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STARS AND STRIPES

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New life for The Old Guard



PHOTOS BY ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as The Old Guard, trains horses as they pass the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on May 13 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Horse-drawn caissons are set to resume service on Monday at Arlington.

Army heralds a fresh beginning as horse-drawn caissons return to Arlington

BY LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON
The horse-drawn caissons of the 3rd Infantry Regiment that have carried the caskets of deceased service members to gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery since 1948 are scheduled to formally resume service Monday after a two-year suspension over concerns for the herd's health and welfare.

Major reforms to the caisson detachment have been undertaken since two sick horses were euthanized because of colon impaction, the Army said.

The caisson program has been



Sgt. Natalee Silva nuzzles Goose, a Percheron-breed horse.

overhauled with a focus on increased training for the soldiers, improvements to facilities and upgraded equipment, said Maj. John W. Strickland.

Caisson funerals will be limited to two per day and up to 10 per week. "This is not the same program. It has been completely rebuilt," Strickland said.

The caissons are horse-drawn wagons primarily used in funerals. Pulled by six horses and three riders, they transport for the flag-draped casket in funeral processions.

"Being the first team back to the cemetery is a significant occasion,

SEE RETURN ON PAGE 7

Trump's frustration with Putin boils over

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
AND MARTINE POWERS
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump lashed out at the Kremlin on Tuesday for its unwillingness to negotiate a ceasefire with Ukraine as he continued to consider increased sanctions against Russia, an escalation from his previously friendly tone toward Vladimir Putin that came as the president appeared to grow gloomier about his ability to broker peace in Ukraine.

In perhaps his harshest rhetoric yet against Putin, Trump declared that Putin is "playing with fire" — a reference to Russia's escalating bombardment of Ukraine in recent days despite the U.S. president's efforts to broker a peace agreement between Kyiv and Moscow.

Trump has offered mixed messages about Putin, oscillating between praise of a leader with whom he has said he believes he can do business and frustration about his inability to bring Russia to the bargaining table.

The frustration appears to have boiled over this week. On Tuesday, he suggested that he had been shielding Putin from tough consequences related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"What Vladimir Putin doesn't realize is that if it weren't for me, lots of really bad things would have already happened to Russia, and I mean REALLY BAD. He's playing with fire!" Trump posted on Truth Social.

The post followed Trump's suggestion Sunday that he might be open to sanctions against Russia, a significant shift after months in which he had been so cautious

SEE PUTIN ON PAGE 34

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Pratt & Whitney machinists end 3-week strike

Associated Press

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — About 3,000 machinists at jet engine-maker Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut approved a new four-year contract Tuesday, ending a three-week strike over wages, job security and other issues.

Union members were expected to return to work Wednesday after 74% of them voted in favor of the new deal, according to locals 1746 and 700 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Pratt & Whitney, a subsidiary of Arlington, Va.-based RTX Corp., makes engines for commercial and military jets, including the GTF line for Airbus commercial jets and the F-35 Lightning II fighter aircraft fleet.

The union said the new contract, which runs to May 2029, guarantees continued operations at the company's East Hartford and Middletown plants through 2029. It also includes a 6% wage increase the first year, followed by

raises of 3.5% in 2026 and 3% in both 2027 and 2028. Retirement benefits also were improved, the union said.

"This agreement includes real gains for our members and proves what we can accomplish when we stick together," Wayne McCarthy, president of Local 700, said in a statement.

Union members began picketing in East Hartford and Middletown on May 5, after about 77% of union members voted to approve their first strike since 2001.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (May 29)	0.86	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound (May 29)	\$1.32	Britain (Pound)	1.3468
Japanese yen (May 29)	139.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.3829
South Korean won (May 29)	1340.00	China (Yuan)	7.2043
		Denmark (Krone)	6.5941
		Egypt (Pound)	49.7884
		Euro	0.8841
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8381
		Hungary (Forint)	356.57
		Israel (Shekel)	3.5203
		Japan (Yen)	144.95
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3071
		Norway (Krone)	10.1729
		Philippines (Peso)	55.53
		Poland (Zloty)	3.75
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.2894
		South Korea (Won)	1376.46
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8279		
Thailand (Baht)	32.73		
Turkey (NewLira)	39.0778		

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

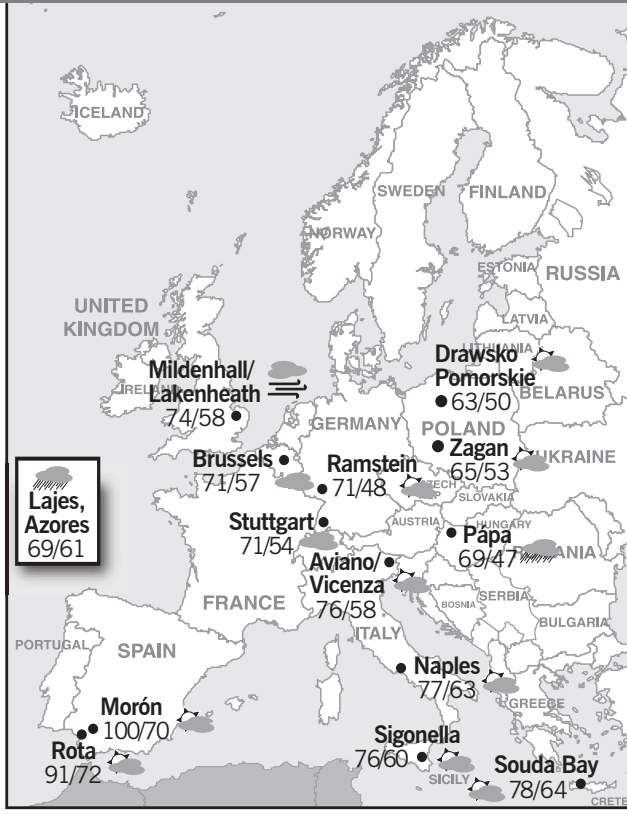
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Federal funds market rate	4.38
3-month bill	4.35
30-year bond	4.95

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



This weather is compiled from weather.com reports.

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MILITARY

Rear admiral fired following Navy IG probe

By CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A rear admiral was fired Tuesday after the Navy's inspector general substantiated a complaint lodged against the senior leader, the service said.

Rear Adm. Kevin Smith, the Navy's executive officer for its unmanned and small combatants program, was relieved of his duties due to a loss of confidence based on a complaint substantiated by an Office of the Naval Inspector General investigation.

The Navy did not respond to a request for additional informa-



Smith

tion, including what the nature of the complaint was or when the complaint was filed. The U.S. military routinely cites only a vague "loss of confidence" when removing commanders and other leaders from positions of authority.

"The Navy maintains the highest standards for leaders and holds them accountable when those standards are not met," the service said in a statement.

Smith was promoted to rear admiral in 2023 and was assigned as the executive officer for the Navy's unmanned and small combatants program. The program falls under the Navy's acquisition department and authorizes the design, development, build, maintenance and modernization of unmanned maritime systems, mine warfare systems, special warfare systems, expeditionary warfare systems and small surface combatants.

Smith was relieved by Brett Seidle, the acting assistant secretary of the Navy for research, develop-

ment and acquisition. Melissa Kirkendall, executive director for the program, assumed temporary responsibilities. Smith was temporarily reassigned to the staff of Naval Sea Systems Command.

Smith has served on ship development teams multiple times throughout his career. He was a lead systems engineer and later a deputy program manager at the Dahlgren Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center. Smith also served as a test officer for the supervisor of shipbuilding, where he was responsible for combat system installation, activation, in-

tegration, test and trials for five new destroyers.

Smith has also served within the executive office for the Zumwalt-class destroyers and Constellation-class frigates. He was involved in the installation, test, trials, acceptance and delivery of the first two Aegis ashore missile defense systems planned for Romania and Poland.

Smith's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit award, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Open letter warns DODEA job cuts will harm children

By BRIAN McELHINEY
Stars and Stripes

A group of current and former educators and parents has authored a sharply worded open letter warning of "troubling" staff reductions at Pentagon-run schools that they say will harm education quality for thousands of military-connected children.

Titled "An Urgent Open Letter to Parents of DoDEA Students," the document alleges that special education assessors and educational technologists are being eliminated at Department of Defense Education Activity schools worldwide.

"This is unacceptable for a system tasked with delivering excellence for military families," says the letter, a copy of which was provided to Stars and Stripes by a DODEA employee in Japan who requested anonymity out of fear of retaliation.

The employee is among about 20 teachers, administrators and parents behind the letter who also wish to remain anonymous. The group includes at least two special education assessors and one educational technologist who were informed via email late last week that their positions are being cut, the employee said.

DODEA operates 161 schools worldwide for more than 65,000 children of U.S. service members and DOD civilians, according to its website. Its mission is to provide an education "comparable to that of high-performing public school systems" — a standard the letter says is now under threat.

More than 100 educational technologists

are affected, the employee said. These staffers are responsible for managing student computer accounts, assisting teachers with platforms like Google Classroom, and supporting database development and research.

"Every student has a computer," the employee said. "[These technologists] are vital to the operation of a school."

The employee also said each military installation with DODEA schools has at least four special education assessors, all of whom are being let go. They provide assessments in areas such as speech, reading and math.

"Without them, students with special needs will lose vital support, jeopardizing their academic and personal growth," the letter says.

The letter follows a report released by the Government Accountability Office in April that found high turnover among special education personnel had led to significant delays in the delivery of those services at 44 of DODEA's 114 overseas schools during the 2022-23 school year.

One office assistant position at each school is also being eliminated, according to the employee, who called the cuts an "absolute shock."

Termination emails offered options such as early retirement, retirement with incentive pay, or possible reassignment based on certification, according to the employee.

DODEA-Pacific spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson referred questions Tuesday to



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Department of Defense Education Activity operates 161 schools for more than 65,000 children of U.S. service members and DOD civilians, according to its website.

DODEA-Europe spokeswoman Jessica Tackaberry, who had not responded to an email query as of Wednesday evening in Japan.

The letter also accuses DODEA leadership of making decisions "under the cover of darkness," citing previous actions such as the elimination of middle school sports programs as evidence of a trend toward reducing student services without parental input.

The authors say DODEA interpreted a DOD workforce reduction directive in a way that disproportionately impacts schools, even though the guidance was not intended to affect student-facing services.

"We believe these cuts prioritize the job security of Headquarters and Regional Leaders over the needs of our students," the letter says.

The authors urged parents to contact school administrators, district officials, congressional representatives and DOD leaders. The letter suggests questions for families to ask, such as how eliminated services will be replaced and why parents were not consulted.

The employee also called on parents to elevate concerns through their chains of command.

"We are absolutely fed up," the employee said. "This is a call to arms, per se."

DOD support for military families' use of homeschooling under review

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department will review the feasibility of giving military families that homeschool their children greater access to on-base facilities and educational resources.

A directive issued Tuesday by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth builds on a January executive order focused on "expanding educational freedom."

The executive order called for the Pentagon to assess whether military-connected families can use DOD funds to attend schools of their choice, including private, faith-based or public charter schools.

Hegseth said an additional review is necessary to assess levels of homeschooling support available to military families worldwide.

Hegseth's order directed DOD's office of personnel and readiness to

conduct a departmentwide review of its current support for homeschooling families and identify best practices, including "the feasibility of providing facilities or access to other resources for those students."

Homeschooling is popular among military families, who relocate much more often than their civilian counterparts. For some, it provides educational stability amid frequent moves.

A March report by the School of

Education at Johns Hopkins University found that active-duty military families homeschool their children at double the rate of civilian families.

In 2023-24, the rate was 12% for the former and around 6% for the latter, the report said.

"Frequent moves or family separation are driving factors in choosing homeschooling to stabilize and prioritize their family life," the report said.

While Department of Defense Education Activity schools are generally regarded as better than most public schools, "the threat of frequent moves may offset the potential benefit of schools on military bases for some families," the report said.

The review is intended to strengthen military families and improve their quality of life, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in the statement.

MILITARY

Hegseth says Poland 'leading the way'

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is calling for closer U.S. ties with Poland, praising its military investment and leadership on NATO's eastern flank amid a Pentagon review that could reshape how American troops are deployed across Europe.

Poland is "leading the way" on military spending, Hegseth said Tuesday during a meeting with Polish Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz at the Pentagon, citing the country's push to build Europe's largest land army.

The discussions also come ahead of a NATO defense ministers meeting next week followed by a June summit of leaders in The Hague, where defense spending will be at the top of the agenda.

"We don't have to encourage Poland," Hegseth said in reference to Warsaw's commitment to spending 5% of its gross domestic product on defense.

The two countries share a common approach to military matters and defense spending, he added.

Kosiniak-Kamysz said Poland supports President Donald Trump's push to get allies to agree on a plan to increase NATO's defense spending benchmark from 2% of GDP to 5%.



KEVIN WOLF/AP

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth welcomes Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz to the Pentagon on Tuesday.

"I'm also certain that it was necessary to send Europe a strong message, a strong signal for burden sharing within NATO, recognizing that Europe must take greater responsibility for its own defense," Kosiniak-Kamysz said.

During the NATO summit, which Trump will attend, allies al-

so are anticipating more information about the future of the American military mission in Europe.

When Hegseth took the Pentagon reins in January, he launched a force posture review to assess U.S. troop levels overseas.

The review aligns with Trump administration calls for Europe to

take over most defense responsibilities in Europe.

That has raised questions about the future of the roughly 80,000 U.S. troops currently stationed in Europe, with some allies bracing for possible reductions.

Hegseth hasn't indicated which countries are most likely to be tar-

geted for troop cuts. During Trump's first term, Germany was singled out for a 12,000-troop reduction, but those plans never came to fruition.

Trump has often been at odds with Germany on defense issues over the years given Berlin's long track record of underinvesting in defense.

Friedrich Merz, the new German chancellor, has pledged to spend significantly more on defense. And during a NATO meeting earlier this month, German officials said they're on board with Trump's call for upping military expenditures to 5% of GDP.

Poland, in contrast, has been held in high regard by the current White House. About 8,000 U.S. troops are stationed in the country, most on a rotational basis.

In February, Hegseth visited Poland during his first trip to Europe as defense secretary, calling it a deliberate choice for the administration's initial bilateral meeting.

On Tuesday, Hegseth told Kosiniak-Kamysz that Poland's approach aligns with Trump's.

"You apply combat-credible forces and a willingness to defend your own homeland and a recognition of defense of your borders," he said.

Top sailor tapped as top senior enlisted adviser

By CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Indo-Pacific Command's top sailor and a SEAL was tapped to serve as the armed forces' most senior enlisted service member, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

Fleet Master Chief David Isom was selected as the next senior enlisted adviser to Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the nation's highest-ranking military officer. Isom now serves as the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's senior enlisted leader, a position he has held since June 30, 2022.

As an adviser to Caine, Isom will represent the enlisted force by providing military advice and improving communication between enlisted members and the chairman, helping to ensure that the perspectives of enlisted troops are represented at the highest levels.

Isom will be the first sailor to hold the position. He will replace Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Troy Black, who was appointed to the position in November 2023. Black will retire June 20.

Isom served previously as the senior enlisted leader for Special



U.S. NAVY

Fleet Master Chief David Isom

Operations Commands for the Pacific and Northern Command. He was also the command master chief of Naval Special Warfare Group 10 and Special Reconnaissance Team 2.

Isom enlisted in the Navy in 1987. Upon completing basic training, he reported to the USS Mauna Kea, an ammunition replenishment ship. Isom was later assigned to USS Mount Hood, another ammunition replenishment ship, prior to being selected to attend Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training.

Stars and Stripes reporter Matthew Adams contributed to this report.

Tricare might be vastly overpaying for some medical procedures, IG probe finds

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Inconsistencies between states could have cost U.S. taxpayers and Tricare beneficiaries millions of dollars in excessive payments for some medical procedures and devices, a watchdog report has found.

The cost of certain medical procedures and devices varied greatly from state to state, according to a Pentagon inspector general audit published May 1.

That probe found Tricare — the military's Defense Health Agency-run medical insurance provider that covers some 9.5 million troops, veterans and their family members — paid out thousands of dollars more for similar procedures and medical devices in some states versus others.

The report found inconsistent DHA policies governing the amount of money that Tricare pays for medical care across the U.S.

In one instance, the IG found Tricare was paying some \$11,500 for custom sleep apnea mouthguards in Illinois that were costing it about \$3,000 in neighboring Iowa.

The payment discrepancy came

about because Tricare, which is split into two regions in the U.S. with Illinois in its east section and Iowa in its west, uses contractors to establish a basic pay rate, known as a prevailing rate, for standard procedures and devices based on the amounts that providers in those states had charged Tricare for those offerings in the past.

The state's prevailing rate is then set at the 80th percentile of all those charges.

The IG found there were no efforts to ensure payment rates were more consistent from one state to another.

The auditors recommended that the Defense Health Agency officials reevaluate its payment methodology and ensure payment rates are not based on fraudulent or unreasonable rates charged in the past.

"Because the DHA did not determine that the state prevailing rates were reasonable, the [Defense Department] is at risk of wasteful spending and increasing DOD beneficiaries' risk of unreasonable cost-shares for health care services and items that are paid with state prevailing rates," the report states.

The probe also found Tricare might have been overpaying for some more rare procedures that do not have a set reimbursement rate.

In fiscal 2023, Tricare paid some \$183.3 million for 184 of those "miscellaneous procedure costs."

The IG found in some cases Tricare might have paid greatly inflated rental rates for medical equipment in that miscellaneous category.

In one Tricare East case, the organization paid about \$5,000 per month to rent a compression device for a beneficiary, meanwhile another supplier advertised renting the exact same device for only \$675 per month.

Still another supplier advertised it sold a different model of a similar device for \$409.50, according to the report.

The IG said despite the discrepancies, recent changes to Tricare policies have led to lowered costs for the organization since their implementation in 2021.

The IG report said Defense Health Agency officials agreed with their findings and committed to implementing their recommendations.

PACIFIC

Hegseth to visit Singapore for defense talks

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth will attend the annual Shangri-La Dialogue this week in Singapore, where he is scheduled to deliver a speech and meet with defense leaders from across Southeast Asia, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

The three-day security summit, beginning Friday at the Shangri-La Hotel, will host more than 550 delegates from 40 countries. It is considered the region's premier platform for defense diplomacy.

Hegseth is slated to speak Saturday morning, when he is expected to emphasize the theme of "peace through strength" — a central message of his March trip to

the Indo-Pacific, his first as defense secretary.

In recent years, defense officials from the United States and China have used the Shangri-La Dialogue to lay out competing visions of a security order in the Indo-Pacific.

However, Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun has not been confirmed as attending this year's gathering.

Last year, he and then-Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin wrangled over Beijing's large-scale military maneuvers around Taiwan and its aggressive patrolling in the South China Sea.

Jun characterized Washington as an outsider poking its nose into the affairs of Pacific nations, while

the U.S. and its allies pushed back on what they described as Chinese coercion.

In last year's keynote address, Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. slammed China for "illegal, coercive, aggressive and deceptive actions" that violated his country's sovereignty.

French President Emmanuel Macron will deliver this year's keynote speech Friday evening, according to the summit agenda.

France has longstanding ties to the Indo-Pacific through overseas territories such as New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna and regularly conducts military exercises in the region with U.S., Japanese, South Korean and Australian forces.

On Saturday afternoon, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will give a special address.

Hegseth will hold bilateral meetings with newly appointed Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and other senior leaders, the Pentagon said in a news release.

He is also expected to participate in several multinational meetings with defense officials from key regional partners.

During his spring trip to Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines and Japan, Hegseth sought to reassure allies and partner nations in the region that the U.S. will continue to play a leading role in the region — despite the president's go-it-alone precept.

"President Donald Trump has made it clear that we will achieve peace through strength, through an America First approach," Hegseth said in a March 25 speech in Honolulu.

"But America First does not mean America only or America alone, ignoring allies and partners," he said. "It means that our military-to-military relationships must make sense for the United States and for our friends."

In that same speech, however, Hegseth hinted at the administration's intent to "right-size the obligations and responsibilities needed for modern deterrence and defense" in the Pacific.

"Where there are imbalances, we will fix them," he said.

US, South Korean troops team up for training near DMZ

By TREVARES JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

POCHEON, South Korea — U.S. and South Korean troops recently held joint live-fire drills near the North Korean border, aiming to sharpen up their combat readiness as tensions continue to heighten on the long-troubled peninsula.

American and Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, or KATUSA, soldiers trained together at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, May 20-22.

Mixed squads — part of Theater Air Naval Ground Operations, or TANGO, security force — moved through the day-to-night exercises under live-fire conditions, simulating battlefield scenarios designed to build trust and coordination.

Their weapons included M4 carbines, M320 grenade launchers and M249 machine guns.

"We're training all the time," U.S. Army Capt. Moses Sun, commander of the 72-soldier security force, told Stars and Stripes during the training.

"We've developed standard operating procedures internally to be able to operate outside of the limited language barrier," he added.

The force, stationed at K-16 Air Base in Seongnam, is a combined light infantry company that works to provide security for Command Post TANGO, a facility for the Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, during armistice and times of active hostilities.

Yun Mo Koo, the unit's first KA-

TUSA team leader, called the training a turning point for unit cohesion.

"My team has grown to trust me," Yun said.

"I'm commanding my team during field operations and we're performing great. I'm confident in our abilities and the training we're getting," he said.

The drills followed a simulated North Korean nuclear counterstrike conducted earlier in May and the impeachment of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol following an attempt to impose martial law, events that have added new volatility to the region.

Roughly 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as part of a longstanding defense alliance aimed at deterring aggression on the peninsula.



TREVARES JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

American and Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, or KATUSA, soldiers train together at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in Pocheon, South Korea, earlier this month.

S. Korean candidates debate Trump's defense cost demands

By DAVID CHOI
AND YOJIN LEE
Stars and Stripes

South Korea's top presidential candidates offered differing approaches to President Donald Trump's demands on defense cost-sharing during their final televised debate ahead of next week's election.

The two-hour debate Tuesday in Seoul featured Lee Jae-myung of the liberal Democratic Party; Kim Moon-soo of the conservative People Power Party; Kwon Young-kook of the progressive Democratic Labor Party; and Lee Jun-seok of the neo-conservative New Reform Party.

The candidates were given a chance to question one another on topics of their choice, with 30 seconds allotted for responses and rebuttals.

Kwon pressed Kim on whether he would agree to Trump's calls



LEE JAE-MYUNG /

South Korean presidential candidates, from left, Lee Jae-myung of the Democratic Party; Kwon Young-kook of the Democratic Labor Party; Kim Moon-soo of the People Power Party; and Lee Jun-seok of the New Reform Party pose after their televised debate Tuesday.

for South Korea to pay more for U.S. military support.

"If Trump asks for an increase, can you accept it?" he asked.

Kim said it was possible for Seoul to boost its contribution and offset the cost by having South Ko-

rean companies help build U.S. submarines.

South Korean defense firm Hanwha Ocean completed its first major repair service of an American naval vessel, the dry cargo ship USNS Wally Schirra, for an

unspecified amount in March.

Trump has repeatedly criticized Seoul for what he considers insufficient contributions toward the 28,500 American troops stationed in South Korea.

The American troops work to help deter threats from North Korea.

Under the cost-sharing agreement signed in November during President Joe Biden's administration, South Korea will pay \$1.2 billion annually beginning in 2026.

Kim said he would work to assure Trump that the U.S.-South Korea alliance is rooted in shared strategic interests.

"I will certainly give [Trump] the assurance about various contributions we can offer each other, beyond receiving some chump change," he said.

Lee Jun-seok, a Harvard-educated former leader of South Korea's main conservative party, of-

fered a similar view on defense funding.

Rather than directly increasing Seoul's financial contribution, he proposed the establishment of a joint logistics facility to manufacture artillery shells for the U.S. stockpile.

The U.S. has struggled to replenish munitions due to weapons shipments to Ukraine.

Then-National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said in December that Ukraine used a year's worth of 155 mm shells produced by the U.S. during the first eight weeks of the war.

