with a 38-point deficit and 4:25 to go in the third quarter as Daigneault conceded on a night when his team was never closer than 22 points after early in the second quarter.

“It felt like we just eased into the game, and they didn’t,” Gilgeous-Alexander said. “They blitzed us pretty early, and then we were never able to get back because of it.”

Game 4 is in Minneapolis on Monday night.



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards shoots against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort during the first half of Game 3 of the Western Conference finals Saturday in Minneapolis.

The travel north and venue shift triggered a sharp drop in shooting for Oklahoma City, which made exactly half of their attempts from the floor over the first two games and went just 12 for 40 in the first half on Saturday.

Gilgeous-Alexander, the newly minted NBAMVP, went more than 13 minutes of game time between baskets while the Target Center crowd loudly booed him on every touch and taunted him at the line with the chant, “Free throw merchant!” in a nod to the popular no-

tion that he draws an inordinate amount of fouls.

Randle, who had his first off night of this postseason in a Game 2 performance so disjointed he was benched for the fourth quarter, had his fire back — and his signature fadeaway.

Edwards rediscovered his 3-point shot, going 5 for 8 after shooting just 1 of 9 in Game 2. He gave the quick-handed, ball-pressuring Thunder a taste of what it’s like to play against themselves with a couple of relentless pursuits of

loose balls he turned into break-away dunks.

Outscored 69-37 in the third quarter over the first two games, the T-wolves made sure to avoid another post-halftime malaise. Edwards, tightly guarded by Isaiah Joe in the corner, found enough space to drive along the baseline and spin an up-and-under reverse layup off the glass for a 79-52 lead.

“That’s what we need him to do, and when he does it, it takes us to another level,” coach Chris Finch said.

SGA, Jokic, Giannis, Tatum, Mitchell make All-NBA 1st team

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Oklahoma City’s Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Denver’s Nikola Jokic and Milwaukee’s Giannis Antetokounmpo were the only players to appear on every MVP ballot this season.

It only made sense that they would be unanimous All-NBA picks as well.

Gilgeous-Alexander — the league’s MVP — along with Jokic and Antetokounmpo were unveiled Friday night as first-team All-NBA players, along with Boston’s Jayson Tatum and Cleveland’s Donovan Mitchell.

Tatum was another unanimous first-team pick. Mitchell made the first team for the first time.

Antetokounmpo has seven first-team selections and nine appearances on the All-NBA team overall. Jokic is a five-time first-teamer and seven-time All-NBA pick, Tatum is first-team for the fourth time (fifth overall), Gilgeous-Alexander has been first-team in all three of his All-NBA



SGA **Jokic**

appearances, and Mitchell is All-NBA for the second time in his career.

Gilgeous-Alexander, Jokic, Antetokounmpo and Tatum were all first-teamers last season as well.

Second team

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers is an All-NBA player for the 21st time in 22 seasons. He made the second team.

Also on the second team: Minnesota’s Anthony Edwards, the Cavaliers’ Evan Mobley, Golden State’s Stephen Curry and New York’s Jalen Brunson.

Curry made All-NBA for the 11th time, something only 21 players in NBA history have done. Edwards and Brunson are



Antetokounmpo **Tatum**

two-time All-NBA players, and Mobley made a team for the first time.

Third team

Detroit’s Cade Cunningham, Indiana’s Tyrese Haliburton, the Los Angeles Clippers’ James Harden, the Knicks’ Karl-Anthony Towns and the Thunder’s Jalen Williams were named to the third team.

Harden is an eight-time selection, Towns is a three-time pick, Haliburton made a team for the second time and Cunningham and Williams both are All-NBA for the first time.

All 100 ballots

Eight players appeared on ev-



Mitchell **James**

ery ballot. Antetokounmpo, Gilgeous-Alexander, Jokic and Tatum all got 100 first-team votes.

Mitchell got 61 first-team votes, 35 second-team and four third-team. Edwards got 11 first-team, 87 second-team and two third-team. Curry got two first-team, 68 second-team and 30 third-team. And Brunson got two first-team, 62 second-team and 36 third-team.

James and Cunningham were on 99 of 100 ballots.