A Realmeter poll of 1,003 eligible voters conducted over two days starting Monday showed Lee Jae-myung leading with 49.2% support, followed by Kim with 36.8%, Lee Jun-seok with 10.3%, and Kwon with 0.7%.

The poll had a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

MILITARY

LCS arrives in Bahrain to replace minehunter

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

The littoral combat ship USS Canberra arrived at the U.S. naval base in Bahrain last week, the first of four new vessels expected to replace aging mine countermeasures ships in the Middle East, according to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

The older Avenger-class ships, which have operated in the region for decades, feature fiberglass-covered wooden hulls that the Navy says have become increasingly expensive to maintain.

The last three Avenger-class ships, purchased in 1990, are capable of finding, classifying and destroying moored and bottom mines. Wooden hulls were used primarily to reduce the ship's magnetic signature, a key safety feature in mine countermeasure operations.

The littoral combat ship's mine-hunting module was once scheduled to reach initial operating capability in 2015, but reliability issues delayed that until 2023, forcing the Navy to continue deploying the older minehunters.

USS Canberra, which left San Diego for Bahrain on its maiden deployment in March, moves at a top speed of about 46 mph, while the Avenger-class ships top out at about 16 mph.



CHRISTOPHER J KRUCKE/U.S. Navy

Cmdr. Bill Golden, commanding officer of the littoral combat ship USS Canberra's blue crew, gives a tour on Monday to a Bahraini military delegation in Manama, Bahrain.

Canberra also comes equipped with unmanned maritime sensors designed to locate and destroy mines at a greater distance.

Canberra is conducting routine operations as part of its scheduled deployment. It eventually will be permanently stationed in Bahrain

along with three more littoral combat ships, Navy officials told Stars and Stripes.

Canberra was welcomed with a ceremony Monday that included Bahraini defense officials, U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Steven Bondy and NAVCENT command-

er Vice Adm. George Wikoff.

It is the first Independence-class littoral combat ship to be deployed to the region, NAVCENT said.

The Independence-class LCS is a trimaran with a larger flight deck than its counterpart, the sin-



FACEBOOK/U.S. Central Command

The USS Canberra operates in the Persian Gulf on May 23.

gle-hulled Freedom variant. Canberra also has room for two helicopters or multiple drones, according to manufacturer Austal USA.

Cmdr. Bill Golden, commander of Canberra's blue crew, previously served aboard a mine countermeasures ship deployed to Bahrain. He said that "to see the differences between that platform and what Canberra offers is incredible."

Since launching the LCS program in 2002, the Navy has received 35 vessels, with two more scheduled to be delivered.

The future USS Cleveland, a Freedom variant, and USS Pierre, an Independence variant, are under construction and expected to be commissioned later this fall.

Terrorism threat prompts US to raise alert level for Italy

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Americans in Italy this summer should be more alert at tourist sites and other public venues because of the risk of terrorism, the State Department said in raising its threat assessment for the country.

A level 2 travel advisory was issued by the agency last week for Italy, which had been at level 1 along with many other European countries.

That warning also applies to

churches, shopping centers, hotels, government buildings, sports arenas and other potential targets, the agency said in the Friday update to the country's travel alert.

It wasn't immediately clear why the alert for Italy was raised. A bump to level 2 also occurred last fall, news site The Local reported Monday.

Last summer, U.S. military bases in Italy and elsewhere in Europe briefly were put on heightened alert. There are more than 12,000 U.S. service members sta-

tioned in the country.

The U.S. rates countries worldwide for travel safety from 1, meaning "use normal precautions," to 4, or "do not travel." Level 2 means "exercise increased caution."

Those assessments are periodically reviewed and updated when conditions substantially change, according to the State Department website. Other European countries that are now at level 2 include the U.K., France, Germany and Spain.

Italy is expecting a sizable increase in tourists this year due in part to Jubilee 2025, a Vatican celebration that occurs every 25 years.

Some 35 million tourists are expected to visit Rome over the year, according to Italy's National Institute for Tourism Research.

There were no reported terrorist incidents in Italy in 2023, according to the State Department website, which did not list data for 2024.

But the country "aggressively

investigated and prosecuted domestic terrorist suspects and regularly deported foreign nationals for terrorism-related security reasons" in 2023, the website said.

On Monday, Perugia police arrested a 24-year-old Italian man on suspicion of accessing jihadist websites and downloading thousands of files related to the construction of weapons and explosive devices. Italian authorities worked with the FBI to identify the suspect, Italian news agency Ansa reported.

Live-fire training sparks blaze at Marine Corps range on Okinawa

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

A fire sparked by live-fire training scorched more than 215,000 square feet at a Marine Corps rifle range in northern Okinawa, marking the second such blaze in as many months, according to U.S. military and Japanese officials.

The fire began around 10:25 a.m. Friday on Range 2 at Camp Hansen during routine training, Marine Corps Installations Pacific

spokeswoman 1st Lt. Kelsey Enlow said in an email Wednesday. No injuries or damage were reported.

The blaze extinguished itself within 90 minutes, Enlow said. Base firefighters monitored the situation to ensure it did not spread outside the range.

A spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau, speaking by phone Tuesday, confirmed the extent of the fire, which matched the scale of a similar incident at the

same range on April 4.

That fire also burned approximately 215,000 square feet and was extinguished by the following morning.

"These types of fires are not uncommon on ranges," the command said at the time. "There are ample measures in place to ensure that they are contained and put out. Safety is always our top concern, and we are exceptionally careful during live-fire ranges and their clean ups."

N. Korea: 'Golden Dome' plan reeks of 'arrogance'

The Washington Post

SEOUL - North Korea blasted President Donald Trump's plans for a defense shield designed to track and intercept missiles, calling it a "very dangerous" and "threatening" move that could be used for offensive purposes.

The U.S. plan is "a typical product of 'America first,' the height of self-righteousness, arrogance, high-handed and arbitrary practice," the Foreign Ministry's Institute for American Studies said, according to the state-run Korean

Central News Agency. It raises security risks under the guise of a defense system, the Pyongyang-based institute reportedly said.

Trump announced last week that his administration would proceed with a multibillion-dollar "Golden Dome" missile defense system that would use a constellation of satellites and space-based weapons to intercept attacks.

It could be operational within three years, before the end of his second term, Trump said in the Oval Office when announcing it.

MILITARY

Return: Caisson program redesigned after health issues

FROM PAGE 1

but I am confident we will carry out the mission flawlessly,” said Staff Sgt. Alex Horta, a squad leader in the caisson detachment.

In May 2023, the Army canceled the iconic horse-drawn caissons, after an internal investigation revealed poor living conditions for the animals, malnourishment and a lack of open space for the herd, according to Maj. Gen. Trevor Bredenkamp, commander of the Army Military District of Washington.

Horses had been confined to small lots littered with debris and manure. They were fed low-quality hay, and some ingested sand and gravel.

“Caisson-pulling military horses were dying in 2022 because of the Army’s failure to provide proper food, veterinary care, pastureland and stables for the herd,” said Rep. Morgan Luttrell, a Texas Republican and Navy veteran who grew up on a horse ranch.

“Our caisson platoon should be the most elite organization of its kind on the planet,” Luttrell said.

Before the pause, some of the horses were working 45 days straight although they were supposed to get two weeks of rest after 14 days of work, the Defense Department said.

Formalized more than 75 years ago, the tradition of horse-drawn funeral processions is “one of the most iconic pieces of U.S. military history, serving as the mounted escort to our nation’s fallen,” according to the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington.

In April, the Army announced plans to resume the caisson program after redesigning it. “After careful consideration and coordination, we are pleased to reintegrate the caisson conveyance into funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery, a solemn and revered tradition,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries.

When service resumes, horse-drawn processions will be limited to service members killed in action, Medal of Honor or Prisoner of War Medal recipients, senior noncommissioned officers (E-9), senior warrant officers (CW-5) and senior commissioned officers (O-6 and above).

In December, Congress passed the Honoring Our Heroes with Dignity Act as part of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, which included funds to update historic stables at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. The legislation also mandated standardized training and certification for riders.

“Training has also shifted from impromptu methods to a structured pipeline,” the Defense De-



PHOTOS BY ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

The 3rd US Infantry Regiment trains horses on May 13 in Arlington, Va., as they leave Arlington National Cemetery. The Percheron-breed horses, used to pull military caissons during funerals at Arlington, are stabled next door to the cemetery at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.



Sgt. Daimien Copeland cleans around a horseshoe on May 13 in Arlington, Va. Regular hoof cleaning is part of proper grooming and care. It’s a fundamental routine in horse management and reinforces handling and trust between horse and rider.

partment said.

Caisson soldiers must have about 20 weeks of training, beginning with basic rider instruction to advanced training in Ocala, Fla., before they assume their roles within the unit. Before the pause, training lasted for about eight weeks, Strickland said.

“The chance to work with the horses every day and the honor of escorting our nation’s fallen to their final resting place with them had me intrigued, so I decided to try out,” said Sgt. Damien Copeland, who joined the Army in March 2022 and was assigned to the caisson program after basic

training. “Less than 12 of us made it through to make it into the basic horsemanship training program to have the chance of graduating and working with the horses.”

Renovations underway at the stables include increasing stall size, enhancing the footing in and around the stalls with rubberized pavers, improving the ventilation system and rebuilding paddocks.

From the caissons to the saddles, aging and worn-out equipment has been replaced. A new caisson, designed by the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, uses modern materials to reduce the wagon’s



Staff Sgt. Alexis Horta walks past Lance, a Percheron-breed horse, on May 13. All Caisson Detachment soldiers attended a rigorous 12-week basic horsemanship course in addition to the six-week immersion training in Ocala, Fla.

weight by more than 1,000 pounds, the Army said. Earlier versions of the wagon weighed 1½ tons.

The herd size is about 50 horses, and the Army is looking to procure additional horses to build more squads, Strickland said.

Many of the horses are Percheron, a breed with a large frame and calm temperament. Each squad consists of 11 horses — seven horses for the team and four that serve in a backup capacity, he said.

The program previously had about 60 horses. About 50 were retired to farms across the country, Strickland said.

“Those that served 10 years or more or that were over a certain age were retired,” he said.

The horses live and train at the Nova Equestrian Center in Loudon County, Va. The quarters provide the space and training facilities necessary to keep the herd healthy and fit, Strickland said.

Squads rotate to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Virginia for specialized training then return to the 50-acre equestrian center, where there is grazing land.

“Going forward the squads will have a dedicated work-to-rest cy-

SEE RETURN ON PAGE 8

MILITARY

Return: Army hails redesigned program

FROM PAGE 7

cle where we will stable the horses here on Fort Myer for two weeks with a two-week period at the [equestrian center] for rest and reconditioning," Strickland said.

Army officials said they consulted with world-class equine experts as they rebuilt the program over the past two years.

They included David O'Connor, an Olympic equestrian; Chester Weber, an equestrian athlete with a background in horse driving teams; and Jim Westbrook, who has extensive experience as a trainer in horse-driving competitions.

"The caisson detachment maintains a support staff and command team reporting directly to the regimental commander, supplemented by civilian trainers and veterinary professionals," the Army said.

Horta, who joined the caisson program in 2024, said he settles for nothing less than perfect execution for himself and the caisson detachment he leads with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment.

"We get to do our mission every single day. The biggest difference is that we have to get it right every time. Every family deserves a perfect ceremony, and that's what we try to provide," said Horta, who has served in the Army since 2017 with deployments to Germany, Poland and South Korea.

With a greater emphasis on training and education, the Army is reexamining rotations so service members don't have to exit the program after achieving proficiency.

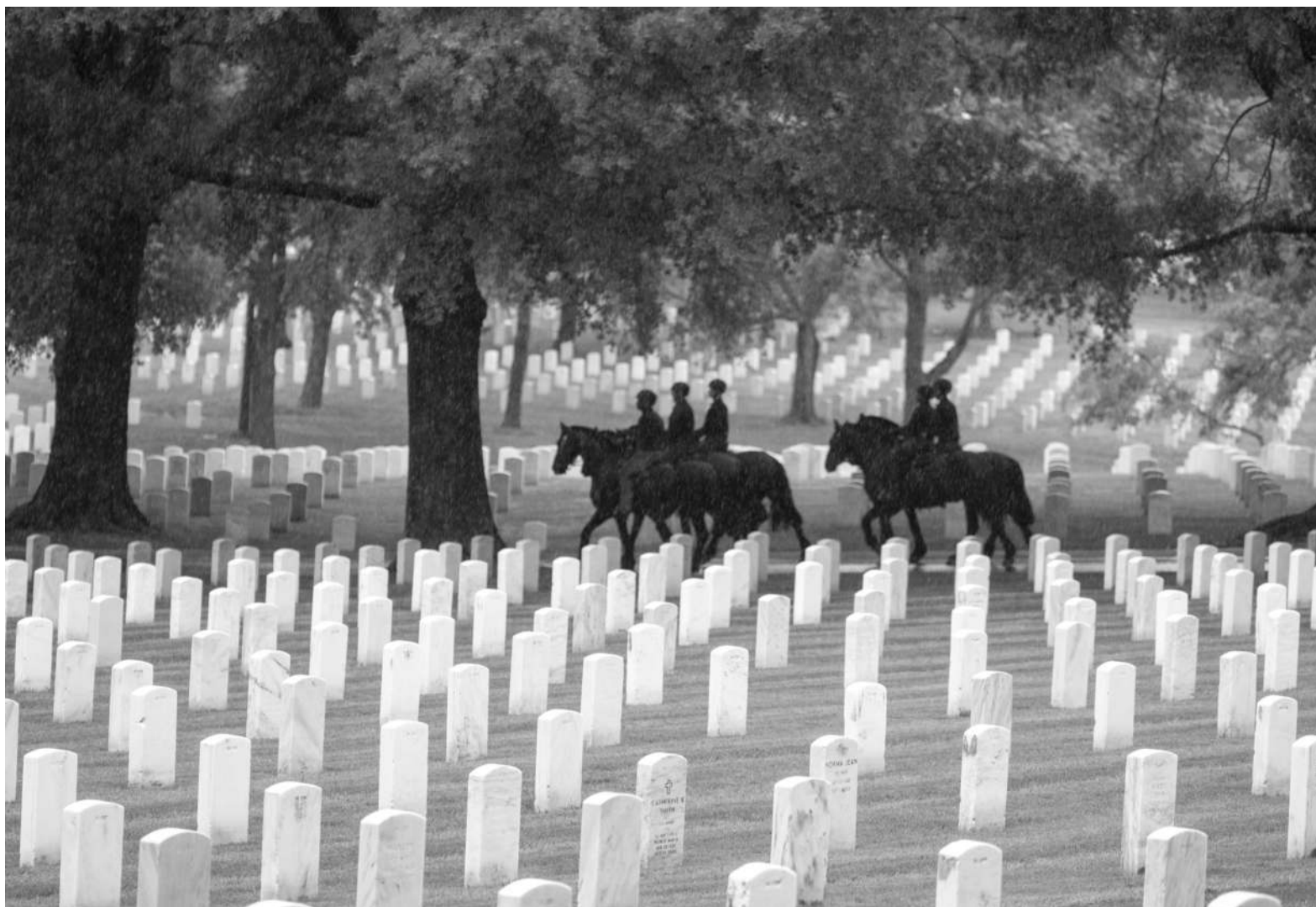
"There is no formal length of time a soldier serves in the caisson detachment, but we are actively pursuing options to retain soldiers longer," Strickland said.

One of the first things Horta said he learned after joining the caisson detachment was the importance of predictability, routine and a calm presence for horses and the riders.

"After spending eight years in the Army, I was very accustomed to saying commands a certain way. Here, it's completely different. Most of the commands are subtle hand gestures and head nods," Horta said.

Sgt. Natalee Silva said maintaining "ceremonial composure" is critical to the role.

"Being a part of this regiment teaches a lot of discipline and attention to detail," said Silva, who joined the Arizona National Guard



PHOTOS BY ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

The 3rd US Infantry Regiment trains horses May 13 at Arlington National Cemetery. The training ride lasted about an hour and a half during a steady rain. Trainers noted that horses generally enjoy rainfall.



Pfc. Joshua Allen attaches a bridle onto Cincinnati. A bridle is used for control and communication with the horse.

as a truck driver and later served on the border with Mexico.

"I signed a new contract to become an infantryman shortly after I left the border mission and went active duty. After going through OSUT I was stationed here at Fort Myer," Silva said, referring to One Station Unit Training, which is 22 weeks of training for recruits at a single base. She tried out for the caisson program in 2023.

Mornings start just after dawn for the caisson detachment. Responsibilities include general care for the horses, cleaning and maintenance of equipment and other requirements in and around the barn.

"From Day 1 we are taught everything that it takes to care for and work with the military horses," Copeland said. "Our basic

horsemanship training taught us about groundwork, proper riding, the caisson mission and understanding the feel of the horses and their mannerisms."

Although several of the caisson soldiers have prior experience handling horses, it was not an initial requirement, Strickland said.

"My grandfather owns a ranch, and my father was a team roper growing up so I was sometimes around horses as a kid," Silva said.

"When I was 12, my family bought a small plot of land in north Texas," Horta said. "That's where my passion for horses began. Shortly after that, I spent every day after school in the saddle, riding my own horses and helping neighbors condition theirs."

The Army acknowledged the achievement of transforming the



Horta cleans the stall of Kennedy. Caisson detachment soldiers clean the stalls every morning beginning at 6:30am.

program over two years.

"A 77-year legacy was reformed and revitalized. This brought forward a tradition of honoring American service members in line with modern science, and creating programs, partnerships and practices that would allow caisson to sustain itself well into the future," the Army said in a formal statement.

Horta has been in the process of reviewing the horses and riders in

their various positions, a final step in preparation for the official return to Arlington National Cemetery.

"We prioritize our horses," Horta said. "My team and I ensure we maintain a safe and habitable environment fit for the horses to feel comfortable. We coordinate training with other platoons on base to prepare ourselves and the horses for highly prestigious missions and honoring our nation's fallen."

NATION

Musk critical of Trump legislation

Tesla CEO calls 'Big, Beautiful, Bill' a fracture in key relationship

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elon Musk is criticizing the centerpiece of President Donald Trump's legislative agenda, a significant fracture in a partnership that was forged during last year's campaign and was poised to reshape American politics and the federal government.

The billionaire entrepreneur, who supported Trump's candidacy with at least \$250 million and has worked for his administration as a senior adviser, said he was "disappointed" by what the president calls his "big beautiful bill."

The legislation includes a mix of tax cuts and enhanced immigration enforcement. While speaking to CBS, Musk described it as a "massive spending bill" that increases the federal deficit and "undermines the work" of his Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE.

"I think a bill can be big or it could be beautiful," Musk said. "But I don't know if it could be both."

His CBS interview came out Tuesday night. White House officials did not immediately respond to questions. Republicans recently pushed the legislation through the House and are debating it in the Senate.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Elon Musk flashes his DOGE T-shirt to the media as he walks on the South Lawn of the White House on March 9.

Musk's comments come as he steps back from his government work, rededicating himself to companies like the electric automaker Tesla and rocket manufacturer SpaceX. He's also said he'll reduce his political spending, because "I think I've done enough."

At times, he's seemed chastened by his experience working in government. Although he hoped that DOGE would generate \$1 trillion in spending cuts, he's fallen far short of that target.

"The federal bureaucracy situation is much worse than I real-

ized," he told The Washington Post. "I thought there were problems, but it sure is an uphill battle trying to improve things in D.C., to say the least."

Musk had previously been effusive about the opportunity to reshape Washington. He wore campaign hats in the White House, held his own campaign rallies and talked about excessive spending as an existential crisis. He was also effusive in his praise of Trump.

"The more I've gotten to know President Trump, the more I like the guy," Musk said at one point. "Frankly, I love him."

Trump repaid the favor, describing Musk as "a truly great American." When Tesla faced declining sales, he turned the White House driveway into a makeshift showroom to illustrate his support.

It's unclear what, if any, impact that Musk's comments about the bill would have on the legislative debate. During the transition period, he helped whip up opposition to a spending measure as the country stood on the brink of a federal government shutdown.

But Trump remains the dominant figure within the Republican Party, and many lawmakers have been unwilling to cross the president when he applies pressure for his agenda.

Court asked to halt order that delays deportations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court on Tuesday to halt an order allowing migrants to challenge their deportations to South Sudan, an appeal that came hours after the judge suggested the Trump administration was "manufacturing" chaos and said he hoped that "reason can get the better of rhetoric."

Judge Brian Murphy found the White House violated a court order with a deportation flight bound for the chaotic African nation carrying people from other countries who had been convicted of crimes in the U.S. He said those immigrants must get a real chance to raise any fears that being sent there could put them in danger.

The federal government argued that Murphy has stalled its efforts to carry out deportations of migrants who can't be returned to their home countries. Finding countries willing to take them is a "a delicate diplomatic endeavor" and the court requirements are a major setback, Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote in an emergency appeal asking the court to immediately halt his order.

Murphy, for his part, said he had given the Trump administration "remarkable flexibility with minimal oversight" in the case and emphasized the numerous times he attempted to work with the government, according to an order published Monday night.

In a hearing last week called to address reports that eight immigrants had been sent to South Sudan, Murphy said the men hadn't been able to argue that the deportation could put them in danger.

But instead of ordering the government to return the men to the U.S. for hearings — as the plaintiffs wanted — he gave the government the option of holding the hearings in Djibouti, where the plane had flown on its way to South Sudan, as long as the men remained in U.S. custody.

Days later, the Trump administration filed another motion saying that Murphy was requiring them to hold "dangerous criminals in a sensitive location."

"It turns out that having immigration proceedings on another continent is harder and more logistically cumbersome than Defendants anticipated," the Boston-based Murphy wrote.

He noted that the U.S. government "has issued stark warnings regarding South Sudan." He said the men had fewer than 16 hours between being told they were going to be removed and going to the airport.

After back-to-back explosions SpaceX fumbles new launch

Associated Press

After back-to-back explosions, SpaceX launched its mega rocket Starship again on Tuesday evening, but fell short of the main objectives when the spacecraft tumbled out of control and broke apart.

The 403-foot rocket blasted off on its ninth demo from Starbase, SpaceX's launch site at the southern tip of Texas. Residents voted this month to organize as an official city.

CEO Elon Musk's SpaceX hoped to release a series of mock satellites following liftoff, but that got nixed because the door failed to open all the way. Then the spacecraft began spinning as it skimmed space toward an uncontrolled landing in the Indian Ocean.

SpaceX later confirmed that the spacecraft experienced "a rapid unscheduled disassembly," or burst apart. "Teams will continue to review data and work toward our next flight test," the company said in an online statement.

Musk noted in a post on X it was a "big improvement" from the two previous demos, which ended in flaming debris over the Atlantic.

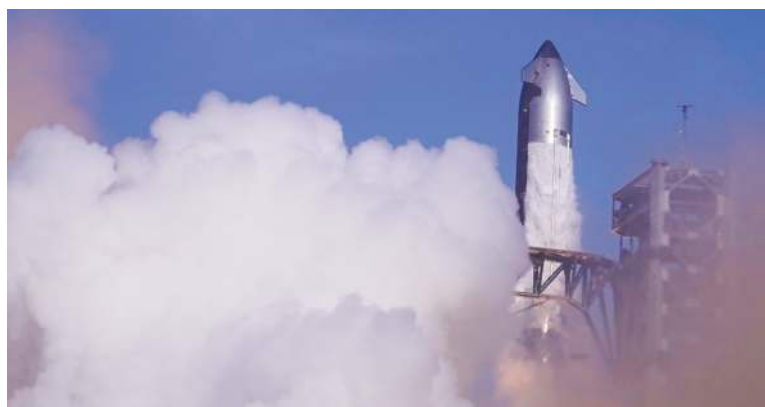
Despite the latest setback, he promised a faster launch pace moving forward, with a Starship soaring every three to four weeks for the next three flights.

It was the first time one of Musk's Starships — intended for moon and Mars travel — flew with a recycled booster. There were no plans to catch the booster with giant chopsticks back at the launch pad, with the company instead pushing it to its limits. Contact with the booster was lost at one point, and it slammed into the Gulf of Mexico in pieces as the spacecraft continued toward the Indian Ocean. Then the spacecraft went out of control, apparently due to fuel leaks.

"Not looking great with a lot of our on-orbit objectives for today," said SpaceX flight commentator Dan Huot. The company had been looking to test the spacecraft's heat shield during a controlled reentry.

Communication ceased before the spacecraft came down, and SpaceX ended its webcast soon afterward.

The previous two Starships never made it past the Caribbean. The demos earlier this year ended just



ERIC GAY/AP

SpaceX's mega rocket Starship in a test flight at Starbase, Texas, on Tuesday. Two earlier flights had failed.

minutes after liftoff, raining wreckage into the ocean. No injuries or serious damage were reported, although airline travel was disrupted. The Federal Aviation Administration last week cleared Starship for another flight, expanding the hazard area and pushing the liftoff outside peak air travel times.

Besides taking corrective action and making upgrades, SpaceX modified the latest spacecraft's thermal tiles and installed special catch fittings. This one was meant to sink in the Indian Ocean, but the

company wanted to test the additions for capturing future versions back at the pad, just like the boosters. NASA needs SpaceX to make major strides over the next year with Starship — the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built — in order to land astronauts back on the moon. Next year's moonshot with four astronauts will fly around the moon, but will not land.

That will happen in 2027 at the earliest and require a Starship to get two astronauts from lunar orbit to the surface and back off again.

NATION



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that he's planning to pardon reality TV couple Julie Chrisley, right, and her husband Todd, left, of fraud and tax evasion convictions.

Trump set to pardon TV's Chrisleys of fraud and tax evasion convictions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that he's planning to pardon TV stars Todd and Julie Chrisley, famous for "Chrisley Knows Best," a reality show that followed their tight-knit family and extravagant lifestyle that prosecutors said was boosted by bank fraud and hiding earnings from tax authorities.

The Chrisleys were convicted in 2022 of conspiring to defraud banks in the Atlanta area out of more than \$30 million in loans by submitting false documents. They were also found guilty of tax evasion, obscuring their earnings while showcasing a luxurious way of living that authorities said included high-priced cars, designer clothes, real estate and travel.

Prosecutors said the couple walked away from their responsibility for repayment when Todd Chrisley declared bankruptcy and left \$20-plus million in unpaid loans. Julie Chrisley was sentenced to seven

years in federal prison, and Todd Chrisley got 12 years behind bars. The couple was also ordered to pay \$17.8 million in restitution.

"Your parents are going to be free and clean and I hope that we can do it by tomorrow," Trump said in a call with their daughter, Savannah Chrisley, according to a video posted online by a White House aide. In a social media post, the aide declared, "Trump Knows Best!"

"They've been given a pretty harsh treatment based on what I'm hearing," the president added a few moments later of the couple.

A White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss decisions that hadn't yet been made public, said the pardons would be forthcoming.

The move continues a pattern of Trump pardoning high-profile friends, supporters, donors and former staffers. On Monday, Trump pardoned Scott Jenkins, a former Virginia sheriff who was sentenced to 10 years in prison after being con-

victed on fraud and bribery charges.

The president has also moved to pardon Paul Walczak, a Florida health care executive imprisoned on tax charges, whose mother helped expose the contents of a diary kept by Ashley Biden, daughter of former President Joe Biden. And, in April, he pardoned Nevada Republican Michele Fiore, who was awaiting sentencing on federal charges that she used money meant for a statue honoring a slain police officer for personal costs, including plastic surgery.

The Chrisleys' attorney, Alex Little, said the pardon "corrects a deep injustice and restores two devoted parents to their family and community."

"President Trump recognized what we've argued from the beginning: Todd and Julie were targeted because of their conservative values and high profile. Their prosecution was tainted by multiple constitutional violations and political bias," Little said in a statement.

Visa interviews for foreign students halted for vetting

BY MATTHEW LEE
AND ANNIE MA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department has halted the scheduling of new visa interviews for foreign students hoping to study in the U.S. while it prepares to expand the screening of their activity on social media, officials said.

A U.S. official said Tuesday the suspension is intended to be temporary and does not apply to applicants who already had scheduled their visa interviews. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an internal administration document.

A cable signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and obtained by The Associated Press says the State Department plans to issue guidance on expanded social media vetting.

"Effective immediately, in preparation for an expansion of required social media screening and vetting, consulate sections should not add any additional student or exchange visitor visa appointment capacity" until the guidance is issued, the cable says.

Asked about the suspension at a briefing Tuesday, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said the U.S. uses every available resource to vet people applying for visas.

"We will continue to use every tool we can to assess who it is that's coming here, whether they are students or otherwise," Bruce said.

The move, first reported by Politico, is the latest in the Trump administration's crackdown on international students.

Last week, the Trump administration revoked Harvard University's ability to enroll international students, removing the college from the program that allows schools to sponsor foreign students for visas. That effort was quickly challenged in court and for now is blocked by a federal judge.

This spring the administration also revoked the legal status of thousands of international students already in the country, leading some to leave the U.S. out of fear of deportation. After many students filed successful legal challenges, the administration said it was restoring the students' legal status. But the government also expanded the grounds for terminating international students' legal status going forward.



Rubio

President Donald Trump's previous administration stepped up scrutiny of all visa applicants, introducing reviews of their social media accounts. The policy remained during President Joe Biden's administration.

An extended pause in scheduling student visas could lead to delays that may disrupt college, boarding-school or exchange students' plans to enroll in summer and fall terms.

A downturn in enrollment of international students could hurt university budgets. To make up for cuts in federal research funding, some colleges shifted to enrolling more international students, who often pay full tuition.

Skittles fully removes controversial additive targeted by RFK Jr.

Bloomberg News

Mars' Skittles candies are no longer being made with titanium dioxide, a chemical that whitens foods, brightens colors and makes candy appear shiny, the company confirmed to Bloomberg News.

The ingredient was removed from all Skittles production at the end of last year, a spokesperson said.

The additive was banned in the European Union in 2022 over concerns that nanoparticles of the substance might accumulate in the body and damage DNA. It has also come under scrutiny by the Department of Health and Human

Services in recent months under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

In 2023, groups including the Environmental Working Group and the Center for Food Safety filed a petition with the Food and Drug Administration to remove the approval of titanium dioxide as a color additive in food. That petition was still under review as of March 2024, according to the FDA website.

Titanium dioxide hasn't been banned in the U.S., though Mars pledged to stop using the additive in 2016. It was still listed as an ingredient in Sour Skittles earlier this year. In a statement to Bloom-

berg News in January, the company said its use of the ingredient was "in compliance with government regulations."

The company is now in the process of updating its website to reflect the reformulation, though shoppers may see products containing titanium dioxide on shelves until those products sell through.

The chewy candies still use synthetic dyes including Red 40, Yellow 5 and Blue 1, according to their labels. HHS and FDA said in April that they'll work with food producers to eliminate the dyes by the end of 2026. Industry groups have said no agreement exists on the matter.

Other foods—including Mondelez International's Sour Patch Kids Watermelon, Kraft Heinz's Lunchables Cookie Dunks and JM Smucker's Donettes — currently use titanium dioxide. It's also a common ingredient in sunscreens and white paints.

Mondelez recommended Bloomberg News reach out to the Consumer Brands Association, an industry group. "Companies adhere to the rigorous science and risk-based safety standards established by the FDA for the use of titanium dioxide as a color additive in food," said Sarah Gallo, senior vice president of product policy for the

group.

Kraft Heinz and JM Smucker didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. JM Smucker told Bloomberg in March that its products and labeling abide by FDA regulations.

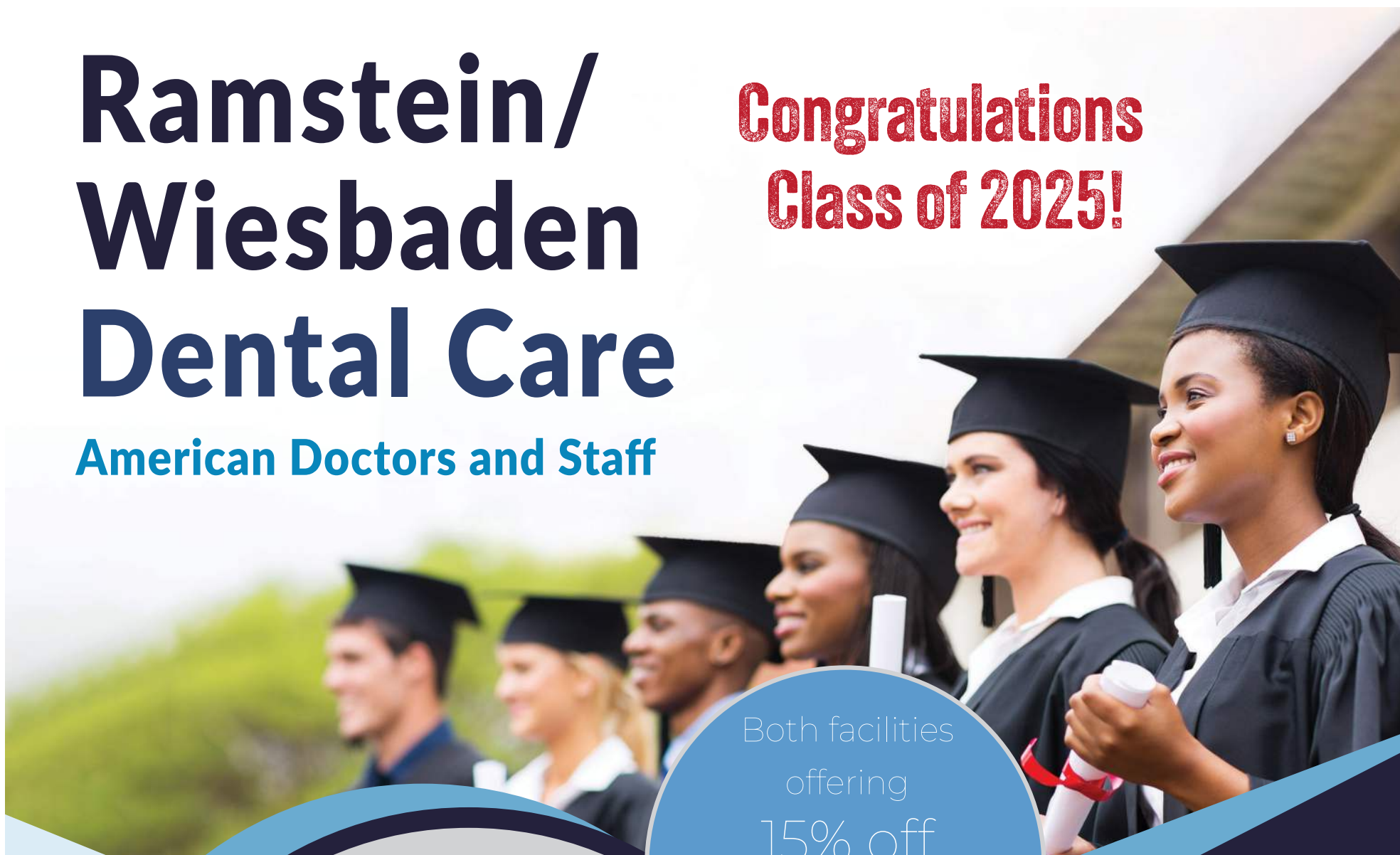
The White House's "Make America Healthy Again" report listed titanium dioxide as an additive of "potential concern." Earlier in May, the Food and Drug Administration announced it would speed up an existing review of the ingredient.

HHS didn't respond to a request for comment on Skittles' removal of titanium dioxide.

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WORLD

Gaza health officials: Crowd fired upon at chaotic aid site set up by US-backed group

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — At least one Palestinian was killed and 48 others wounded when a crowd was fired upon while overrunning a new aid distribution site in the Gaza Strip set up by an Israeli and U.S.-backed foundation, Gaza's Health Ministry said Wednesday.

Crowds of Palestinians on Tuesday broke through fences around the distribution site where thousands had massed. An Associated Press journalist heard Israeli tank and gun fire, and saw a military helicopter firing flares.

It was not yet known whether the death and injuries were caused by Israeli forces, private contractors or others. The foundation said its military contractors had not fired on the crowd but "fell back" before resuming aid operations. Israel said its troops nearby had fired warning shots.

In a separate development, Israel carried out airstrikes Wednesday on the international airport in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, destroying the last plane belonging to the country's flagship carrier. The strikes came after Iran-backed Houthi rebels fired several missiles at Israel in recent days, without causing casualties.

The Israeli military said it destroyed aircraft used by the rebels. It was not immediately clear if anyone was killed or wounded in the strikes.

The distribution hub outside Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah was opened the day before by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which has been slated by Israel to take over aid operations.



ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

Palestinians carry boxes of food and humanitarian aid delivered by the U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Wednesday.

The U.N. and humanitarian organizations have rejected the new system, saying it won't be able to meet the needs of Gaza's 2.3 million people and allows Israel to use food to control the population. They have also warned of the risk of friction between Israeli troops and people seeking supplies.

Palestinians have become desperate for food after nearly three months of Israeli border closures pushed Gaza to the brink of famine.

"What we saw yesterday is a very clear example of the dangers of distributing food under (these) circumstances," Ajith Sunghay, head of the U.N. Human Rights Office for the Palestinian territories, told reporters in Geneva. He said the new system is "exposing people to death and injury when they have faced 19 months of this

brutal war."

Israel says it helped establish the new aid mechanism to prevent Hamas from siphoning off supplies, but it has provided no evidence of systematic diversion and U.N. agencies say they have mechanisms in place to prevent it while delivering aid to all parts of the territory.

GHF says it has established four hubs, two of which have begun operating in the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah. They are guarded by private security contractors and have chain-link fences channeling Palestinians into a what resemble military bases surrounded by large sand berms.

Israeli forces are stationed nearby in a military zone separating Rafah from the rest of the territory.

UN nuke watchdog: 'Jury is still out' on Iran-US talks

BY JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

VIENNA — The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog said Wednesday that "the jury is still out" on negotiations between Iran and the U.S. over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program, but described the continuing negotiations a good sign.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, described himself as being in near-daily conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, as well as talking to Steve Witkoff, the U.S. Middle East envoy.

Grossi acknowledged one of his deputies was in Tehran on Wednesday. Iranian officials identified the official as Massimo Aparo, the head of the IAEA's safeguards arm. That's the division that sends inspectors into Iran to monitor its program, which now enriches uranium up to 60% purity — a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

"For the moment, the jury is still out. We don't know whether there's going to be an agreement or not," Grossi told journalists attending a weeklong seminar at the agency in Vienna.

However, he described the ongoing meetings as a good sign.

"I think that is an indication of a

willingness to come to an agreement. And I think that, in and by itself, is something possible."

Iran and the U.S. so far have held five rounds of talks in both Muscat, Oman, and Rome, mediated by Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi. A sixth round has yet to be set.

The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the U.S. has imposed on the Islamic Republic, closing in on a half-century of enmity.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's program, if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium.

Trump has described Iran as having an American proposal to reach a deal. However, Iran repeatedly has denied receiving such a proposal, including on Wednesday with Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

However, if a deal is reached, Iran might allow the IAEA to have American inspectors on their teams during inspections, Eslami said. Americans represent the largest single nationality of IAEA employees, a 2023 agency report showed.

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A SOLUTE TO
DODEA'S CLASS OF

2025

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Brunssum, Netherlands

AFNORTH International School



Aponte, Santiago
 Bayless, Lauren
 Bennett, James
 Burkhardt, Holden
 Chastain, Hannah
 Decker, Lillian
 Doggette, Peighton
 Ervine, Christianna
 Greene, Dylan
 Hager, Kenan
 James, Madison
 Kpade, Marc
 Lujan-Castro, Boudicca
 Main, Henry
 Norriss, Jay
 O'Connor, Shannon
 Reeves, Charlotte
 Reeves, Everett
 Rogers, Rio
 Russell, Koren
 Skariah, Selah



Alconbury, England

Alconbury High School

The Dragon Class of 2025 is an incredibly close knit group. Although we are just thirty-four seniors, we are a big presence at our small school and are involved in every aspect of school culture. Over 90% of seniors participate in extracurricular activities like sports, music, JROTC, robotics, MUN and even Dungeons and Dragons club. This year, the senior council has worked hard to continue senior traditions like senior sunrise, senior synergy and an extra-special graduation ceremony at Ely Cathedral, but have also incorporated new fun events like a senior lock in, and a very successful "Pie-A-Senior" fundraiser.

Our futures are bright! 89 percent of us have been accepted into a college or university. After graduation, we will be scattered all over the world, some staying here in England, some going home to America, and some going to a completely new place! The senior class is grateful for the support of our teachers, staff, parents, and other Dragons who have helped us along the way. In every case I am confident that the class of 2025 will take what they have learned at AMHS and will conquer all challenges. Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon!

— Althea Milionis,
 AMHS Senior Class President



Alejandro Diez, Luis
 Barnes-Hogan, Khori
 Bradley, Jessica
 Chupka, Sarah
 Cowen, Miranda

Davis, Trinity
 Dawson, Alyssa
 Dudley, Aaron
 Flake, Ethan
 Flake, Lincoln

Fleming, Miriam
 Frankenfield, Max
 Fromm, Micaela
 Grant, Kylie
 Hogerty, Nathan

Lacy, Steven
 Milionis, Althea
 Minjarez, Manuel
 Payares, Luis
 Pflieger, Rylee

Politis, Leonidas
 Politis, Sofia
 Reyes, Richele
 Rivera Negron, Jorge
 Rodriguez, Gabriel

Sheehan, Anthony
 Smith, Alan
 Smith, Luke
 Stoker, Isaac
 Te'o, Kalila

Valenzuela, Mia
 Vankirk, Kaden
 Vickerstaff, Taye
 Zentner, Aila



Ankara, Turkey

Ankara High School



Dani bin Ahmad Hashim
 Olena Bodnar
 Gayoung Cha
 Anastasiia Fedorenko
 Caleb Figueroa
 Jiya Garg
 Orazsoltan Ishanguliyeva
 Sayed Kadhem
 Donald Minor
 Daniele Montieri
 Arailym Mukhametkarim
 Zhuldyz Muratova
 Seifulla Rakhmedulla

My Fellow Graduates of Ankara EHS Class of 2025,
 As we prepare to graduate, I'm honored to speak on behalf of the incredible Class of 2025. Our class is more than a group of students, it's a vibrant, global family made up of ten nations: Bahrain, Turkmenistan, USA, Kazakhstan, Puerto Rico, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, India and Ukraine. We've shared laughter, late nights and life lessons. Together, we built friendships across borders and celebrated the strength found in our diversity. Each of us brought something unique to this journey, and together, we created something unforgettable. From classroom discussions to school events, we stood side by side. We learned not just equations or essays, but empathy, respect, and global understanding.

Now, we step forward, each of us shaped by this experience, ready to take on the world. Whether we become scientists, artists, or leaders, we will always carry Ankara EHS and each other in our hearts.

To our teachers, families, and friends: thank you. You helped us grow. You helped us believe.

Here's to the Class of 2025: united by friendship, fueled by diversity, and ready for the future.

With honor,
 — Sayed Kadhem
 Senior Class President

CONGRATULATIONS YOU DID IT!

WITH BEST WISHES FROM

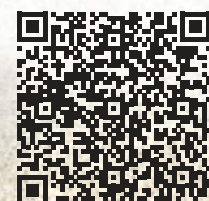


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Ansbach, Germany

Ansbach High School



Jamie Allen
Juliet Bell
Laysha Bobbitt
Daeveon Browne

Addison Bryant
Abigail Castillo
James Colon
Sarah Felice

Dilaila Figueroa Otero
Emma Gross
Devin Howard
Emily Jones

Aidan Kendall
Brodie Kohrs
Robert Lovallo
Meredith Maxwell

Busisiwe Ndleleni
Derek Richard
Natalie Ritter
David Serna

Brendon Torres
Gregory Williams
Tate Wollenzien

While the Ansbach High School Senior Class of 2025 is a small group, we are defined by community activism, leadership, and diversity. As we approach our final year, we are not only preparing to cross the graduation stage but also to leave a lasting legacy of excellence within our school and community.

Throughout our years at Ansbach, the Class of 2025 has demonstrated a strong commitment to academics, athletics and service. Whether excelling in Advanced Placement courses, leading student organizations, or representing our school in sports and performing arts competitions, we have consistently pushed ourselves to reach new heights. Our ability to balance rigorous coursework with extracurricular

activities speaks to our determination and character.

Being seniors in a small DODEA high school, we face numerous challenges as we progress through the last four years of our secondary schooling, but there are even more benefits. With help from our amazing teachers and parents, the Class of 2025 has been given more than any other senior class in recent memory. Mrs. Rob turned her studio room into an amazing senior lounge, and our parents put on at least one senior event each month where we all get to connect outside of the classroom. Contributions like these have made this the best senior year we could have asked for.

As graduation approaches, many members of the Class of 2025

are setting their sights on bright futures. Some plan to attend universities around the world, others are enlisting in the military, and many are preparing to enter the workforce and serve their communities. Whatever paths we choose, there is no doubt we will carry the lessons and experiences from Ansbach with us.

Our achievements, positive attitudes, and unwavering spirit have made us true role models. As we embark on our next chapter, we leave behind a standard of perseverance, kindness and excellence—one that will inspire future generations of Cougars for years to come.

— Aidan Kendall,
Senior Class & Student Body
President



Aviano, Italy

Aviano High School

It's hard to believe our time at Aviano is coming to an end. I've been at Aviano for the past nine years, and during that time, this school has become so much more than just a place to learn it's been our foundation, our community, and my second home. So many of us have been here since middle school, and we've basically grown up together. We've watched each other change, mature, struggle, and succeed. We've shared classrooms, sports fields, school trips, and countless memories that have shaped who we are today. Aviano has given us more than just academics, it's taught us about teamwork, resilience, and friendship. Through sports, we've learned how to push ourselves and support each other, how to win with pride and lose with grace. We've built bonds that extend far beyond the classroom, and I think that's something

really special about our class. Being a part of this school for so long has shown me what it means to be part of something bigger than myself. We've created a group that knows each other's talents and strengths, and that kind of connection doesn't come around often. I'm incredibly proud to have grown up with every single person part of this journey, and to have had the chance to represent this amazing class. As the president for the Class of 2025, I just want to say thank you for the laughs, the support, and the memories. No matter where we all end up next, I know the lessons and friendships from Aviano will stay with us. I can't wait to see what the future holds for each and every one of us.

— Mia Davila - Senior Class President
Student Council President



Kian Baker
Danielle Bean
Stella Beckwith Wolf
Giada Blankenship
Gabriel Boyle
Mathias Canales
Danino
Bryanna Case
Alan Clark

Mia Davila
Emma Foulsham
Xavier Fox
Harry Gallion
Joseph Guerrero
Annika Haas
Jakeb Hernandez
Grant Hyer
Jules Lasalle-Bryant

Jaimelyn Mathes
Wyatt McGowen
Adiana Mitchell
Audrina Nelson
Christian Perkins
Cristiano Peterson
Alexander Portan
Irina Poulter
Alexander Revello

Paige Rogers
Patrick Romanazzi
Brandon Souza
Jazmyn Warren
Andrew Walker
Deon Walker
Nevaeh Heart Zamora



Baumholder, Germany

Baumholder High School



Brech, Ashlyn
Buchanan, Jordan
Danso, Fredericka
Davis, Emma
Gonzalez, Isabella

Johnson, Shanelle
Kirkland, Leojawni
Kurt, Aziz
Lewis, Eugene
Meas, Cody

Onubiyi, Tochi
Ramirez, Ava
Rivera, Alondra
Scott, Gideon
Senatus, Samuel

Talikischwili, Yahna
Taylor, Angel
Washington, Elijah
Whiteside, Thomas

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop" - Confucius

Baumholder Middle High School is a school prepared to commit to the academic excellence of its students and provide a well rounded educational experience. Our exceptional teachers promote a supportive learning environment where students are encouraged to explore their passions and reach their full potential. There is always something to spark everyone's interest! Being a part of a military community overseas cultivates a sense of adaptability and pliability in students. At BMHS, we learn to embrace change as families come and go, and are capable of building strong connections rapidly. Buccaneers are proud of their academic and extracurricular accomplishments as well as having a strong student voice that is active in participating in the shaping of our school. The ability to thrive in a dynamic environment is a hallmark of a Baumholder Middle High

School student. We believe this resilience, forged in the heart of Germany, is a story worth sharing with the Stars and Stripes audience. We develop empathy and understanding for different cultures through our shared experiences and are encouraged to take initiative and develop leadership skills in various capacities. Ultimately, Baumholder Middle High School offers a dynamic and well-rounded educational experience. Our commitment to academic excellence, coupled with a wide array of engaging extracurricular activities and the unique learning opportunities presented by our location in Germany, allows students to thrive. We are a school that fosters growth, encourages exploration, and instills a sense of pride in our achievements. Go Bucs!