Giannis again

For the eighth consecutive year, Antetokounmpo was listed on every All-NBA ballot. That’s the longest active run in the NBA.

The last time an All-NBA ballot

was sent to the league without Antetokounmpo’s name listed was 2017, when four of the 100 voters didn’t rank him among the league’s top players.

Since then: 799 ballots cast, 799 listing Antetokounmpo.

Jokic appeared on every All-NBA ballot for the fifth consecutive year; it would be six in a row if he hadn’t fallen one vote short of unanimous status in 2020. Jayson Tatum was on every All-NBA ballot for the fourth consecutive season.

LeBron at 40

James is the first 40-year-old to make an All-NBA team — he turned 40 in December.

James has 13 first-team appearances, four second-team selections and four third-team nods.

No other player has more than 15 All-NBA selections. Kobe Bryant (11 first-team picks), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (10 first-team picks) and Tim Duncan (10 first-team picks) are the other members of the 15-time club.

SPORTS



On the rebound

Edwards, Wolves dominate to trim Thunder's lead in West finals » **NBA playoffs, Page 23**



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Stars right wing Mikko Rantanen, of Finland, acknowledges cheers after Game 3 of a second-round series vs. the Winnipeg Jets in Dallas on May 11. Going into Sunday, Rantanen has 9 goals in 15 games this postseason.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Finns up

Finland players feature prominently on teams left in conference finals

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
Associated Press

DALLAS — Dallas Stars coach Pete DeBoer has jokingly referred to himself as being Finnish during these NHL playoffs. After all, he has five of the 13 players from Finland who are on the rosters of the four teams still chasing the Stanley Cup.

Dallas' top line is a trio of Finns, with top-scoring forward Mikko Rantanen alongside Roope Hintz and Mikael Granlund. It also has veteran defensemen Miro Heiskanen and Esa Lindell, who both scored in the third period of a comeback win over Edmonton in the West semifinal opener.

"They're phenomenal," Stars forward Tyler Seguin said of his teammates playing more than 5,000 miles from their home country. "I'd say we're a Finnish-first team probably now."

In the East final, the Florida Panthers have four Finnish players who were also part of last year's Stanley Cup title: captain Aleksander Barkov, Eetu Luostarinen, Niko Mikkola and Anton Lundell. Carolina, which had Rantanen for a 13-game stretch this season before trading him to Dallas, has Sebastian Aho, Jesperi Kotkaniemi and Juha Jaaska.

Luostarinen, who in 2017 was a second-round draft pick by the Hurricanes, had four points in Florida's series clincher over Tampa Bay in Round 1. He added three more in Game 7 of the second round against Toronto.

"It's nice to see so many Finns getting so far, and I think playing key roles on their teams, playing high minutes," Luostarinen said. "I think it's just the work they put in in Finland, from juniors all the way to the top level. It's top notch."

All 12 of the Finns who have played this postseason have scored goals, and half had at least 10 points through Wednesday. Rantanen, first traded from Colorado to Carolina and then six weeks later to the Stars, leads all players with nine goals and 20 points.

Kasperi Kapanen is the lone Finnish player for the Oilers, and his only point so far this postseason was a huge one: an overtime goal to wrap up the second round series against Vegas.

From Finland to NHL

The Dallas and Miami metropolitan areas each have more residents than Finland, but the nation of 5.6 million is a growing hockey power.

There were 53 Finns on NHL rosters this season among 268 all-time, according to Hockey-Reference.com. Divide the number of NHL players into a country's population, and Finland sends about as many players to the league per capita as Canada or Sweden.

"They've done a great job of developing players over in Finland," Stars general manager Jim Nill said. "We know they're good players, but they're just really good human beings. ... When you talk about the Finnish players, they play the game the right way. They're well-coached, they understand both ends of the ice."

Dallas and Florida played two regular-season games in Finland in November, the 10th and 11th the NHL has played there. The Panthers won both games in Barkov's hometown of Tampere while the seven Finnish players combined for 11 points, led by his four.

SEE FINNS ON PAGE 22

Twins cap 4-run rally with another walk-off » MLB, Page 20