— Alondra Rivera, Senior Class of 2025



Manama, Bahrain

Bahrain Elementary High School



We did it. After countless hours of studying and stressing, we finally reached the end of one journey. I am thrilled to have spent my final year of high school with such an incredible group of people. The time and effort you have put into getting here is nothing short of extraordinary!

As you prepare to embark on a new journey, take a moment to reflect on how unique your time here is. We graduated in Bahrain, a country many people have never even heard of. We've built meaningful friendships with people from diverse backgrounds, explored new cultures, and gained a global perspective that few people our age have. We didn't just graduate as students, we graduated as citizens of the world!

This year, in particular, was a very lively and exciting adventure! There may have been a lot of panic regarding deadlines, but we also made many friendships, memories, and experiences along the way. Looking back, I played Roblox and Fortnite with my friends more than I did schoolwork, but I know this was the case for almost every senior here!

As we begin a new chapter, I must admit—trying to figure out what to do with your life after high school is terrifying! BUT, it's also thrilling. You have the freedom to invent yourself, pursue dreams, and change the world! Life is an adventure, and it's wonderful to be granted the ability to grow up.

As Lorelai Gilmore once said, "We're almost there and nowhere near it. All that matters is that we're going." So, to the strongest class that will ever come out of Bahrain School, let's keep going. Thank you for choosing me as your president, and best of luck!

— Your President,
Paulo Sarmiento

Amnah Albustani
Tala Alwan
Kyra Annoni
Jose Cervantes
Ain Chung
Nicolas Cicchi
Jasmin Courts
Danyah Daniels
Alexa Dumalogdog

Keyanna Garner
Theodore Goddard
Thandolwethu Gumede
Celine Hajjar
Zara Haroon
Ronald Henderson
Mar'chell Holbert
Ryan Hulitt
Halim Ibrahim

Jayden Lenore
Dalisa Lewis
Charlize Mawanay
Maximillian Meinz
Matthew Mendoza
Jayda Miller
Saad Mir
Angelina Mohamed
Julianna Mohamed

Noah Mossuto
Evan Most
James Nerbonne
Adeola Oloruntobi
Natalia Ramirez
Taylor Rhinehart
Dwayne Rodgers
Diego Romero-Perez
Morgan Ryan

Jose Paulo Sarmiento
Fatima Shafqat
Muhammad Hadiff Sharizan
Syailendra Sinathrya
Hyochang Son
Alek St. Germain
William Supple
Mohamed Taha
Cailee-Michelle Terrell

Ja'Cori Thomas
Zorie Williams
Noor Yanes
Breena Youngblood
Jude Zareef



Sterrebeek, Belgium

Brussels Unit School



Adams, Conrad
Baird, Kristen
Benifield, Eliah
Brandt, Catherine
Brandt, William
Burgos, Juliette
Domazetov, Ivica
Fuentesal Mora, Julia
Gibbons, Nora
Goricanec, Filip
Hales, Madeleine
Kocabas, Almina
Kozlik, Iva
Martinez, Lucia
Polovynko, Anna
Rohrer, Gabrielle
Ter Horst, Sawyer
Todd, Sophia

It is an honor to tell the amazing story of the BUS graduating class of 2025 .

Believe it or not, graduating in a class of 18 has its benefits. Though we are all pursuing different paths and going different places, our class size has allowed us to all have a strong relationship with one another. We all know of each other's successes and failures, and we all learn to motivate and cheer each other on for our successes and failures.

Another incredible thing about our class is that, even though we are graduating, we will all be connected to each other through mutual experiences and memories. From long draining test weeks and tricky lunch schedules, to meeting up at a sports game and having senior snack days together, we all share a set of mutual memories that make us think, "I am pretty darn happy with my senior year because of my classmates."

The final thing about our class that makes us so unique and unified is our diversity. Interestingly, our school has a heavy international presence, and because of it we all appreciate different cultures and learn new, neat things about each other. It seems everyday someone has a cool story to tell from where they have lived, or what they have learned from somewhere else. Personally, I wish the senior class the best of years ahead of them, and I thank them for giving everyone a wonderful final year of high school. We did it guys, be proud.

— Lucia Martinez
Student Council President

ANSBACH HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Jamie!

We are proud of you today, tomorrow and always. Reach for the stars!
Love, Mom & Dad

ANSBACH HIGH SCHOOL



Well done, Aidan!!

We are so proud of you and can't wait for you to begin your next chapter!
Love, Mom, Dad, Hudson & Marin

ANSBACH HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations Meredith!

Stellar scholar, tennis champ, and off to Cornell College. St. Michael protect you!
Love, Mom and Dad

ANSBACH HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Gregory!

We are so happy for you and proud of your big achievement!

BAHRAIN HIGH SCHOOL



Keep making music, Kyra!

We are very proud of you. The world is waiting for the magic only you can bring.
Love, Mom & Dad

BAHRAIN HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations J.C.!

We are so proud of you. You are destined to succeed in all you do. *We love you!*
Mom, dad & Stevie

BAHRAIN HIGH SCHOOL



Proud Of You, Nic!

Congratulations! Catch a wave and ride it to happiness.
We love you always!
Mom & Dad

BAHRAIN HIGH SCHOOL



Beanie!

You made it! We're here with you every step of the way. Take risks and do it your way.
-Mum, pop, juju, mimi

HOHENFELS HIGH SCHOOL



You are one of one, Jalissa!

Rising with the sun, chasing every dream! We are so proud of you. May God continue to bless you! *♥ Mom, Dad & Fam*

HOHENFELS HIGH SCHOOL



Living her dream out loud!

Off to UVM! So proud of your dreams, drive and future as a teacher.
Love, Mom, Dad & family.

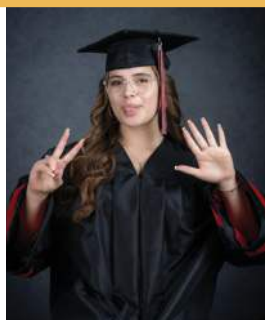
HOHENFELS HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, you did it!

Keep shining bright, we are so proud of you.
Love, Dad, Mom, Gianna & Vincent.

KAISERSLAUTERN HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Princess!

We are so proud of you! We are very excited for your next chapter. *We love you!*
Love, Mom, Dad and Omar.

KAISERSLAUTERN HIGH SCHOOL



Way to go Max!

We are so proud of you, Max! Can't wait for you to start your new adventures at UT in Austin!
We love you!

KAISERSLAUTERN HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Anthony!

We are very proud of you. Best of luck in the future.
Love, Dad, Grandma, Papa, Mema, and David

KAISERSLAUTERN HIGH SCHOOL



Be unstoppable and fearless.

My dear Sasha, I am so excitedly proud of what a beautiful, kind, strong & thoughtful human being you are!

NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL



Auguri! Congrats Isabella!

We are very proud of you - best of luck at Cornell University!
Prayers and love, from your biggest fans!

NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL



Anastasia, you're amazing!

God's grace has carried you this far—may He continue to lead you to greater heights.
Love, Mom and Dad

ROTA HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Zeppelin!!!

We are so proud of what you have accomplished. Now go set the world on FIRE!
Love, Mom, Dad and Marley

SIGONELLA HIGH SCHOOL



Way to go, Ian!

We are so proud of you and know you will continue to do amazing things!
Love, Mom, Dad, Nick, and Gio

SIGONELLA HIGH SCHOOL



Keep Pushing, Kris!!

Always remember, you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

SIGONELLA HIGH SCHOOL



Keep Going, Keep Growing

Congratulations, so proud of you! Continue to achieve your goals with a humble heart and teachable mind.

SPANGDAHLEM HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Xavian!

We are so proud of you! Your journey is just beginning. Keep shining! Love you always, The Fam.

SPANGDAHLEM HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Sandrine!

We are so proud of your many achievements and of you! We love you! Love, Mom and Dad

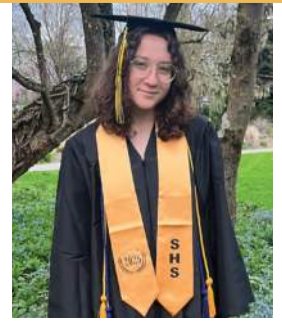
SPANGDAHLEM HIGH SCHOOL



Thirteen Years in the Making!

Three continents, 4 bases and 6 schools and you made it to graduation. We are so proud of you.

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Allison, the world awaits!

Gritty, playful, driven, and pure of heart. Share your gifts and be bold. Love, Mom, Dad, Becca & Liam

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



To the Future Dr. Etheridge,

Zohra, you have everything it takes to be the best! All of our LOVE

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Caleb!

We are so incredibly proud of you! It has been so fun watching you grow into an amazing young man. XO

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Let's Get It, Tyler!

You're off to Great Places! So excited for you - we always got you! Love, Dad, Mom, Trenton, & Layla

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Samantha!

We are so proud of your accomplishments as a student, athlete and fantastic daughter. Good Luck!

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



So proud of you!

Congratulations, Zoe! Keep chasing your dreams, the best is yet to come. Love, Mom & John



Hohenfels, Germany

Hohenfels Middle High School

Being a part of the Hohenfels class of 2025 is a gift. Yes, we're an odd group at first glance, but it's one of those things that you just "had to be there for." Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated victories and created a legacy that will inspire those who follow in our footsteps. Our Tiger Pride, unwavering spirit and dedication have forged memories that words will forever fall short of truly expressing and I've been given the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself. But, for those of you who have been looking from the outside in, here's what my class is really like:

Being in the Class of 2025 means excellence. In sports, academics, and extracurriculars; we possess an undeniable amount of talent and determination.

It means being role models, representing our school with respect and leading by example. It means resilience. Through a global pandemic, we stayed committed to our education and continue to strive for greatness. It also means never-ending laughter. Inside jokes, bus ride moments, and shared memories fill every day with joy and camaraderie, making senioritis a little easier to bear.

As seniors, we support one another and celebrate our accomplishments together because we know how great we are. Our small class of 30 is no less capable of achieving incredible things in a world of 8.2 billion. The lessons we've learned here will serve as a foundation for our paths, and the values we've upheld will guide us in making a positive impact.

Our time together has shown the power of community and the beauty of embracing our strengths and differences. The Class of 2025 will always be a testament to what can be accomplished with determination, heart, and a little Tiger Pride.

— Kariana Jones
2025 Senior Class President



Nehemiah Cyrus Baletto
Lucas Buford
Anastasia Felix
Neon Francis
Marcus Freeman
Haley Frohnhoefer (auxiliary)
Benjamin Hastings
Zofia Hefflefinger (auxiliary)

Jalissa Jobity
Malea Jobity
Olivia Johnson
Kariana Jones
Ethan Koekenberg
Genesis Levinthol-Winkler
Joseph Londono
Trenton Olson

Isis Queen
Matheo Reyes
Brynn Ropelewski
Keaira Satchel
Trevon Scott
Suseshery Sigrah
Javin Smith
Kelcey Smith

Kyla Smith
Hayden Spalsbury
Rinoah Takacs
Zachery Tanner
Dominick Turley
Christian Young

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Grace!

We are so proud of you!
Love, Dad, Mom, Jack, & Bo Bear

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Jackson!

We are so proud of you!
Love, Dad, Mom, Grace & Bo Bear

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



GO NAVY!

DUC IN ALTUM.
*We love you, Triston!
Dad, Mom, Pacha & Zailyn*

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Brad!

Brad we are so proud of you and looking forward to you soaring into the world
We love you, Mom & Dad.

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations Zack!

We are so proud of our 2025 senior. You will always be in our heart.
Love Dad and Grandma

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



The World is Yours!

Congratulations, Beth, on your High School Graduation!
ALL our love - Mom, and our family and friends!

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Zorion!

You did it! Wishing you an amazing adventure ahead.
We love you, Mom, Dad, and Max

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



To our amazing Byron!

We are so proud of you. May all your dreams come true.
With love, Mom & Dad, Granna & Poppy, & kitties!!

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Mary Shafer!

We are so proud of you. We can't wait to see what you do at Virginia Tech.
We Love you!

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, ISABELLA!

We love you!
Mom, Dad, Liam, Elizabeth & Sofia

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Future Forensic Pathologist

Congratulations, Destiny! The world is lucky to have you!
We are beyond proud.

STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL



Great job, Luke!

The man, the mechanic, the graduate!
We're all super proud of you!

VICENZA HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Avonlea!

Congrats on your graduation from High School and attending Clemson University this fall.
We are proud you!

VILSECK HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Lexie Bear!

Watching you graduate fills our hearts with pride and joy.
We love you so much!

WIESBADEN HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations, Ethan!

Dream big! Trust God, lean on your family, be kind, work hard, and laugh often. Stay strong.
We love you!

WIESBADEN HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations Peter!

Your next adventure at University of Portland. We are very proud of you. *Love, Mama, Papa, Magdalena*

WIESBADEN HIGH SCHOOL



Congrats Arwen!

Message in Print: We are absolutely proud of you, keep shining!
With love and pride, Dad, Mom & Andrew

EXCEL HIGH SCHOOL



Keep shining, Ashley!

Congratulations! We pray God always guide your path.
With love, Dad, Mom, Zoe, and Apollo.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GC



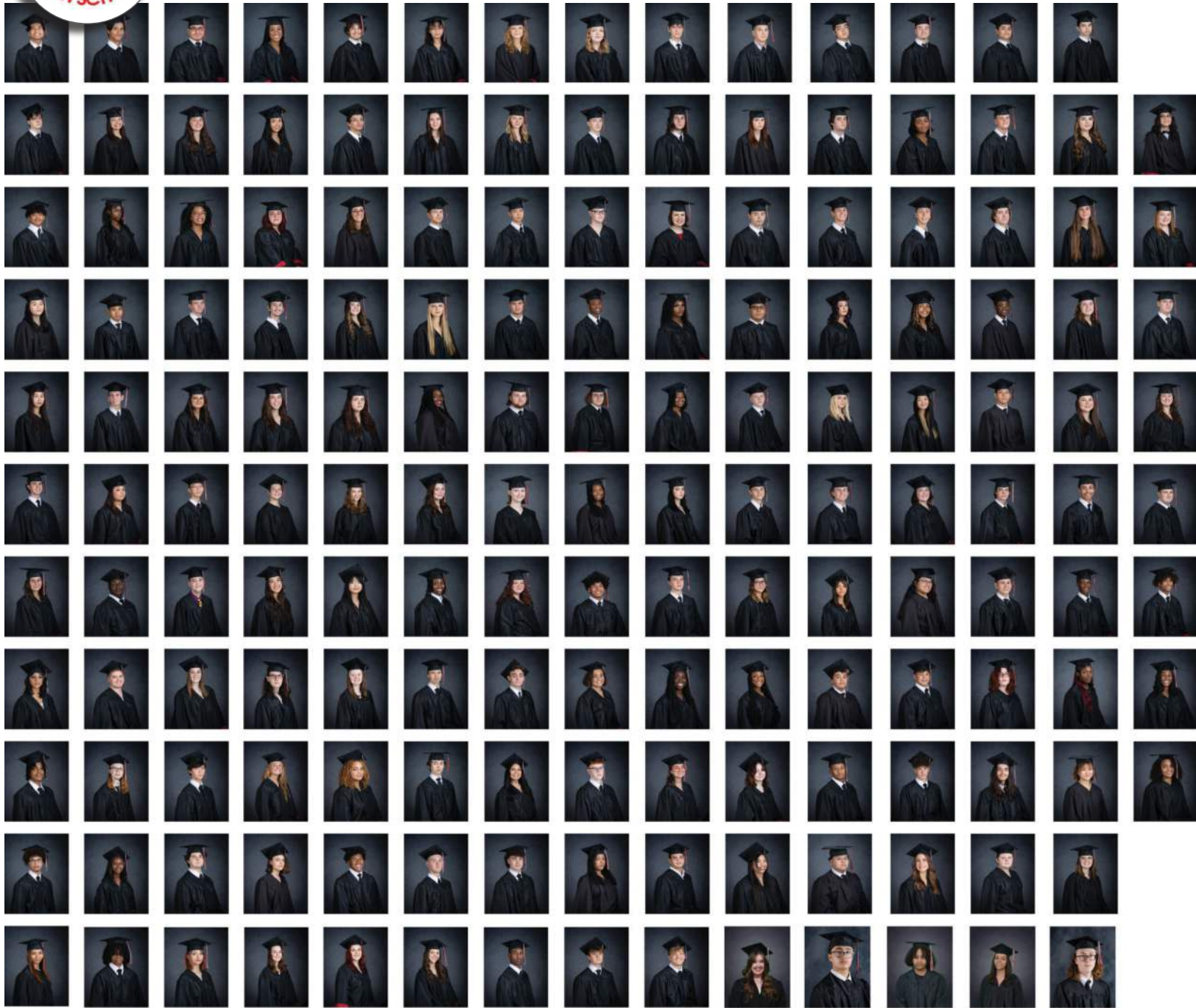
Congratulations, Nate Peraza!

So proud of you, Nathan! Wishing you joy & success in all your future adventures!
Love, Mom, Dad, and Gabe



Kaiserslautern, Germany

Kaiserslautern High School



Kaiserslautern
High School
Class of

2
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2
5

As we stand on the edge of this chapter, ready to step into the next, I want to reflect on how far we've come. As military children, we've faced challenges that many will never understand. We've said goodbye to family and friends, moved from place to place, and adjusted to new environments time and time again. Through all of this, we learned resilience. We learned to be brave when things felt uncertain and to adapt when the world around us seemed to shift. We are no strangers to change.

On top of that, half of our high school experience was shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. We spent months behind masks and plastic dividers, missing out on dances, sports, and everyday moments. But even in that, we learned. We grew. And we connected in ways that were deeper and more meaningful.

We are living proof that hardship does not define us; it strengthens us. It teaches us how to rise and keep moving forward even when the path isn't clear. In those

difficult moments, remember to breathe in, breathe through, breathe deep, and breathe out. Every challenge we've faced and every hardship we've overcome has prepared us to take on the world and all its possibilities.

As we step into the future, remember this: Like dandelions, we may be scattered across the world, but we carry the strength to take root and grow wherever we are. No matter where life takes us, we have the resilience to bloom and leave a lasting legacy. Embrace every twist and turn, for in those moments of uncertainty, you might just find who you're supposed to be.

Congratulations, Class of 2025.

— Ashley Kosterman
Senior Class President

Schell, Leo
Schmitz, Stella
Shadrova, Aleksandra
Siedl, Zachary
Singleton, Keyanna-Felicia
Slusher, Mia
Souder, Rowan
Spitzer, Aimee Jo
Sprenkle, Erika
Stachelczyk, Jayden
Starke, Deaven
Steele, Nicholas
Tate, Uno
Taylor, Giada
Telemaco Cruz, Yahir
Thomas, Kierra
Tita, Adrian
Tobias, Haylee
Todman, Rueben
Truschinski, Noah
Turner, Aedan
Valdivia, Sasha
Vega, Abdriel
Vestal, Imani
Villalobos, Ulua
Villanueva, Prince Roland
Walker, Madison
Walt, Phyllis
Watson, Amaiya
Weaver, Jaiden
Webster, Terrell
West, Emma
Whitaker, Lauren
White, Emma
Wickings, Lillian
Willett, Ethan
Wiltshire, Gabriel
Worley, Maxwell
Worthington, Noah

Abalos, Kristopher Jordan
Adams, Harlan
Allen, Freeman
Andrews, Asia
Arangure, Adrian
Astacio, Brendan
Aure, Azlea Jannelle
Bailey, Emma
Ballou, Briahna
Baltrus, Caden
Barnes, Quinn
Beatty, Shiyeon
Bell, Logan
Benavides, Aiden
Boggs, Asher
Bolstad, Ian
Branch, Marisa
Brinkerhoff, Eva
Cahanding, Sophia
Calixto, Jaden
Campbell, Mariska
Canale, Rachel
Challenger, Nicholas
Cherry, Jackson
Chrans, Kailey

Clancy, Tristan
Cole, Laylah
Cool, William
Cortes, Izabella
Crisostomo, Kealen
Dait, Denver
Davis, Shamyia
Dela Cruz, Mikayla
Dery, Nayade
Dietzel, Alisa
Engeman, Nikolai
Ennis, Brandon
Ennis, Maryn
Fairchild, Erin
Ferdinandsen, Brady
Fetters, Asher
Flores, Max
Foery, Jack
Fouls, Piper
Gerhart, Lily
Gin, Ava
Gooden, Sean
Gowel, Samuel
Greene, Tyler
Griffin, Lillian

Gunther, Finja
Hall, Stella
Hamlin, Shawn
Hawkins, Matthew
Hebert, Erin
Hernandez Kuzubov, Dasha
Hernandez, Jonathan
Hodge, Sydney
Holly, Isaac
Hover, Abigail
Hughes, Gavin
Huynh, Annh
Ennis, Anthony
Johnson, Angela
Johnson, Sofia
Jones, Kyra
Kelly, Naomi
Kesterson, Matthew
Kight, Anakin
King, Shayla
King, Tate
Knepper, Madelyn
Knutz, Braelynn
Kosterman, Ashley
Lake, Marissa

Lang, Sophia
Langham, Graison
Le, Lana
Lee, Ian
Lino, Josue
LLanos, Aleser
Markie, Ellery
Marriott, Elizabeth
Maternick, Rachel
McCustion, Lindsey
McKizzie, D'ana
Miller, Cadence
lorio, Anthony
Mitchell, Logan
Moore, Jessie
Moore, Sean
Moore, Traivon
Morrow, Gabriel
MoyaMckay, Breanna
Nelson, Xavier
Newcomb, Andrew
Ocampo, Bianca
Oh, Rachel
Oliver, Vernesha
Peden, Amelia

Peraza, Nathan
Phillips, Isaac
Piepenburg, Briahna
Pino, Bella
Polynice, Alaina
Potter, Aaron
Quanon, Boubacar
Quiles, Sevastian
Rangel, Alessandra
Rankin, Justin
Rawcliffe, Georgia
Reuter, Grayson
Richardson, Haley
Rikkinen, Joona
Ringer, Kaiden
Ringer, Madison
Robert, Tinuke
Robinson, Makael
Rodriguez, Adriel
Rodriguez, Gabriel
Rogers, Jessica
Ross, Aaliyah
Sanders, Hazel
Santiago, Cristopher
Sawyer, Alexander



Lakenheath, England

Lakenheath High School

A group brought together by the excitement and uncertainty which lies at the end of senior year, the Lakenheath High School graduating class of 2025 has had an incredible year to say the least. With the end of school approaching and the world of adulthood drawing nearer, the seniors have had the opportunity to reflect and revisit childhood as a reminder that no matter what is ahead, they can find time to live in the moment and enjoy themselves. Before the school year began, the senior class was showing their unwavering enthusiasm, continuing traditions as well as creating activities that we hope will last for years to come.

Starting the year off, seniors decorated crowns, painted jeans and carried backpacks reminiscent of those carried on your very first day of kindergarten. Not only was this a fun activity, but it marked the beginning of the connections and ever growing community formed throughout the senior class. This sense of comradery that becomes stronger as the year progresses, has truly been astounding and has created a positive impact throughout not only our grade but all of Lakenheath High School. In activities from scavenger hunts, to a Night in Vegas themed dance, the Class of 2025, has been a blinding beacon of school spirit and pride.

The Senior Class of 2025 is an amazing group of outstanding individuals. In all aspects ranging from academics, to athletics, art, and so many more they never cease to go above and beyond. Whether plans for the future are determined, or are going to be figured out on the go, the graduates of LHS in 2025 will no doubt be remarkable and continue making long lasting positive impacts everywhere they go.

— Gabe Stanley
Senior Class President



Aaron Valiente
Abby Killpack
Adam Hardin
Alberto Cyriaano
Alexia Hutton
Alika David
Allen Primmer Pallares
Analia Douglas
Ashley Claire Christensen
Audrey Starin
Audun Arnesen
Aydin Atalay
Benjamin Hall

Benjamin Rivers
Brenda Domino
Brooklynn Alvarez
Cade Blackwell
Catarina Vargas
Celia Hockaday
Christian Jones,
Christian Knuth
Christopher Quintero
Aizpurua
Ciorsdan Donaghy
Claire Patty
Clay Christensen
Darion Jose

Elisabeth Petrich
Emili Springer
Emma Smith
Ethan Jenkins
Ethan Wright
Ezra Landers
Gabriel roy Bautista
Gabriel Stanley
Gideon Toure
Hannah Hiles,
Hikari Scott
Isabel Foran
Isabel Stillman
Isabella Herman

Isaiah Wilcox
Jaden DuBois
Jayden Shepherd
Jesse Miles
Joseph Sherbinow
Kaiden Becerril
Kevin Kunz
Kynnedi Ouellette
LaLaine Toms
Marco Leone
Mariannah Calloway
Meredith Hutto
Mia Seligman,
Nathan DuPont

Nathan Schneide
Nicholas Pascual,
Peyton Caranta
Rory Hughes
Rylen Pontemayor
Sara Williams
Savannah Johnsen
Solymar Brown
Sophia Winowiecki
Terrell Dorsey
Timothy Wesley
Tobias Matthews
Victoria Piña



Naples, Italy

Naples High School



Acevedo, Zenash
Bench, Eliane
Boiani, Anthony
Braden, Chase
Bradley, Jillian
Butler, Matthew
Campbell, David
Carlson, Cole
Cavallieri-Cardona, Derick
Copenhaver, Justin
Corser, Isabella
Cruz, Yefre
Daniels, Michael
Dastrup, Parker
Diaz, Le'iani

Doran, Gab-riel
Dudley, Mackinzi
Fischer, Emma
Flores, Kokomi
Gillard, Isabella
Gooch, Kevin
Gose, Anna
Harris, River
Hensley Joseph
Howard, Klaira
Humara, Mia
Johnson, Morgan
Jones, Jetty
Kasperek, Camden
Long, Liliana

Lord, Erion
Lundberg, Isabelle
Mack, Emilio
Mattivi, Keilah
McGrath, Maura
McLawhon, Anastasia
Mendiola, Dionne
Miller, Lyndon
Miranda, Jazmin
Morgan, Leishieh
Newsome, Declan
Niewald, Harry
Olsen, Drew
Ortiz, Kaleb
Pablo, Ariyana

Pasteur, Isaac
Pinheiro Grazia, Yasmin
Proano Davila, Althusser
Randazzo, Joseph
Raniowska, Maria
Reed, Hailey
Riego, Ron
Ronquillo, Ayannah Khailey
Scheuermann, Anna
Schneider, Helena
Schoff, Isabella
Shorey, Emerson
Shorey, Jackson
Simme, Julian
Smith, Abigail

Soto, Sophia
Taveras-Diaz, Sharik
Tillman, Jamie
Tillman, Jordan
Tipton, Haylee
Vavra, Alessandro
Walker, Juliet
West, Alexander
Williams, Ava
York, Grayson
Zoudlik, Allison
Boatang, Fred
Altamirano, Stephanie
Salg-Rawls, Mea

Here we are, "Seniors." Graduation. I can't believe we have come this far. From learning our ABCs to reading Shakespeare. From doing one plus one to discussing polynomials and the difference between real and imaginary zeros. Youth has been a long journey, with a landing place that many of us felt we would never reach.

That destination is now here: adulthood. After all the hard work of the past thirteen years, we can finally be done. No more waking up early in the morning to make it to school before being tardied. No more standardized testing or anxiously wondering, "Did I make the team?" No more worries about project deadlines or college admissions.

We are at the end of an important chapter in our lives. However, I have come to realize, and some of you probably have too, that the time we spent going to school—the assignments, essays, and tests—have not been an endless battle, but a preparation. A way of getting us ready for the new journey we are embarking on. It will be difficult, onerous, strenuous. We will have to get a job, find an apartment, spend our money wisely. We will no longer depend on our parents. We may even miss school. But as arduous as it gets, we will be strong enough to handle whatever burdens we have to shoulder.

Because this is what we were primed for. Through all our years here, we have been trained to overcome the obstacles that will block our paths. Our future today appears more uncertain than ever. In spite of this, I believe in us. I believe that if we put our minds to anything, if we are determined enough, if we want and work at it enough, we will be able to achieve whatever dreams or passions we pursue. Naples Middle High School, thank you for preparing me. For preparing us. When we succeed, I know it will be because of you.

Thank you, and good luck to everyone.

— Erion Lord, NMHS Class of 2025



Ramstein, Germany

Ramstein High School



Acfalle, Xion
 Adcock, Kyle
 Aguiar, Samantha
 Alvarez, Josue
 Anderson, Caetano
 Anderson, Caio
 Arbour, Vivianne
 Arnold, Cara
 Asker, Umut
 Atabay, Safia
 Avila, Mateo
 Bailey, Fionn
 Barnette, Georgia
 Barry, Amyah
 Bartz, Austin
 Bassit, Nasarah
 Baxter, Lucy
 Bencivenga, Alexander
 Bennett, Abigail
 Bermann, Hayden
 Bloecher, Taniya
 Bott, Hunter
 Bourne, Ethan
 Boynton, Claire
 Braun, Dorian
 Brindle, Keira
 Brionez, Violet
 Brown, Kyndra
 Burgeson, Uto
 Canady, Isabella
 Cannarozzo, Christian
 Carela, Ariana
 Carlson, Tucker
 Carrier, Filiz
 Carrillo, Alyssa
 Cedarholm, Gwyn
 Chambers, Arianna
 Chambers, Aydriel
 Chambers, Isabella
 Champine, Justin
 Chandler, Tristan
 Coatney, Cassidy
 Coleman, Isiah
 Coles, Bachir
 Coney Jr., Ondrea
 Copeland, Layla
 Cristobal, Lailani
 Daleney, Sophia
 Delanghe, Ailyne
 Delgado Burgos, Yadelis
 Dorado Martinez, Chloe
 Downs, Tyrell
 Dukart-Anderson, Stephanie
 Dungca, Annica
 Dunham, Sofia
 Dunston, Dillon

Echard, Kydan
 Edwards, Ania
 Edwards, Tyrell
 Esparza, Genesis
 Eudovique, Antwaun
 Farley, William
 Gago, Aramis
 Gairy, Alexander
 Garcia, Elijah
 Garcia, Lucas
 Gentry, Braeden
 Golab, Konrad
 Gonzales, Michael
 Gray, Ariana
 Greenburg, Lucy
 Griffin, D'Shawn
 Grifford, Madison
 Grijaldo, Elenne
 Hall, Ky'Ron
 Harris, Nailah
 Heath, Benjamin
 Holder, Dylan
 Holland, Reagan
 Horne, Liam
 Horne, Nicholas
 Horton, Alyson
 House, Olivia
 Hume, Kalei
 Iiams, Daityn
 Iltis, Sydni
 Ingram, Parker
 Inthavixay, Emma
 Izaguirre, Ryan
 Jackson, Spencer
 Jennings, Ryan
 Johnson, Elise
 Jordan, Jagger
 Kaiser, Shawn
 Kennedy, Asher
 Knapp, Aleksey
 Knight, Chamar
 Kohl, Jacob
 Krajewski, Evan
 Lainez-Whitman, Julia
 Lambert, Micah
 Lee, Pierson
 Lenga, Madison
 Leon, Isaac
 Leonard, Connor
 Lindsey, Aspen
 Lingaolingao, Lean May
 Longworth, Xavier
 Lords, Natalie
 Loring, Mya
 Lovett, Joshua
 Lucio, Juan Antonio

Lund, Camille
 Lutz, Alexander
 Lyle, Ariana
 Mahmoud, Amira
 Mahoney, Ellie
 Martin, Zeria
 Martinez, Isaac
 Matthews, Dylan
 McGinty, Conor
 McHugh, Christian
 McLeish, Nailya
 Meacham, Gabriel
 Meridieth, Kaden
 Miller, Ercell
 Mills, Blaze
 Morgan, Christina
 Moriarty, Emerson
 Morrison, Connor
 Murphy, Calvin
 Murphy, Gavin
 Negron, Elias
 Newburn, Ryan
 Nguyen, Madison
 Nims, Caden
 Nolan, Laura Beth
 Obermuller, David
 Olson, Annika
 Ortiz, Jaden
 Owen, Czarina
 Panganiban, Avril
 Paradis, Benjamin
 Parker, Arianna
 Patrick, Caiden
 Paucar, Jovan
 Payton, Mya
 Pedersen, Devlyn
 Perlow, Elijah
 Peterson, DeVaughn
 Plocar, Zackary
 Prevedelli, Gianna
 Quarrie, Naheim
 Radosevich, Elliot
 Rajpaul, Aubrie
 Rakowski, Maura
 Ramirez, Jeramiah
 Ramos, Cassandra
 Rhyne, Charlotte
 Richards, Layla
 Ritter, Cameron
 Robles, Diego
 Rodriguez, Sydney
 Rothas, Micah
 Roy, Christian
 Rutlege, Nathan
 Saavedra, Joseph
 Salonga, Adrian

Santos, Cole
 Schaefer, Garrett
 Schmermund, Matthew
 Schmidt, Grayson
 Schultz, Christian
 Seaburgh, Sophia
 Seibert, Emma
 Sims, Jonathan
 Smith, Simone
 Smolinski, Andrew
 Snyder, Liberty
 Soliz, Josua
 Soto, Andrew
 Spicer, Kenneth
 Stanford, Kayce
 Stoklosa, Benjamin
 Swiger, Lukas
 Swiss, Lillianna
 Taylor, Grayden
 Taylor, Leni
 Thornton, Logan
 Trevino, Darien
 Tsyhankov, Maksym
 Tunjano, Nicolas
 Turner, Sydney
 Turshon, Kevin
 Valdez, Gabriella
 Vaughn, Kelan
 Venne, Emilie
 Walker, Roy
 Watson, Torie
 West, Cage
 Woodruff, Jack
 Woods, Lakin
 Wooley, Nicholas
 Worby, Adrienne
 Yost, Joseph
 Zaugg, Ammon

There are two things I never thought I'd survive: Ms. Marks's AP Lang class... and choosing a graduation speech outfit.

But here we are. We made it.

And standing here now, I can't help but reflect on how far we've all come.

I joined Ramstein in my sophomore year, coming from another DoDEA school — in Camp Humphreys, for those wondering. I remember feeling both excited and nervous, not knowing what to expect. Arriving in a new country, everything felt different. I even thought "Ausfahrt" was the funniest thing I'd ever seen when leaving Frankfurt Airport—because, come on, it looked a lot like a word I wasn't supposed to say in class.

For those visiting, I would like to clarify that Ausfahrt means exit.

But that's when I realized: I wasn't just adjusting to a new school, I was adjusting to a new culture. And soon enough, this place—Ramstein—became home, as I am sure it has for many of us.

Our theme tonight is growth through transition, and if there's one thing we've all had in common, it's that we've adapted—again and again.

Whether it was learning new schedules, new countries, or where the cafeteria line started, we found our way.

We've survived AP Lang, where we met the beautiful struggle of writing like college students while still very much high schoolers.

We cheered loud and proud every time we beat Stuttgart—because let's be honest, that rivalry might outlive us all.

And the Officer's Club? That became our unofficial dance floor, year after year, for homecomings, proms, and those classic photo booth moments we'll always remember.

Some of us were invited to prom as underclassmen by the Class of '23—people we admired, people we wanted to be like. And now, here we are: the Class of 2025. We've become those people for someone else.

To our teachers I think I speak for all of us when I say thank you for your patience, your passion, and for always being willing to explain things just one more time.

To our families: thank you for cheering us on, grounding us, and making sure we made it to class on time, most of the time.

And to my classmates and friends, personally, thank you for making this place feel like home. The laughter and memories we've shared will stay with us long after we leave.

So welcome to this celebration of everything we've worked for. This is more than a goodbye. It's a moment of pride, of reflection, and of hope.

Class of 2025—we didn't just make it. We grew into it. So let's begin.

— Jasmine McKinley,
 Senior Class President



Rota, Spain

Rota High School

ROTA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Hope Bloker
Michael Borchanski
Olivia Bussey
Lauren Chambers
Gabriel Cleary
Lila Cypers
Allie DeMeritt
Joshua Gonzalez
Zeppelin Hasselbring

Milial Jackson-Spradley
Jasso, Jayden
Johnroe, Shelby
Quennette Rae Kirkconnell
Tyler Marcus
Vladimir Mejias
Jaquay Naylor
Rachel Owins
Rebecca Owins

Thomas Phillips
Joyah Rawles
Anthony Romero
Caden Ryder,
Ronald Ryder
Suarez, Christian
Shannon, Trevor
Siguenza, Camille
Simkins, Keelyn

Smith, Aiden
Stewart, Athena
Stockton, Lillie
Sullivan, Landon
Mia Werner
Bianca Westberg

It is insane to think that after four years of high school, the Class of 2025 is finally ready to graduate. As military-affiliated students, we've experienced circumstances more unique than most stateside classes. Constant change has been a part of our everyday lives. Classmates came and went, and many of us had to learn how to start over more than once. Still, through all of it, we built something strong and meaningful.

Wrapping up our senior year, it's hard to believe how far we've come. The Class of 2025 may be small, but we've made some really special memories together. Sometime between students moving in and out of this small school in southern Spain, we found a way to unite as a class and make those moments count. It didn't matter if someone had been here for four years or just one, our class has ensured that students make connections immediately.

Since then, we've made the most of every moment. Whether it was sunny lunch picnics on the football field, our holiday cookie exchanges or just hanging out during craft night, we always found a way to turn small things into big memories. Even through the stress of tests, college apps, and figuring out what comes next, we never lost our sense of connection. We supported each other, laughed a lot, and leaned on one another when things got tough.

This year especially has been one of growth, fun and connection. We've learned how to appreciate each other, how to work through our differences, and how to show up for one another when it mattered most. It wasn't always easy. There were challenges, hard days and severe cases of senioritis - but we got through it together. In the process, we created memories that will stick with us long after we leave these school.

As we head in different directions, we will never forget how our paths crossed in Rota, Spain.

— Quennette Kirkconnell, President '25

— Lillie Stockton, Vice President '25



Mons, Belgium

SHAPE High School



SHAPE American High School

Class of 2025

Acova, Timea
Aquino, Evan
Asandei, Eva
Bender, Rhianna
Bisegna, Roberto
Blevins, Luke
Blevins, Oliver
Bosone, Andrea
Bosone, Elena
Boykova, Aleksandra
Cahill, Sean
Cappellini, Ronald
Curtis, Asia
Dacar, Tara
D'Arrigo, Chiara
De Girolamo, Giulia
Delgado Vitores, Dario

Delgado Vitores, Iván
Della Monica, Rossella
Di Sarno, Raffaella
Diaz Fuentes, Pablo
Dinne, Gints
Domarkas, Modestas
Dygula, Kacper
Elena, Andrea Riccardo
Ersoy, Azra Anil
Forchhammer, Emilie
Froussos, Konstantinos
Gabrik, Richard
Gacevic, Stefan
Garcia Cerrada, Cristina
Gjinollari, Klevi
Gomez, Marcos
Gomlak, Penelope

Grant, Nicole
Hernández Cid, Sofia
Herno, Castor
Ibanescu, Ana-Maria
Ioane, David
Isik, Zuhre
Kaminski, Jakub
Kaminski, Tymon
Keviczki, Zsófia
Knapp, Paula
Kochev, Nikola
Kocheva, Virdjinija
Kotoula, Nafsika
Kudlackova, Dominika
Leongito, Federico
Loomis, Trenton
Lopez-Lago Ponce, Gonzalo

Manuel
Ludwin, Filip
Mahan, Connor
Malutan, Daria
Matheson, Caleb
McLean, Emily
McLeod, Olivia
Meyer, Colie
Miller, Lillian
Muresan, Miruna-Darisa
Nanni, Luca
Oprych, Maksymilian
Parente, Giulio
Pascual Vittori, Maria
Patzynska, Natalia
Paz Rios, Ramon
Pernetti, Christian

Pietrus, Robert
Polkova, Natalie
Rochlitzer, Sarah
Roehrkasse, Lilliann
Rumin Lozano, Marta
Salamon, Bartłomiej
Saldana, Alberto
Sanciu, Matteo
Schutt, Keller
Serrano-Garcia, Julyan
Sheffey, Farrah
Simmons, Ethan
Solano, Jose
Spasenoska, Jana
Spires, Joshua
Stankevicius, Leonardas
Stefancinová, Aneta

Stojanovski, Martin
Suhajda, Fanni
Talavan Freivalde, David
Taylor Galofre, Carolina
Tjeltveit, Lily
Traylor, Donovan
Tryon, Sofia
Turkay, Mustafa Koray
Vahle, Leonardo
Vedra, Lucy
Vicario Vivero, Santiago
Walkusz, Remigiusz
Wood, Hanah
Zygouris, Georgios



Sicily, Italy

Sigonella High School



Balbo, Katherine
 Blackman, Claire
 Brehme, Ainsley
 Brehme, Kyleigh
 Buelow, Andrew
 Burcham, Camryn
 Calimlim, Francesca Marielle
 Caro, Charlize
 Czernielewski, Mikolaj
 Daniels, Aubree
 Eck, Joseph
 Faulk, Jonathan
 Frangella, Ashlynn
 Gehring, Gillian
 Gonzalez, Ian
 Goss, Rickalia
 Griffith, Connor
 Hedenstrom, Nea Emilie
 Kruse, Alyssa
 Miller, Chase
 Planitz, Gisèle
 Quintanilla, Alexandra
 Rawlings, Kristopher
 Torres, Michael

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." - Theodore Seuss Geisel

I'm so proud to say that I have witnessed most of our class grow together since the beginning of 9th grade and even if there are newcomers, they feel as if they have been part of the journey all along. Each moment we've shared, from the laughter in the hallways to the countless and endless senior meetings, has created bonds that I will cherish forever. As we approach this important milestone, it's heartwarming to reflect on how far we've come and how much we've achieved together.

This milestone isn't just a celebration; it's a testament to our hard work and dedication. We've put in countless hours fundraising for prom, and we've rigorously participated in every school event. We've had extremely competitive pep rallies and decorating contests, in which we lost once overall expressing our spirit for our school. The little things accomplished have made our time here even more special. We may be a small class, but our energy and passion have made a significant impact on our school community. As the class of 2025, we've set a standard for those who will follow in our footsteps, and I'm proud of the legacy we're leaving behind.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the families and staff who have supported us along the way. Your encouragement has made a difference in our journey. Being a Sigonella Jaguar is an honor, and I'm excited to see where life takes each of us after graduation. Let's make this last celebration unforgettable, and carry these memories with us as we step into the future!

— Charlize Caro, Class of 2025 President



Spangdahlem, Germany

Spangdahlem High School



Our Senior 2025 Class here at Spangdahlem is on the smaller size of graduating classes, with only 34 students preparing to walk the stage. Being a smaller school brings its own unique perspective on the so called "high school experience." Being such a tightly woven school allows closer bonds to form (especially when you have all the same classes). But it also makes it so expanding on new friendships is rare; the people you're with are probably the ones you'll be with, for better or for worse. The influx of people moving in and the absence from people moving out is greatly felt with every person. This type of environment makes it so new people are welcomed with open arms, but also every departure brings sadness. Our class can confidently say that we will know everyone surrounding us for our last year of high school. Some of us have spent their entire school career here, while others have moved in during the year, but regardless of time spent, we are all Sentinel strong.

— Sandrine Bennet

Appiah, Xavian
 Barnes, Kaitlyn
 Barnes, Sky
 Bennett, Sandrine
 Bishop, Kaitlyn
 Byrd, Taryn
 Cobb, Frederick
 Cruz, Rohn Edward
 Farrer, Amicay

Figueroa Arriaga, Jaliane
 Garver, Isabel
 Hulet, Hudson
 Jensen, Aiden
 Loftus, James
 Lozano, Isaiah
 Maassen, Lena
 Malave, Jayla
 Mendiola, Cohen

Morton, Caley
 Mucke, Connor
 Neske, Faith
 Norman, Maximilian
 Peterson, Edward
 Proctor, Makenzie
 Riley, Isaiah
 Dearing, Mason
 Simmers, Logan

Simpson, Emma
 Smith, Messiah
 Stevenson, Salma
 Truscott, Caleb
 Valles, Miranda
 Malicdum, Kyrach
 Yucel, Kaan
 Zugelder, Cassidy



Stuttgart, Germany

Stuttgart High School



Acosta, Camille
 Adamson, Emma
 Adib, AnnaSophia
 Alicea, Magdalena
 Allen, Paris
 Anderson, Aislin
 Andrews, Aubree
 Antoine, Jaden
 Ayres, Magdalena
 Backlund, Brynn
 Backlund, Dana
 Baez Cabrera, Paola
 Baker, Asher
 Barrie, Allison
 Bauer, Berit
 Beck, Anja
 Bhattacharya, Ronan
 Bird, Elijah
 Birk, Matthew
 Blum, MacKenzie
 Boisselle, Sean
 Brown, Jaylee
 Bruce, Hannah
 Buckles, Charles
 Burrowes, Durane
 Butler, Sophie
 Carmichael, Rianna
 Chacon, Alexandria
 Coleman, Jackson
 Cook, Preston
 Czarkowski, Sofia
 Daniels, Wesley
 Davila, Mario
 Davis, Miles
 Davison, Chandler
 Dietrich, Ethan
 Doherty, Samantha
 Donohew, Magdalena
 Eaton, Evangeline
 Edie, Zachary
 Elliott, Madison
 Engelke, Ella Marie
 Etheridge, Zohra
 Ferguson, Olivia

Fielder, Alysse
 Fields, Juliana
 Fleming, Meredith
 Foley, Hayden
 Foster, Amori
 Fowble, Alexander
 Fox, Caleb
 Fullmer, Layla
 George, Sarah
 Gillooly, Kathryn
 Gizinski, Emma
 Goodwin, Elizabeth
 Graham, Cooper
 Gregory, Sebastian
 Griffin, Ava
 Griffin, Christian
 Griswold, Austin
 Gruver, Mary Kaci
 Haines, Jaimie
 Hanson, Gaia
 Harpuder, Seth
 Henry, Bryn
 Holmes, Rebecca
 Houghton, Sara
 Hughes, Virginia
 Hughes, Sophie
 Iverson, Angelina
 Jackson, Tyler
 Jamison, Adalynn
 Jamison, Joshua
 Johnson, Alexis
 Jones, Kaden
 Jones, Ty
 Jordan, Delores
 Jurich, Donovan
 Kalogiannis, Dimitrios
 Kiessling, John
 King, Rylea
 Knight, Ansleigh
 Kolesnikov, Payton
 Krokoski, Mirabelle
 Kuzak, August
 Leas Cruz, Sofia
 Leon, Samantha

Leslie-Persons, Hunter
 Levardi, Alexander
 Lockhart, Taryn
 Lora, Sadiee
 Lugo Jr, Moises
 Mack, Declan
 Makuch, Miranda
 Mallicoat, Caroline
 Martin, Alexander
 Mateo, Elizabeth
 Matthews, Kaylee
 Mayo, Aurora
 McCaskey, Isaac
 McGoldrick, Zoe
 McRobbie, Cal
 Meier, Grace
 Meier, Jackson
 Mendez, Anthony
 Miletich, Triston
 Miller, Shailayah
 Minott, Logan
 Moore, Henry
 Morrow, Andrew
 Mulina, Audrey
 Muro, Leilani
 Murphy, Aidan
 Myrice, Philip
 Nayampalli, Kiran
 Nevin, Riley
 Norbeck, Marizka
 Norton, Gabrielle
 Odum, Kyleigh
 Ogden, Matias
 O'Leary Searles, Anya
 Osborne, Elijah
 Paholio, William
 Patterson, Gabriella
 Payne, Bradley
 Petty, Ashley
 Phelps, DeAngelo
 Poe, Zachariah
 Polkowski, Jacqueline
 Pound, Lydia
 Pound, Reggie

Prestwood, Debra
 Puckett, Zorion
 Quinland, Jedaiah
 Ratliff, Wyatt
 Rea, Marnessa
 Rivera, Alejandro
 Roark, Evan
 Robinson, Abigail
 Rogeness, Hannah Rose
 Roquhuet, Emma
 Rosengren, Byron
 Rospendowski, Jonathan
 Schnieders, Jaxin
 Schuneman, Ryan
 Shafer, Mary
 Siani, Zachary
 Sitas, Mario
 Snyder, Mia
 Stalder, Maria
 Stegemerten, Isabella
 Stephenson, William
 Stewart, James
 Stone, T.
 Templeton, Sophie
 Thompson, Clara
 Thompson, Ruthie
 Toone, Emi
 Torres, Carina
 Torres, Margaret
 Varner, Zuriah
 Venceslau Dos Santos Feliciano, Ryan
 Verneti, Jonathon
 Vieira-Austin, Viviana
 Wanamaker, Kathryn
 Webber, Ethan
 Welsh, Mackenzie
 White, Destiny
 Whitlock, Alan
 Williams Zariyah
 Winkler, Mollie
 Wirtanen, Luke
 Yoon, Christian
 Zelcs, Raimonds
 Zimmerman, Luke

The SHS Class of 2025 is more than just a graduating class—we are a family that has grown stronger through every challenge we've faced together. We started high school in the middle of a pandemic, navigating virtual learning, constant rule changes and even government shutdowns that made everything feel uncertain. Yet, through it all, we showed resilience, lifting each other up and proving that no obstacle could break our spirit. What has meant the most to me about being part of this class is the unwavering support we've given one another, whether through difficult times or moments of celebration. We have built a legacy of perseverance, kindness, and unity that will stay with us long after we leave these halls. A special thank you to Dr. Payne for her leadership and dedication—your guidance has helped shape us into the graduates we are today. SHS Class of 2025, we made it!

— Sara Houghton,
 Senior Class President

— Jonathan Verneti,
 Senior Class Council President



Vicenza, Italy

Vicenza High School



Abston, Aiden
 Adeleye, Abiola
 Al-Awaj, Emma
 Alderson, Zachary
 Allen, James
 Andrews, Nicholas
 Baker, Jayden
 Belleville, Aiyana
 Bjorge, Alex
 Braasch Plasencia, Ivan
 Branch, Kevin
 Brewington, Simone
 Briggs, Christian
 Brock, Jackson

Bultmann, Sophia
 Cates, Whitney
 Chichester, Michael
 Cook, Sophia
 da Luz, Tatiana
 Darland, Michael
 Dingle, Brandon
 Dirks, Andrew
 Dube, Isaac
 Eelkema, Lauren
 Exum, Carly
 Fitch, Maya
 Gaspard, Joshua
 Gaspard, Penelope

Gilbertson, Charles
 Graham, Clarisse
 Graham, Enzo
 Grant, Joslyn
 Grate, Alissa
 Gundersen, Sofia
 Hace, Matthew
 Hace, Sam
 Hansen, Noah
 Herron, Jace
 Hill, Caroline
 Hirko, Lilyana
 Horrigan, Mitchell
 Howell, Joshua

Hutchison, Ella
 Jimenez, Jose
 Jones, Cassandra
 Jones, Sierra
 Jordan, Andrew
 Jordan, Joseph
 Kelly, Joe
 Leonard, Aubrey
 Lopez-Nieves, Dari-
 adna
 Maiga, Jonathan
 Martin, Ryan
 Minnick, Rowan
 Montanio, James

Mukai, Kiera
 Murgia, Tiler
 Murray, Ayanna
 Nefoussi, Ranya
 Overstreet, Andrew
 Owens, Elizabeth
 Parker, Ava
 Peters, Tiffany
 Reed, Andrew
 Reynoso-Sosa, Justin
 Rhoden, Tanisha
 Rizzo, Jacob
 Rovira, Lilah
 Rudy, Julia

Simmers, Jordan
 Soudah, Nadim
 Sparling, Avonlea
 Sturtevant, Paul
 Tajeddine, Elyas
 Tapong, Vic
 Tilotta-Rickdal, Teagan
 Torgesen, Ashlyn
 Travis, Soraya
 Zavalza, Faith

It's a real honor, and a little bit of pressure, to be up here speaking on behalf of the amazing Class of 2025 at Vicenza High School. I know graduation speeches can sometimes get pretty emotional and serious, so I figured I'd lighten things up a bit by talking about something we all grew up with: Toy Story. Any fans?

These movies might seem like just cartoons, but they actually teach some solid life lessons. The first thing that stands out is how every toy in Andy's room is unique. They each have strengths and flaws, but when it really matters, they come through for each other. Remember Rex—the dinosaur who was scared of everything? He ended up saving the day just by taking a leap of faith. That's kind of like us in a way. We all came into high school unsure, a little nervous, trying to figure out who we were. Now we're leaving with new confidence and direction, ready for what's next.

Then there's Woody and Buzz. They had their moments of doubt, especially when Woody got jealous and pushed Buzz out the window. But they both found their way back by remembering their purpose: being there for Andy. And that's something we all need to carry with us. There will be times when we mess up, lose focus or feel lost, but as long as we remember what drives us, we'll be alright.

Lastly, Toy Story teaches us how to let go. Like Andy heading off to college, we're saying goodbye to a big part of our lives. Change is scary, but it's also necessary for growth. Wherever you go next—college, military, work, or something totally different, take the lessons, the friendships, and the memories with you. I know your parents will.

— Senior Class President Elyas Tajeddine



Vilseck, Germany

Vilseck High School



As the 2024–2025 school year comes to a close, I am incredibly proud and grateful to reflect on the journey we've taken during our time at Vilseck High School. Serving as your Senior Council President has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my high school career, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to have represented such a passionate, creative, and driven senior class.

This year, our council worked hard to bring meaningful events and memories to life. From planning and supporting Homecoming to brainstorming ideas for fundraisers and community-building activities, we aimed to create a senior year that reflected the spirit of our class. One of the highlights of our work was planning for our senior trip, an effort that combined input, organization, and a shared excitement for one final adventure together.

I would also like to extend a big thanks to my council members. From managing our social media presence to rallying volunteers

and collaborating with other councils, they have shown what teamwork and commitment can achieve. Every banner, every event setup, every behind-the-scenes moment was a testament to their effort and heart.

It's been inspiring to see how our class has come together—not just to celebrate, but to support and uplift one another. Whether you were on the council, volunteered at an event, or simply showed up to participate, you played a part in making this year special.

As we prepare to take our next steps beyond Vilseck, I hope we carry the lessons of leadership, collaboration, and community with us. Thank you for trusting me to serve you. It has truly been an honor.

— Skylar Kwon
Senior Council President

Andrew, Alisia
 Arias, Hector
 Azevedo, Kayla
 Ball, Gaven
 Balum, Joseph
 Bangerter, Samuel
 Behl, Michael
 Blevins, Grady
 Bollinger, Zuri
 Brewer, Kaitlyn
 Bridges, Ulric
 Brighton, Mary
 Broyles, Samuel
 Carranza, Noah
 Carroll, Benjamin
 Cazares-Ruiz, Jesse
 Chase, Donald
 Cherif, Jordan
 Claire, Darrien
 Cohen, Mekhi
 Cococariu, Calvin
 Contreras, Americo
 Crawford, Zoe
 Dahle, Emily
 Dean, Phoebe-Sue
 Deese, Brighton
 Delgado, Maddox
 Dorff, John
 Druitt, Donella
 Duran, Benjamin
 Echeverria, Daria
 Evans, King
 Faulkenberry, Colton
 Ferguson, TaLea
 Flynn, Cloe
 Freeman, Jayden
 Gannon, Nicholas
 Garcia, Aleyda
 Ghorstygrbrakoxfdeis, Jack
 Gomes, Jessica
 Greene, Isaac
 Greenwood, Ryder
 Groves, Alanna
 Guerrero, Gabriel

Guico, Giyada
 Holloway, Cameron
 Honigford, Daniel
 Huerta, Alexis
 Hwang, Jacob
 Jan, Rohail
 Johnson, Liliana
 Kwon, Skylar
 Lauzon, Zoey
 Mangona, Abigail
 Martinez, Joseph
 Mead, Elliot
 Meredith, Liam
 Neal, Julissa Claire
 Ortiz, Anthony
 Overton, Emaline
 Owens, Tyliak
 Pacheco-Alvarado, Joleiny
 Pantoja, Mason
 Parker, Tyler
 Pasillas Vargas, Luz
 Pickel, William
 Ramaglia, Nic
 Ramirez, Ricky
 Romweber, Julie
 Rosario, Noemi
 Samborski, Eva
 Santellano, Jayslin
 Schall, Isabelle
 Shields, Gabrielle
 Sierra Sanchez, Angel
 Smith, Maria
 Spencer, Zachery
 Suss, Dominic
 Tavares, Arthur
 Thompson, Marguerite
 Vasquez, Indiya
 Walden, Tucker
 Webb, Jayla
 Williams, Elaine
 Wilson, X'avier
 Worby, Ethan
 Zufelt, Sydney



Wiesbaden, Germany

Wiesbaden High School



Dalal Iman Adams
 Dilshad Jaharn Adams
 Sylvia Ryan Arriaga
 Christian Aviles Sanchez
 Christie Aviles Sanchez
 Jacob Andrew Barnes
 Brigita Monika Barrett
 Natalia Marie Bergdorf
 Jack Thomas Bishop
 Noah Jaden Blake
 Kaitlynn Lolita Boman
 Ethan James Bradley
 Kenneth Guillermo Brock
 Aniyah Aje Brown
 Hannah Kathleen Buchheit
 Jackson Richard Butcke
 Gianna Christina Cardoza
 Nicolas Carranza
 Thomas Riley Cashen
 Isabella Jasmin Castillo-Cutler
 Kayda Alyce Chapman
 Kyra Shantel Cole
 Imani Alexandria Coley
 Janniel Jose Colon Rodriguez
 Jhon Esteban Colorado
 Lyann Angelic Cortes-Espanol
 Yasmine Sarah Mariam David
 Talita Davidson
 Munro Gabriel Casadores Davis
 Joshua A Dotson
 Carter Joseph Durst
 Christopher Edwards
 Nicholas Tyler Egan
 Landon Dean Ek
 Kenneth Gaylord Ellis
 Aliyana Tamina Espinosa

Gavinn Leslie Andrew Eugene
 Sophia Isabelle Faustermann
 Valerie Lynn Fisher
 Samuel James Forbes
 Luke Dashiel Freeman
 Lillian Eileen Ashlyn Fuller
 Isabella Maria Garrett
 Ethan Wiley Gerst
 Dante Franklin Giglio
 Zara Isabel Gonzalez Jimenez
 Nathan Greer
 Norah Mei Gunter
 Jonah Bennett Harvey
 Jack Allen Hatch
 Sean Paul Heeter
 John Cloer Helms
 Robert Craig Hendricks
 Trennan Douglas Henriquez
 Logan Anthony Hernandez
 Nicholas Hernandez
 Georgia Adel Hess
 Delaney Anne Hodges
 Michael David Hogue
 Jordan Lee Holoman
 Kariyah Housey
 Keira C. Hughes
 Sean Patrick Hygh
 Jacob Adediran Idowu
 Myasia Leshay Johnson
 Russell Marcell Johnson II
 Xiayana Renee Johnson
 Audrey Mae Jones
 Kimberly Robin Jones
 Luke William Jones
 Meagan Sophia Jones
 Logan Alexander Maxamillan Kalita

Bryson Zhen Yan Kay
 Zoe Abigail King
 Cydnee Jo-Ann Lassiter
 Kyran Joseph Latham
 Jack Hudson Lehr
 Brian Alexander LeMauk
 David Cairic Lex
 Adrienne Sienna Lindsay
 Brysilyn Kaycie Lopez Burrell
 Bryeanna Vernal Lucas
 Hunter James Luneke
 Jacob Le Mai
 Joel Terence March
 Cameron Loius Marshall
 Maciej Sebastian Martinez-Chavez
 Roni Marie Massey
 Olivia Grace Mathews
 Jack Riley McClain
 Meghan Nicole McConville
 Eric Adin Moser
 Evan Craig Nelson
 Andrea Lysette Ochoa
 Natalia Veila Ochoa
 Olivia Shaiann Office
 Evan Marie Payment
 Orinn Clay Perkins
 Benjamin Leon Petty
 Jeremy Alexander Phillips
 Bridget Anne Pidgeon
 William Lewis Pierce
 Cooper Elias Piotrowski-Zesiger
 Benjamin Jakob Pollak
 Tyson Russell Powell
 Lorelie Juliet Reybold
 Maria Isabella Rice
 Terran Michael Roberson

Peter Basile Roscoe
 Arwen Rueda
 Henry Grayson Saint
 Andrew Joseph Sansone
 Joseph Malto Santos
 Julian Christopher Sarmiento
 Timothy William Jay Savage
 Trevor Jonathan Peter Savage
 Mariana Savill
 Matthew Liam Sawyer
 Cora Elise Schreiner
 Michael Severy
 Angelica Marie Shea
 Katherine Ellen Shea
 Aaron Eugene Paul Sheppard
 Molly Emma Singleton
 Joshua Nathan Slack
 Owen William Smith
 Nicole Katharine Suh
 Aidan Daniel Sweney
 Jonathan R Tate
 Dean Logan Tevebaugh
 Alison Grace Tew
 Jordan Anthony Thibodeaux
 Aaron Ali Thomas
 Thomas Andrew Thompson
 Zion Thompson
 Evelyn Marie Traugutt
 Maira Valdez
 Kassidy Lynn Verzone
 Jaye'veon Washington
 Bryce Parker Watts
 Sterling Lerez Wilson

On behalf of Wiesbaden High School's Class of 2025, we would like to express our gratitude to our families, friends and teachers for their constant love, support, motivation and guidance.

Upon reflection of our time in Germany, we are incredibly thankful for this amazing opportunity we've been given. We feel so fortunate to have had the experience of living in Europe and having been exposed to people from all walks of life. It has made us more accepting and tolerant of those around us which can only make us better equipped to address the issues our generation will face.

The Class of 2025 is one of the largest classes WHS has seen in the past 20 years or so. We've won championships, suffered defeats and hopefully, grown up along the way. As a class, we've done those things together, and now we face the future as individuals - with hope and confidence.

This community is special; its outpouring of support has been constant and generous. We will never be able to express our appreciation adequately. But we take this with us as we head out on the next great adventure.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

— Wiesbaden Senior Class Officers

Mobile



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Despite outbreak, vaccine exemptions to get easier

TX AUSTIN — Texas this year has been the center of the nation's largest measles outbreak in more than two decades, but a bill approved by state lawmakers and sent to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott would make it significantly easier for parents to enroll their children in school without vaccinations for diseases such as measles, whooping cough, polio and hepatitis A and B.

Supporters say the bill streamlines an already legal exemption process that allows families to avoid vaccines for reasons of conscience, religious beliefs or medical reasons. It would let them download the required forms from a website instead of contacting state health officials and waiting for one to come in the mail.

The bill does not change which vaccines are required. However, critics say easing the exemption process opens a door to further outbreaks.

Executions halted during prep for firing squads

ID BOISE — Executions are on hold in Idaho.

The state prison system suspended its ability to carry out the death penalty through at least the end of the year as officials begin the transition to firing squad executions. The move requires a remodel at the maximum security prison to be ready when the new law prioritizing the controversial method takes effect in July 2026.

The Idaho Department of Correction announced it is set to start renovating the state's execution chamber, located in the wing known as F-Block at the prison complex south of Boise. The project is expected to take six to nine months to complete, IDOC said in a news release issued on X.

The remodel was last estimated to cost almost \$1 million, IDOC spokesperson Sanda Kuzeta-Cerimagic told the Idaho Statesman earlier this year. The agency planned to have an updated estimate once it was ready to move forward with construction.

Second crypto investor charged in kidnapping

NY NEW YORK — A second cryptocurrency investor surrendered to police Tuesday in the alleged kidnapping of a man who said he was tortured for weeks inside an upscale Manhattan townhouse by captors seeking the password to access his Bitcoin account.

William Duplessie, 32, faces charges of kidnapping, assault, unlawful imprisonment and criminal possession of a weapon, according to police.

His arrest comes four days after the alleged victim — a 28-year-old Italian national — escaped, bloodied and barefoot, from a lavish townhouse where he said he had



JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/AP

Spelling break

Vishva Bharath, 13, of La Porte, Ind., stretches during a commercial break in the first preliminary round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Tuesday in Oxon Hill, Md. The finals are scheduled for Thursday.

been severely beaten, drugged, shocked and threatened with death for nearly three weeks.

On Friday evening, hours after the man's escape, the crypto investor John Woeltz was taken into custody and charged in the alleged kidnapping scheme.

Authorities said the pair lured the victim into an eight-bedroom apartment in Manhattan's Soho neighborhood, one of the most expensive in the city, on May 6 to steal his Bitcoin fortune.

Over the next 17 days, the man told police he was bound by the wrists, shocked with electrical wires, pistol-whipped, cut on the leg with a saw and forced to smoke from a crack pipe. At one point, he said, he was dangled from the home's top flight of stairs.

Believing he would soon be killed, the victim said he agreed Friday morning to give the men access to the password. As the men went to retrieve his computer, the victim was able to escape from the home and flag down a traffic agent.

33 extremist groups said to operate in state

CO DENVER — The Southern Poverty Law Center, a human rights organization that has tracked extremist groups in the United States for 25 years, found 33 extremist and hate groups operating in Colorado, ac-

ording to its report. Of those, eight operate statewide and another 25 have local chapters.

The extremist groups in Colorado include anti-government organizations, anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-immigrant groups, white nationalists and sovereign citizens. One organization, Northern Kingdom Prophets, is classified as a hate group.

The Southern Poverty Law Center counts each chapter of one of the organizations as a single group, so Tactical Civics accounts for five of the 33 listed.

Judge who left to arrest defendant is suspended

WI MADISON — The Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended a Dane County judge for a week Tuesday for leaving court to try to arrest a hospitalized defendant herself and getting into a sarcastic exchange with another defendant seeking a trial delay.

The court agreed with a judicial conduct review panel's suspension recommendation for Ellen Berz, finding that she deserved more than a reprimand because she behaved impulsively and showed a lack of restraint. The suspension will begin June 26, the court ordered.

The suspension order noted that Berz has acknowledged the facts of the case and has accepted full responsibility. Andrew Rima, one

of two attorneys for Berz listed in online court records, declined to comment. Her other attorney, Steven Caya, didn't immediately respond to an email.

Man shoots himself with gun he grabbed from cop

MA BOSTON — A man in Boston was arrested after grabbing a gun from a police officer outside a hospital and shooting himself, prompting a large emergency response, authorities said Tuesday. The man's injury appeared to be non-life-threatening.

The officer "was approached by someone who appeared to be suffering from some sort of mental health issue," Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox told reporters. He said the man was able to get a hold of the officer's firearm, and discharged at least one round.

The man was taken to the hospital for treatment, Cox said. Authorities didn't release his name.

Cox said passers-by and other officers stepped in to help.

Court rejects 'only two genders' T-shirt case

DC WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday turned down a middle-school student's claim he had a free-speech right to wear a T-shirt

stating there are "only two genders."

Over two dissents, the justices let stand a ruling that said a school may enforce a dress code to protect students from "hate speech" or bullying.

After three months of internal debate, the justices decided they would not take up another conservative, culture war challenge to progressive policies that protect LGBTQ+ youth.

Liam Morrison, a 7th grader from Massachusetts, said he was responding to his school's promotion of Pride Month when students were encouraged to wear rainbow colors and posters urged them to "rise up to protect trans and gender non-confirming students."

Two years ago, he went to school wearing a black T-shirt that said "There are only two genders."

A teacher reported him to the principal who sent him home to change his shirt. A few weeks later, he returned with the word "censored" taped over the words "two genders" but was sent home again.

The T-shirt dispute asked the Supreme Court to decide whether school officials may limit the free expression of some students to protect others from messages they may see as offensive or hurtful.

FACES

Accepting 'Mission' roles decades apart

Actor Rolf Saxon big factor in key scenes in first, last 'Mission: Impossible' films

BY MARK OLSEN
Los Angeles Times

If you are only going to be in one part of a movie, it's best if it's the most memorable part. For example, a thrilling set piece that establishes the template for an entire franchise.

So it was for actor Rolf Saxon, who appeared as a befuddled CIA analyst in the very first "Mission: Impossible" film. The sequence, in which Tom Cruise dangles from the ceiling of a stark white vault room to infiltrate the computer system overseen by Saxon's character, is now the stuff of action-cinema history.

From a throwaway punch line in that 1996 film — exiling Saxon's William Donloe to a remote radar station in Alaska — comes one of the most unexpected storylines in the new "Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning." His part in the new film is substantially larger and provides the film with some of its emotional heft, making Saxon's return as Donloe a triumph. (A rather memorable knife makes a comeback as well.)

For Saxon's work in the first film, he was in the same physical space as Cruise but their two characters never interacted and had no dialogue together. So a moment late in the new film when Donloe makes a heartfelt expression to Cruise's Ethan Hunt of what his life has been like all these years in Alaska provided relief for Donloe — and for the actor portraying him.

"It was something I was hoping for, and then it happened," says Saxon, 70. "It's a great scene. Working with one of the biggest movie stars in the world, that's kind of cool too."

Finally sharing a proper scene with Cruise also gave Saxon some insight into the reason Cruise has been one of the world's biggest movie stars for more than 40 years.

"There's no question why he is," Saxon says. "The energy that he personally brings into a room, I've never witnessed before. It's focused; it's practiced. I know this sounds like I'm supposed to say this about



ANGELA WEISS, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Rolf Saxon arrives for the May 18 premiere of "Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning" in New York.

him, but it's true. This guy's unbelievable. And he does those effing stunts."

Saxon is impressed, too, by the real-life mission Cruise is often vocal about. "His whole raison d'être is to enhance the industry that's given him so much and bring people in, bring them back to theaters. And I just applaud that on my feet."

Born in Virginia, Saxon studied acting in England, where he would land parts in numerous British TV series as well as assorted film and theater roles. Throughout his career he has also done voice-over work for video games, including the "Broken Sword" series, and was the narrator for the American edition of the popular children's show "Teletubbies."

According to Saxon, much of the business of what Donloe does on screen in the first movie directed by Brian De Palma came from an unexpected interaction on set.

"I was given the script," he recalls, "I read it and I thought, OK, there's not a lot to do here. And then one day I was messing around on set, joking around; there was some downtime. And I got a tap on the shoulder ... that Brian De Palma wanted to have a word with me. And I thought, 'Uh-oh.'"

"I loved coming to work every day. ... This was just a joy, and I was much more a part of it than I was in the first one. I was much more part of the team, the core group that was working."

Rolf Saxon

Plays CIA analyst William Donloe in the first and last "Mission: Impossible" movies

"And I walked over and he had a very stern demeanor. Great guy, but he just always looked angry and he said, 'You're playing around on set.' I said, 'Yes, Mr. De Palma.' He said, 'Could you do that again?' I said, 'Sure, of course.' What am I going to say to say, no? He said, 'OK, after lunch, we're going to have you messing around on-stage. We'll film that.'"

All of Donloe's memorable physical mishaps — the vomiting, the double take — were Saxon improvs.

The vault sequence set a stunts-centric guide for the franchise to come. To perform the scene, Cruise spent hours in a harness suspended from the ceiling.

"I mean, it was a long time," says Saxon. "And they'd bring him down sometimes, but he's that guy. He does what needs to be done. I was in the room a number of times with him, while he was filming it, but [our characters] never were supposed to meet."

Saxon had never had reason to encounter Cruise in the intervening years, because, as he says, "I'm an actor, but I'm not a star."

The call for the new film first came in January of 2022, and Saxon began shooting on the film in August of that year, finishing in July of 2024. (Saxon's casting was an-

nounced via director Christopher McQuarrie's Instagram in March 2023.) This time around, Donloe becomes a vital part of the team and is in the middle of the action at the film's climax. In his years in Alaska he has even married an Inuit woman, Tapeesa (Lucy Tulugarjuk).

"The feeling on this set was one of warmth and inclusivity — welcoming," says Saxon. "I was on it for almost three years, but people were on it for over five years. This schedule for the filming was very erratic, and [McQuarrie] kept very calm. McQ and Tom, they worked very much in tandem. I loved coming to work every day. Not that I didn't with Brian's stuff, but this was just a joy, and I was much more a part of it than I was in the first one. I was much more part of the team, the core group that was working."

For "The Final Reckoning," a sequence meant to take place in Alaska, at a remote cabin occupied by Donloe and Tapeesa, was actually shot in Svalbard, an archipelago north of Norway.

"We were staying on a ship," says Saxon. "We went to Longyearbyen, which is the furthest most populated area in the world. Then we took a six-hour ride north on the ship, parked on the glacier. And that's where we lived for two weeks. Polar bears, walruses, reindeer and us. It was the most beautiful place I've ever been in my life."

The cave sequence that is part of the movie's action finale is set in South Africa but was shot in the Middleton mines in England's East Midlands.

"This was in many ways a dream job," says Saxon. "The people I'm working with, the thing I'm working on and the places I got to go to work. It's just like, what would you really like to do? Here it is."

As to whether he had ever imagined returning to the franchise, Saxon holds his arms out wide, saying, "Just a little dream."

He adds, "I thought about writing Chris or Tom, 'Dear Tom, here's what I think we could do with Donloe.' Or, 'What about this with Donloe?' And at one point, after listening to a friend, I drafted a letter to him. The next day I woke up and I thought" — he mimes wadding up a piece of paper and tossing it away — "That's never going to happen." And then years later, bang, it did."

HBO's 'Harry Potter' series casts Harry, Ron, Hermione

BY JAMI GANZ
New York Daily News

The spell has been cast, and so have Harry, Ron and Hermione in HBO's new "Harry Potter" series.

Dominic McLaughlin will sport the lightning bolt scar as the titular chosen wizard, while Arabella Stanton — who recently starred as Matilda in the West End's production of "Matilda: The Musical" — and Alastair Stout will round out the trio as Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, respectively, Variety reports.

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint were the first actors to play the magical roles, across eight films from 2001 to 2011.

"The talent of these three unique actors is wonderful to behold, and we cannot wait for the world to witness their magic together onscreen," showrunner Francesca Gardiner and director-executive producer Mark Mylod said in a statement to the outlet. "We would like to thank all the tens of thousands of children who auditioned."

Variety reports that more than 30,000 hopefuls tossed their sorting hats in the ring since the fall.

Also recently announced were the castings of John Lithgow as Headmaster Albus Dumbledore, Janet McTeer as Minerva McGonagall, Paapa Essiedu as Severus Snape and Nick Frost as Rubeus

Hagrid.

The Hollywood Reporter first broke news of the show, based on J.K. Rowling's hit children's fantasy books, in early 2021. The show is expected to debut next year, with filming slated for this summer.

The HBO series is slated to be a decade long and will closely adhere to the source material, according to Warner Bros. Discovery.

In April 2023, Bloomberg reported that Warner Bros. Discovery was "close to a deal" enabling them to adapt each of the seven books for the small screen.

Author Rowling will be an executive producer on the HBO series.



AIDAN MONAGHAN, HBO/TNS

From left, Arabella Stanton (Hermione Granger), Dominic McLaughlin (Harry Potter) and Alastair Stout (Ron Weasley) have been cast in HBO's upcoming "Harry Potter" series.

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EDITORIAL

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.comAnn Pinson, Digital Managing Editor
pinson.ann@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavín, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com

+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com

(+1)(202)886-0033

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

CIRCULATION

Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager
schultz.david@stripes.com
xsscirculation@stripes.com

+49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Carlo Aquino, Circulation Manager
aquino.carlo@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583.9136

Pacific

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

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003

633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

An ode to a monumental film, and a lesson for 2025

BY DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

Great art is called “timeless,” but that’s not quite right. A masterpiece is always timely. The world turns, generations pass, and the work of art somehow keeps pace. Its message today might not be what it says half a century, or half a millennium, from now.

When Marcel Ophuls released his documentary “Le Chagrin et la Pitié” in France decades ago (it reached the U.S. as “The Sorrow and the Pity”), French authorities denounced the monumental film. They saw it as a radical attack on mainstream French culture and postwar nationhood. By revealing the extensive collaboration by conservative French society with the Nazi occupation in World War II, Ophuls was seen as taking the side of leftists whose anti-government protests had reached a peak in the Paris streets in 1968.

The film’s message lands differently today, but no less powerfully. To understand how, some background.

Intended for French television, the film was banned from the airwaves, which stirred interest everywhere. But this was not an easy movie to love. Ophuls—who died on Saturday at 97—centered his work in an industrial city of no evident glamour and allowed the film to stretch to nearly 4½ hours as his interview subjects told their own stories in their own ways, seemingly unaware sometimes of all they were revealing.

The title quickly became an intellectual punch line, representing all challenging subtitled movies as well as the joyless cinephiles who claimed to love them. For example: In “Annie Hall” (1977), Woody Allen plays egghead movie buff Alvy Singer, who suggests to Diane Keaton as the title character that they should see “The Sorrow and the Pity.”

“Oh, come on — we’ve seen it,” she tries gamely, before protesting, “I’m not in the mood to see a four-hour documentary on Nazis.”

But it’s not a film about Nazis. Sure, a recurring witness is a smug former Wehrmacht officer who invites the film crew to his daughter’s wedding reception, then hijacks the event for a lengthy defense of his work administering the French city. Mostly, though, it is a film about how French people responded when Nazis entered their lives.

Some joined the guerrilla resistance, headquartered in London but scattered in loosely organized units meeting in forest lairs and rural cellars across France. Other people “had more to lose,” in the words of a British agent who coordinated French resistance missions. They had money and status. They hated England, as the French had done for centuries. Germany’s hatred of Jews and Russians appealed to them. These citizens supported the puppet government of Marshal Philippe Pétain and his collaborationist Prime Minister Pierre Laval.

This version of occupied France outdid even the Nazis in rounding up Jews. In July 1942, after the occupiers ordered the deportation of adult Jews in France, Laval’s police detained some 4,000 Jewish children as well. The enthusiasm flummoxed Berlin, and doomed the children.

Ophuls’ light-handed technique gives the film startling credibility. Interviews are unstructured, unstaged and clearly unrehearsed. Unplanned intimacy is persuasive. Few works bring the moral morass of civilian life in a war zone so believably to the screen.

Liberation followed after D-Day. The guerrillas delivered a swift spasm of revenge on collaborators, but it passed quickly. France rallied around the resistance leader Charles de Gaulle, with his narrative of an unconquer-

able national spirit. Wartime divisions — between liberal and communist resistance fighters; between those who helped and hindered the Germans — disappeared down the Cold War memory hole.

Now the film tells a story that’s much older, and a different facet of the masterpiece illuminates our time. Woven throughout the film, this message finds voice in an interview with Christian de la Mazière, who languidly delivers the gruesome story of his service in the Charlemagne Division of the Waffen-SS. Numbering some 7,000 Frenchmen, the unit joined the German army in time to be cannon fodder on the collapsing Eastern Front.

Ruefully, the witness muses on the ideological intensity of his youth in the 1930s. Politics allowed no disagreements — only conflicts. People everywhere seemed to conclude that the world must be flipped upside down in their favor and against their perceived enemies. Sides had to be taken. Middle ground was corrupt.

Between fascism and Marxism, he made his choice and donned a Nazi uniform.

This passionate intensity feels familiar in 2025. As one of the few survivors of the Charlemagne Division to make it home from the slaughter, however, de la Mazière delivers a different opinion of polarized politics for Ophuls’ cameras. “Political commitment leads to change, but it can also have dramatic consequences,” he observes. “So, I suggest a cautious approach.”

From offscreen comes the filmmaker’s voice, a rare intrusion, perfect for our time. “Are you afraid of ideologies?”

“A little bit,” the witness answers. A pause. “Or even a lot.”

David Von Drehle is a deputy opinion editor for The Washington Post and writes a weekly column. He is the author of “Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America’s Most Perilous Year.”

‘No tax on tips’ seems like relief, but it’s a political ploy

BY JIM GERAGHTY

Special to The Washington Post

During last year’s presidential campaign, both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris suggested that the money Americans make from tips shouldn’t be taxed. Last week, the Senate unanimously passed the No Tax on Tips Act.

Seemingly overnight, there’s a broad bipartisan consensus that tips shouldn’t be taxed by the federal government.

Except ... aren’t tips a form of income?

That’s the way they’re treated under current law; tip-collecting employees are supposed to keep a daily record of all gratuities they receive and report all tips to their employer if they total \$20 or more in a single month. The employer then includes the tips in calculating their withholding for federal income tax, Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes, etc.

For certain jobs, tips represent a significant chunk of the employee’s total income.

In 2018, the National Employment Law Project determined that the median share of hourly earnings that come from tips accounts for 58.5% of earnings for restaurant waitstaff and 54% of bartenders’ earnings, and that the median monthly tip earnings for waitstaff and bartenders are \$867.

Some argue that tips shouldn’t be taxed because they aren’t income but rather a gift. The problem with this argument is that, ac-

ording to the IRS, “any transfer to an individual, either directly or indirectly, where full consideration (measured in money or money’s worth) is not received in return” is a gift, and “the general rule is that any gift is a taxable gift.” Thankfully, the IRS doesn’t spend a lot of resources policing birthday parties, Christmas, Hanukkah, etc.

In fact, you could argue that tip income is undertaxed because it is underreported by many individuals and their employers. In 2019, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration reported to Congress that “there is significant tax noncompliance in the tip earning industry, and TIGTA was able to identify employers with significant projected unreported tips. TIGTA identified approximately 2,000 tip industry employers that have tip agreements with the IRS and appear to be in violation of those agreements with almost \$1.65 billion in unreported tip income. TIGTA also identified 16,000 tip industry employers, with over \$6.3 billion in unreported tip income, that do not have tip agreements with the IRS.”

Perhaps one of the reasons the idea of leaving tips untaxed is so popular is that it wouldn’t actually change much for a significant chunk of tipped workers. The Budget Lab at Yale University calculates that “more than a third — 37 percent — of tipped workers had incomes low enough that they faced no federal income tax in 2022, even before accounting for tax credits. For non-

tipped occupations, the equivalent share was only 16 percent.”

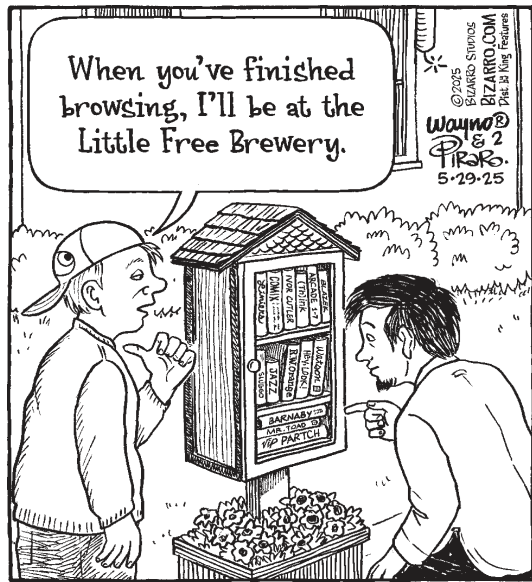
No, the clearest justification for ending taxes on tips is that Trump promised this because he really wanted to win the state of Nevada and its six electoral votes. The Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas calculates that around 17% of workers in Nevada make their living through tipped work — the highest concentration in the country. The teeming masses of waitstaff, bartenders, casino workers and strippers make it an outlier; the Budget Lab estimates that nationwide, just 2.5% of all employment involves tips.

If you figure making tips tax-free will spur a lot of shenanigans to get regular income reclassified as tips, the bill includes some provisions to prevent that scenario: Only workers making less than \$160,000 would be eligible for the exemption, and it would apply to up to \$25,000 in tips.

If you’re one of the 4 million Americans whose income includes tips, this bill probably sounds terrific. But there’s still that nagging question of why Trump, Harris and the entirety of the Senate decided that tips shouldn’t count as income, which they obviously are.

Jim Geraghty is National Review’s senior political correspondent, where he writes the daily “Morning Jolt” newsletter, among other writing duties.

Bizarro

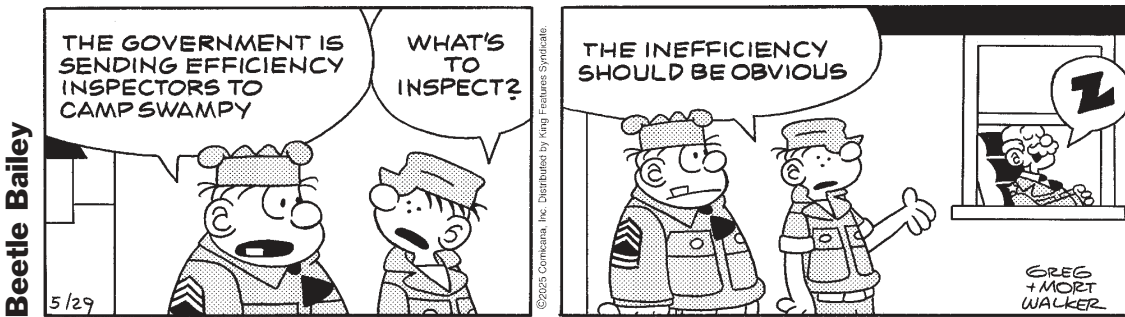
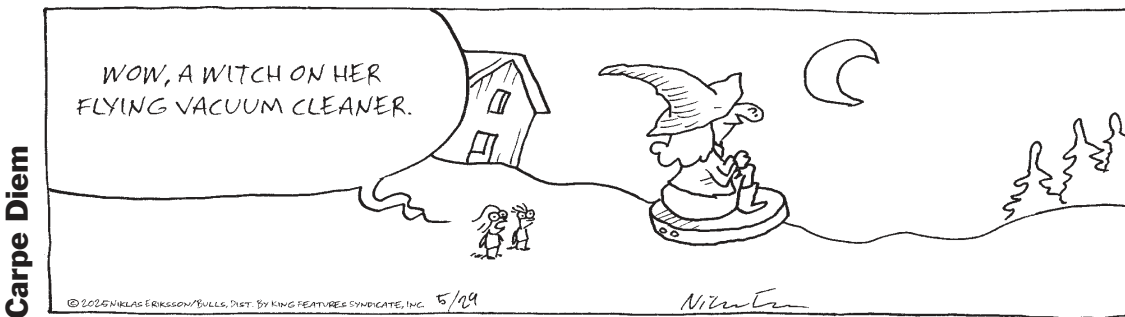
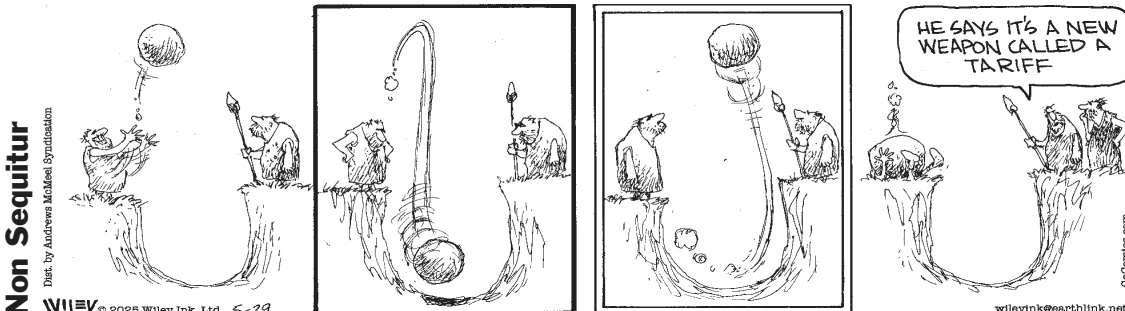


Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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



- ACROSS**
- 1 Yankee nickname
 - 5 "Humbug!"
 - 8 Baseball stats
 - 12 Physicist Niels
 - 13 Pirates' drink
 - 14 Sea eagle
 - 15 — fide (genuine)
 - 16 Roswell sighting
 - 17 Firecracker part
 - 18 Kind of clock
 - 20 Moves to one side
 - 22 St. crosser
 - 23 Salt Lake athlete
 - 24 Extended lunches?
 - 27 Opera text
 - 32 Medit. nation
 - 33 Goof up
 - 34 Sailor
 - 35 "Emile" author
 - 38 Pleads
 - 39 Ultimate
 - 40 Altar affirmative
 - 42 Butterfly protector
 - 45 Join metal
 - 49 "Cowardly Lion" actor
 - 50 Shock partner
 - 52 Ultimatum ender
 - 53 Throat clearer
 - 54 Standard
 - 55 Bat mitzvah, e.g.
 - 56 Touse
- DOWN**
- 1 "Fernando" group
 - 2 Cheer (for)
 - 3 "It can't be!"
 - 4 Eugene O'Neill works
 - 5 Martial arts film star
 - 6 "— Wiedersehen"
 - 7 Med. plan options
 - 8 Prove false
 - 9 Brown-haired
 - 10 "Meet Me — Louis"
 - 11 Beholds
 - 19 Hosp. drip
 - 21 "Ben- —"
 - 24 Knight's address
 - 25 GI show org.
 - 26 Sunday meals
 - 28 401(k) alternative
 - 29 Big galoots
 - 30 Label
 - 31 Hosp. areas
 - 36 Tempests
 - 37 HBO rival
 - 38 Ravel piece
 - 41 Hairstyle
 - 42 Untalkative one
 - 43 Honolulu's isle
 - 44 Scruff
 - 46 554, to Cato
 - 47 "Como — usted?"
 - 48 Film spool
 - 51 Opposite of peace

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

5-29

CRYPTOQUIP

RKZ WGW ERY KXDY-QYOIYDEYW
 MYB BKZ MYYB ZRYX RY
 OEJQEYW BKOGXT RGO IQYOEGTY?
 VX-OEJEVO-MGYW.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY STORE WAS HOLDING A HUGE SALE ON DRAPES, WITH THE DISCLAIMER "CURTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals F

WORLD

Germany offers to help Ukraine develop missiles

By STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

BERLIN — German Chancellor Friedrich Merz pledged Wednesday to help Ukraine develop its own long-range missile systems that would be free of any Western-imposed limitations on their range and target options as the Kyiv government fights to repel Russia's invasion.

Some of the advanced weapon systems that Kyiv's Western partners have supplied to Ukraine during the more than three-year

war were subject to range and target restrictions.

The limits have been a fraught political issue, stemming from fears that if the weapons struck Russia, the Kremlin might retaliate against whichever country that provided them and suck the entire NATO alliance into Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

Merz said in Berlin, alongside visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, that under an intensified cooperation agree-

ment Germany "will strive to equip the Ukrainian army with all the capabilities that truly enable it to successfully defend the country," including upgraded domestic missile production.

Germany has been the second-biggest supplier of military aid to Ukraine after the United States.

"Ukraine will be able to fully defend itself including against military targets outside its own territory" with its own missiles, Merz said at a joint news conference.

Merz's pledge came as the past

few months of intense U.S.-led peace efforts have brought no significant breakthrough and with analysts saying that Russia is poised to launch a major summer offensive.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl was set to meet in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio later Wednesday.

Merz declined to say whether Germany will supply its advanced Taurus long-range cruise missile to Ukraine — long a request by

Kyiv and a step that Berlin has resisted.

Asked about Germany's offer to fund long-range missile production in Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov responded that the move was an obstacle to reaching a peace agreement.

Both Merz and Zelenskyy criticized the Kremlin's effective rejection of an unconditional ceasefire proposed by the U.S., which Kyiv accepted, and its delay in responding to proposals for a settlement.

Putin: Trump ramps up threats of sanctions, support for Ukraine

FROM PAGE 1

about pressuring Putin that he even exempted the country from tariffs that he imposed on most of the rest of the world.

"This war is Joe Biden's fault, and President Trump has been clear he wants to see a negotiated peace deal. President Trump has also smartly kept all options on the table," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Tuesday.

But it was still unclear whether Trump was truly prepared to impose more sanctions, and he has kept quiet about whether he supports a bipartisan effort in Congress to bolster them. Russia has faced years of U.S. sanctions, although experts say they could be tightened against its energy and banking sector.

The State and Treasury departments have each been drafting potential sanctions packages against Russia that would focus on those sectors, one diplomat familiar with the discussions said.

The same teams have also been assessing the effectiveness of the current sanctions regime and contemplating the rollback of certain existing sanctions, said the diplomat, who, like others, spoke only on the condition of anonymity to speak frankly about closed-door talks.

But any shift would depend on the personal preference of Trump, who has made clear that he alone is the arbiter of U.S. policy. For now, there has been no action either to pressure Putin or boost Ukraine, which is still receiving the final tranches of military aid approved during the Biden administration. That assistance is due to run out in the coming months, and Trump has not signaled plans to revive or extend it, putting Kyiv in an uncertain strategic position.

"There is a choice facing the current administration, which is to authorize additional security assistance for Ukraine so they continue to receive the weapons they need to defend their coun-



ANDRIY ANDRIYENKO, 65TH MECHANIZED BRIGADE/AP

Ukrainian servicemen attend a military training in the Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine, Monday.

try," said David Shimer, the former Ukraine director on President Joe Biden's National Security Council. "Or to chart a different course, which is to let U.S. security assistance wind down, which would disadvantage Ukraine, play to Russia's advantage, and ultimately embolden and incentivize Russia to keep this war going."

For years, Trump has heralded his close relationship with Putin, described the trust he believes exists between the two and downplayed the role of Russian aggression in the war in Ukraine.

He has blamed Ukraine for getting invaded and blasted Biden for allowing it — all while minimizing Putin's central role in the violence.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in early 2022 and has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, according to intelligence estimates.

On the campaign trail, Trump declared his intention to resolve the war within "24 hours," even before coming to office — though

he said in March that he was being "a little bit sarcastic."

Through it all, Trump has been solicitous toward the Russian leader, lauding last week his "good conversation with a nice gentleman named Vladimir Putin" in which "the tone and spirit of the conversation were excellent."

Trump made plain his desire to move beyond the war to revive U.S.-Russia trade ties, despite Putin's spurning the U.S. president's demand for an immediate ceasefire, which Ukraine has embraced. In a call with European leaders after the conversation with Putin, Trump said that the Russian leader did not appear ready for peace, a second diplomat said.

As he did Tuesday, Trump has occasionally flared his frustration with Putin's continued assault on Ukraine — though he has taken no steps to do anything about it.

In late April, the same day that he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the fu-

neral of Pope Francis in Rome, Trump aired a wide range of grievances around the state of peace negotiations and the media's portrayal of his efforts to bring a ceasefire to Ukraine. He also criticized Putin's commitment to the process.

"There was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days," Trump said. "It makes me think that maybe he doesn't want to stop the war, he's just tapping me along, and has to be dealt with differently, through 'Banking' or 'Secondary Sanctions?' Too many people are dying!!!"

Ukraine experts say that the absence of concrete pushback from Washington has given Moscow a green light to continue the war.

"We've seen statements coming from the president and others around him that he's frustrated, that he's pissed off," said William Taylor, a former ambassador to Ukraine. "All those kinds of statements have had zero effect. It's almost a calling of the bluff by the Russians. Putin doesn't take these statements seriously. What can cause Putin to take us seriously is actual steps."

Taylor said that increased sanctions on Russia, renewed military support for Ukraine and an encouragement to Europeans to use \$300 billion in frozen Russian sovereign assets to help Kyiv could all serve to flip Putin's calculus about coming to the bargaining table.

Some in the Trump administration have been lukewarm about the measures until now.

"If you start threatening sanctions, the Russians will stop talking," Secretary of State Marco Rubio told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week. "And there is value in us being able to talk to them and to drive them to get to the table."

The concern stands in stark contradiction to Trump's strategy on economic coercion, which he has embraced as a negotiating tactic in almost every other circum-

stance: against the European Union, China, Harvard and law firms he views as critical of his actions.

Sanctions experts say that there are measures that could be tightened beyond Biden-era efforts.

"When we're talking about increasing sanctions on Russia, there's actually quite a bit of low-hanging fruit," said Edward Fishman, who helped design Russia sanctions during the Obama administration and is the author of the book "Chokepoints: American Power in the Age of Economic Warfare."

While U.S. sanctions have targeted several high-profile Russians banks and a number of individuals in Putin's circles, there are still plenty of legal ways that U.S. dollars continue to flow into Russia, Fishman said. Russia's state-owned oil and gas companies, for example, have escaped full U.S. sanctions so far.

"Actually just cutting off individual Russian companies and banks from the U.S. financial system, freezing their assets, blocking their ability to transact in dollars — like, there are still targets that are there," Fishman said.

Biden held back from unleashing the full blast of sanctions on Russian energy — for example, by targeting buyers of Russian oil and gas — because he was concerned it would drive up global energy prices and rebound against U.S. voters.

Trump — who is far less sympathetic to Kyiv — may be unlikely to cross Biden's line on that front, though gas prices are lower now than they were during the peak of Biden-era inflation, giving the White House somewhat more room to maneuver, Fishman said.

"Do I think it will deliver some sort of quick result — where, like, you impose the sanctions and a week later you get a ceasefire? No, I don't," Fishman acknowledged. "But I think that it's a really important step to get Putin off of his current thought process that time is on his side."

SCOREBOARD/OLYMPICS

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

ATHLETICS — Placed 1B Nick Kurtz on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 25. Selected the contract of OF Drew Avans from Las Vegas (PCL). Acquired LHP Sean Newcomb from the Boston Red Sox in exchange for cash considerations. Designated LHP Matt Krook and RHP Ryan Cusick for assignment. UTL Seth Brown cleared waivers and has been outrighted to Las Vegas.

BALTIMORE ORIOLLES — UTL Terrin Vavra cleared waivers and was assigned to Norfolk (IL).

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated RHP Richard Fitts from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Zach Kelly to Worcester (IL). Reinstated LHP Zach Penrod from the 60-day IL and optioned him to Worcester. Sent LHP Chris Murphy to Greenville (SAL) on a rehab assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Jorge Juan on a minor league contract.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reinstated C Kory Lee from the 10-day IL.

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Reinstated RHP Hunter Gaddis from the bereavement list. Optioned LHP Joey Cantillo to Columbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Placed CF Matt Vierling on the 10-day IL. Reinstated RF Wenceel Pérez from the 60-day IL.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Sent LHP Garrett McDaniels to ACL Angels on a rehab assignment.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Acquired C Matt Thaiss from the Chicago White Sox in exchange for OF Dru Baker. Transferred OF Jonny DeLuca to the 60-day IL.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with SS Alan Trejo on a minor league contract. Agreed to terms with LF Billy McKinney on a minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Sent RHP Erik Swanson to Buffalo (IL) on a rehab assignment.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with 3B Nicky Lopez on a minor league contract.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Optioned RHP Angel Chivilli to Albuquerque (PCL). Reinstated RHP Victor Vodnik from the 15-day IL.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Sent RHP J.P. Feyerherzen outright to Oklahoma City (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS — Sent RHP Declan Cronin and CF Dane Myers to Jacksonville (IL) on rehab assignments.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent LHP Jose Quintana to Wisconsin (ML) on a rehab assignment.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed DL Patrick Jenkins to a rookie contract. Released DL Ben Stille.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Restructured the contract of G Cordell Volson.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed DT Mason Graham to a rookie contract.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed LB Zach Cunningham to a contract. Waived LB Abraham Beaulplan.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Re-signed LB Quinton Bell, DB Elijah Campbell, T Jackson Carman and WR Dee Eskridge to contracts. Signed CB Ryan Cooper to a contract. Placed CB Jason Maitre on injured reserve.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed WR Montana Lemonious-Craig to a rookie contract.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Signed DT Carl Davis to a contract.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Signed G Nikita Quapp to a two-year, entry-level contract.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Hired Brad Shaw as an assistant coach.

SEATTLE KRACEN — Signed D Tyson Jugnauth to a three-year, entry-level contract.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

LAFC — Announced the retirement of F Carlos Vela.

NEW YORK CITY FC — Signed F Seymour Reid to a first team contract as a home-grown player through 2029, with an option for 2030.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Division I World Series

At Oklahoma City Double Elimination Thursday, May 29

Game 1: Texas (51-11) vs. Florida (48-15)
Game 2: Oklahoma (50-7) vs. Tennessee (45-15)

Game 3: Texas Tech (50-12) vs. Mississippi (42-19)
Game 4: UCLA (54-11) vs. Oregon (53-8)

Friday, May 30

Game 5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
Game 6: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser

Saturday, May 31

Game 7: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Game 8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner

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	4	2	29	21	19
Nashville	8	4	3	27	26	17
Orlando City	7	2	6	27	28	16
Columbus	7	2	6	27	24	17
NYC FC	7	5	3	24	18	15
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
New England	5	4	4	19	15	13
Chicago	5	5	4	19	25	27
Atlanta	3	7	5	14	18	26
D.C. United	3	7	5	14	13	27
Toronto FC	3	8	4	13	17	20
CF Montréal	1	9	5	8	10	25

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

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's games

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
San Diego	6	2	2	20	21	12
Orlando	6	3	1	19	18	8
Washington	6	3	1	19	18	16
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	4	3	12	13	15
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, June 6

Utah Royals FC at Louisville
Seattle at San Diego

AP SPORTLIGHT

May 29

1922 — The Supreme Court rules organized baseball is primarily a sport and not a business, and therefore not subject to antitrust laws and interstate commerce regulations.

1977 — A.J. Foyt becomes the first driver to win four Indianapolis 500s and Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman in the race. Guthrie is forced to drop out after 27 laps with mechanical problems.

1980 — Larry Bird beats out Magic Johnson for NBA rookie of year.

1989 — Philadelphia Phillies 12-time All-Star third baseman Mike Schmidt retires from MLB at 39.

1990 — Rickey Henderson steals his 893rd base, breaking Ty Cobb's AL record.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	4	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	4	2	.667	1
Indiana	2	2	.500	2
Washington	2	3	.400	2½
Connecticut	0	5	.000	4½
Chicago	0	4	.000	4

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	5	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	4	1	.800	1
Seattle	3	2	.600	2
Golden State	2	2	.500	2½
Las Vegas	2	2	.500	2½
Los Angeles	2	4	.333	3½
Dallas	1	4	.200	4

Tuesday's games

New York 95, Golden State 67
Dallas 109, Connecticut 87
Minnesota 82, Seattle 77
Phoenix 94, Chicago 89
Atlanta 88, Los Angeles 82

Wednesday's game

Indiana at Washington

Thursday's games

Golden State at New York
Dallas at Chicago

Friday's games

Connecticut at Indiana
New York at Washington
Atlanta at Seattle
Los Angeles at Las Vegas
Minnesota at Phoenix

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Division I regionals

**Double Elimination; x-if necessary
Friday, May 30
Athens Regional
Athens, Ga.**

Georgia (42-15) vs. Binghamton (29-24)
Oklahoma St. (28-23) vs. Duke (37-19)

Auburn Regional Auburn, Ala.

Stetson (40-20) vs. NC State (33-19)
Auburn (38-18) vs. CCSU (31-15)

Austin Regional Austin, Texas

Texas (42-12) vs. Houston Christian (32-23)
Kansas St. (31-24) vs. UTSA (44-13)

Baton Rouge Regional Baton Rouge, La.

LSU (43-14) vs. UALR (24-32)
Rhode Island (38-20) vs. Dallas Baptist (40-16)

Chapel Hill Regional Chapel Hill, N.C.

N. Carolina (42-12) vs. Holy Cross (31-25)
Nebraska (32-27) vs. Oklahoma (35-20)

Clemson Regional Clemson, S.C.

Kentucky (29-24) vs. W. Virginia (41-14)
Clemson (44-16) vs. SC-Upstate (36-23)

Conway Regional Conway, S.C.

East Carolina (33-25) vs. Florida (38-20)
Coastal Carolina (48-11) vs. Fairfield (39-17)

Corvallis Regional Corvallis, Ore.

Southern Cal (35-21) vs. TCU (39-18)
Oregon St. (41-12-1) vs. Saint Mary's (Cal) (34-24)

Eugene Regional Eugene, Ore.

Cal Poly (41-17) vs. Arizona (39-18)
Oregon (42-14) vs. Utah Valley (32-27)

Fayetteville Regional Fayetteville, Ark.

Arkansas (43-13) vs. N. Dakota St. (20-32)
Creighton (41-14) vs. Kansas (43-15)

Hattiesburg Regional Hattiesburg, Miss.

Miami (31-24) vs. Alabama (41-16)
Southern Miss. (44-14) vs. Columbia (29-17)

Knoxville Regional Knoxville, Tenn.

Cincinnati (32-24) vs. Wake Forest (36-20)
Tennessee (43-16) vs. Miami (Ohio) (35-21)

Los Angeles Regional Los Angeles

UCLA (42-16) vs. Fresno St. (31-27)
Arizona St. (35-22) vs. UC Irvine (41-15)

Nashville Regional Nashville, Tenn.

ETSU (41-15) vs. Louisville (35-21)
Vanderbilt (42-16) vs. Wright St. (38-19)

Oxford Regional Oxford, Miss.

W. Kentucky (46-12) vs. Georgia Tech (40-17)
Mississippi (40-19) vs. Murray St. (39-13)

Tallahassee Regional Tallahassee, Fla.

Florida St. (38-14) vs. Bethune-Cookman (37-21)
Mississippi St. (34-21) vs. Northeastern (48-9)

Berlin presents bid with anniversary of 1936 Games looming

By CIARAN FAHEY

Associated Press

BERLIN — Berlin has formally presented its bid to rehost the Olympics in the same stadium where Jesse Owens starred during the 1936 Games under the Nazis.

Berlin Sports Minister Iris Spranger on Tuesday said the city wants to put on a sustainable Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2036, 2040 or 2044, by refurbishing existing sports venues. But her announced plans to include the former airport Tempelhof are likely to be resisted by locals who already opposed any development of the popular city park in a 2014 referendum.

Spranger envisaged beach volleyball at the Brandenburg Gate, and water sports in Grünau, a riverside locality which also staged water sports in 1936. Otherwise, she gave few details during the presentation, saying the bid was still at concept phase.

“You’ll have to be patient,” Spranger told a journalist.

Many Berliners are against the idea of staging the Olympics at all, regardless of them potentially taking place on the 100th anniversary of the Games already hosted by the Nazis. An initiative called “NOlympia Berlin” has already announced plans to block it by collecting enough signatures to force a referendum.

Munich’s bid to host the Winter Games in 2022 and Hamburg’s hopes of hosting the Summer Games in 2024 were both foiled by referendums.

Spranger said she was against a referendum, saying she preferred “dialogue with one another. Not just yes or no, but that the public really knows what we’re planning.”

But for that, Tuesday’s presentation was little help.

Local politician Klara Schedlich of the opposition Green party spoke against the bid.

“Our tax money is better spent on sports clubs than the IOC,” Schedlich said, referring to the International Olympic Committee.

Berlin’s bid — titled “Berlin+” with support from the states of Brandenburg, Saxony, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and Schleswig-Holstein — is to be presented

to the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) before an end-of-month deadline.

International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons said Wednesday that another bid would be a “very positive” sign for future Games. Parsons is also a member of the IOC’s Future Host Commission.

“The more quality bids we have to work with, the better,” Parsons, who was in Brisbane, Australia meeting organizers of the 2032 Games, said. “We can compare different Games propositions ... the different visions for different Games going to different parts of the world.”

“So if they (Berlin) put together a good bid, I think it’s very welcome.”

It will be up to the DOSB to decide which Games to bid for. Los Angeles is hosting the 2028 Olympics and Brisbane the 2032 Olympics, so the next available edition will be 2036, the 100th anniversary of the Berlin Games.

“I believe that the 2036 Games, regardless of where they take place, will also focus on the Nazi Games of 1936. That’s part of history and attention will be paid to it,”

Berlin Mayor Kai Wegner said. “I have to tell you, I’m proud to be the governing mayor of a city that has changed in the last 100 years, that we no longer stand for dictatorship, exclusion and mass violence, but that Berlin is now a cosmopolitan, international metropolis, a colorful, diverse city.”

The DOSB previously said a German bid for 2040 was also possible. Munich, Hamburg and North Rhine-Westphalia also plan bids.

“It’s important for Germany to make a bid. We’re making an offer here today,” Wegner said.

The formal presentation took place in the same battle-scarred stadium, Berlin’s Olympiastadion, where Adolf Hitler watched Owens, the Black American athlete, win four gold medals in the 1936 Games, dealing a blow to Hitler’s notions of racial superiority.

Hitler was personally involved in the design and construction of the 100,000-seat track-and-field stadium after the Nazis assumed power in 1933, two years after the Games were awarded to the city.

“It’s important for Germany to make a bid. We’re making an offer here today.”

Kai Wegner
Berlin mayor

MLB

ROUNDUP

Ohtani hits league-best 20th HR

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 20th home run of the season and the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Cleveland Guardians 9-5 on Tuesday night.

Michael Conforto and Max Muncy also went deep for the Dodgers. Dustin May (3-4) won his second straight start. The right-hander had a season-high nine strikeouts and allowed three runs in five innings.

Daniel Schneemann had a three-run homer in the fourth inning as the Guardians dropped their third straight. José Ramírez extended his hitting streak to 20 games — the longest active run in the majors — with a base hit in the frame.

Ohtani drove a cutter from Tanner Bibee (4-5) into the left-field stands to extend the Dodgers' lead to 4-0 in the fourth inning.

It was the second time this season and 10th since Ohtani came to the majors from Japan for the 2018 season he has homered in three straight games.

Cardinals 7, Orioles 4: Nolan Arenado hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, and visiting St. Louis topped Baltimore.

The Orioles were on a season-high three-game winning streak, but they reverted to old habits, going 1-for-14 with runners in scoring position. The lone hit was a three-run homer by Ryan O'Hearn that gave Baltimore a 4-3 lead in the fifth, but the Cardinals responded with a run in the seventh and three in the eighth off the Orioles' bullpen.

Tigers 3, Giants 1: Wenceel Pérez homered in his first at-bat in his season debut, Jack Flaherty worked six scoreless innings and Riley Greene had three hits and two RBIs as the American League-leading host Detroit beat San Francisco.

Pérez, who had missed the entire season due to a lower back injury, hit a 2-0 pitch 351 feet to right field in the second inning for his first homer since Aug. 7.

Phillies 2, Braves 0: Ranger Suárez struck out eight in six shutout innings, and Philadelphia survived an injury scare to slugger Bryce Harper to beat visiting Atlanta.

Harper left in the first inning after he was hit near the right elbow by a 95.3 mph fastball from Braves starter Spencer Strider (0-3). Harper sustained a bruise, and an X-ray was negative, the Phillies said.

Twins 4, Rays 2: Kody Clemens hit his fifth home run of the season, with father Roger Clemens watching from the stands, and visiting Minnesota beat Tampa Bay



DAVID DERMER/AP

The Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani watches his two-run home run off Guardians starting pitcher Tanner Bibee during the fourth inning Tuesday in Cleveland. It was Ohtani's MLB-leading 20th of the season.

to stop the Rays' season-high, six-game winning streak.

Kody Clemens extended his hitting streak to a career-high eight games when he homered off leading off the second against Taj Bradley (4-4).

Mets 6, White Sox 4: Pete Alonso and Jared Young each hit a two-run homer in the first inning, and New York beat visiting Chicago for its fourth consecutive comeback victory.

Taylor Megill (4-4) recovered from a shaky start, allowing two runs in 5½ innings, to help the Mets (34-21) match a season high at 13 games above .500 with their 14th come-from-behind win.

Reds 7, Royals 2: Elly De La Cruz hit two long home runs, Brady Singer pitched seven strong innings against his former team and Cincinnati beat host Kansas City.

De La Cruz hit a 436-foot shot to center in the fourth inning that tied the score at 2 against Jonathan Bowlan, then a go-ahead 451-foot drive into the right-center fountain in the sixth off Taylor Clarke (1-1).

Brewers 5, Red Sox 1 (10): Christian Yelich hit a grand slam in the 10th inning for his first career-walk-off homer, giving Milwaukee a win over Boston.

With Joey Ortiz on at second, Brice Turang lined a four-seam fastball off Liam Hendriks (0-2) for a base hit that moved Ortiz to third. Jackson Chourio walked. One out later, Yelich drove a 1-1 pitch 400 feet to right-center.

Rangers 2, Blue Jays 0: Josh Jung's two-out single scored pinch runner Sam Haggerty in the eighth inning to break a scoreless tie and Texas beat visiting Toron-

to.

The Rangers' second run scored when Toronto catcher Alejandro Kirk threw into left field when attempting to pick Wyatt Langford off third base.

Astros 11, Athletics 1: Jose Altuve's 40th four-hit game included a pair of home runs and Houston rolled to a home win that dealt the Athletics their 12th loss in 13 games.

Altuve singled on the first inning, homered leading off a three-run third and hit a two-run drive in the fourth, getting his 13th career multihomer game with his eighth home run this season. He singled in the sixth ahead of Christian Walker's homer.

Cubs 4, Rockies 3 (11): Michael Busch and Matt Shaw hit run-scoring singles in the 11th inning, lifting Chicago past visiting Colorado and sending them to their 21st consecutive series loss.

Chicago has won nine of 11 while the Rockies fell to 9-46 and are on pace to finish 27-135. Colorado is 0-18 in series this season and also lost its last three in 2024.

The Rockies exceeded the 20 straight lost series by the Chicago White Sox last year.

Mariners 9, Nationals 1: Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run home run, Cal Raleigh hit a pair of solo homers and Seattle opened a nine-game homestand with a win over visiting Washington.

Rodríguez and Raleigh went back-to-back after J.P. Crawford led off the first with a single to stake Seattle rookie Logan Evans to a 3-0 lead.

Yankees 3, Angels 2: Carlos Rodón pitched seven scoreless innings of five-hit ball, and Devin

Williams barely survived a perilous ninth inning to earn his first save since April 17 in New York's victory over hosting Los Angeles.

Yoán Moncada homered in the ninth as the Angels ended a stretch of 16 scoreless innings in the series with two runs and three hits off Williams, the Yankees' embattled new reliever.

Williams lost the closer role last month after a shaky beginning to his New York tenure, and he hadn't had a save opportunity since April 25.

Padres 6, Marlins 6: Three-time batting champion Luis Arraez singled in the tying and go-ahead runs against one of his former teams and Miami rookie second baseman Ronny Simón's three errors helped host San Diego rebound from a six-run deficit for a wild win.

Simón originally had been charged with a fourth error but the official scorer changed the call to a single by Xander Bogaerts.

Pirates 9, Diamondbacks 6: Bryan Reynolds had four hits, including a go-ahead three-run homer in the eighth, and Pittsburgh overcame a six-run deficit to stun visiting Arizona.

The Pirates, who entered the night 0-29 when trailing after seven innings, were down 6-2 before scoring seven times in the eighth against Arizona relievers Kevin Ginkel and Jalen Beeks.

The key blows were Isiah Kiner-Falefa's three-run double, which tied the game and knocked out Ginkel (0-3). After Geraldo Perdomo's error allowed Oneil Cruz to reach base, Reynolds followed with a homer to left-center off Beeks to make it 9-6.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	34	20	.630	—
Tampa Bay	27	27	.500	7
Toronto	26	28	.481	8
Boston	27	30	.474	8½
Baltimore	19	35	.352	15

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	36	20	.643	—
Minnesota	30	24	.556	5
Cleveland	29	25	.537	6
Kansas City	29	27	.518	7
Chicago	17	38	.309	18½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	30	23	.566	—
Houston	29	25	.537	1½
Texas	27	29	.482	4½
Los Angeles	25	29	.463	5½
Athletics	23	32	.418	8

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	35	19	.648	—
New York	34	21	.618	1½
Atlanta	25	28	.472	9½
Washington	24	30	.444	11
Miami	21	32	.396	13½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	34	21	.618	—
St. Louis	31	24	.564	3
Cincinnati	28	28	.500	6½
Milwaukee	28	28	.500	6½
Pittsburgh	20	36	.357	14½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	34	21	.618	—
San Diego	31	22	.585	2
San Francisco	31	24	.564	3
Arizona	27	28	.491	7
Colorado	9	46	.164	25

Tuesday's games
 Detroit 3, San Francisco 1
 L.A. Dodgers 9, Cleveland 5
 Minnesota 4, Tampa Bay 2
 St. Louis 7, Baltimore 4
 N.Y. Mets 6, Chicago White Sox 4
 Cincinnati 7, Kansas City 2
 Milwaukee 5, Boston 1, 10 innings
 Texas 2, Toronto 0
 Houston 11, Athletics 1
 Seattle 9, Washington 1
 N.Y. Yankees 3, L.A. Angels 2
 Philadelphia 2, Atlanta 0
 Chicago Cubs 4, Colorado 3, 11 innings
 Pittsburgh 9, Arizona 6
 San Diego 8, Miami 6

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

Thursday's games
 Atlanta (Sale 2-3) at Philadelphia (Sanchez 4-1)
 Athletics (Springs 5-3) at Toronto (Berrios 1-2)
 Tampa Bay (Baz 4-3) at Houston (TBD)
 Washington (Gore 2-5) at Seattle (Hancock 2-2)

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

MLB/NHL PLAYOFFS

Shine: Young went from low draft pick to making impact on deep Mets team

FROM PAGE 40

said, I like the at-bats and it was good to see him get some results today.”

Young played at small schools in Oklahoma (Connors State College) and North Dakota (Minot State University) before getting selected by the Cubs in the 15th round of the 2017 amateur draft from Old Dominion in Virginia.

Young made his major league debut with Chicago in September 2022 and got 47 plate appearances in 2023. He was then claimed off waivers by the St. Louis Cardinals and played 74 games at Triple-A Memphis last year before getting released July 30.

So Young signed with the Doosan Bears in South Korea and batted .326 with 10 homers and 39 RBIs over 38 games in the KBO

— where he was teammates with Mets left-hander Brandon Waddell, another international success story.

New York signed Young last December and sent him to Syracuse, where he began the season on the injured list.

But once Young got healthy, he pounded Triple-A pitching, batting .259 with a .393 on-base percentage and a .533 slugging percentage. He had five homers, five

doubles, 21 RBIs and 12 walks in 22 games before being called up.

“You believe in yourself and you believe in the player that you are, I feel like it takes care of a lot of things,” Young said. “There’s going to be a lot of ups and downs in kind of any career—I don’t care if it’s playing baseball, or doing anything. But I think when you believe in yourself you can get to where you want to get.”

Asked how he’s been feeling at the plate in the majors, Young said: “Pretty comfortable.”

“Trying to keep things as similar as possible to all the baseball you’ve played, whether in the minors or the big leagues, wherever you are,” Young explained. “You know, just put good at-bats and be a tough out.”

Young certainly was Tuesday night, hitting sixth in a

dangerous Mets lineup that features some of baseball’s biggest stars in Alonso, Juan Soto and Francisco Lindor.

“It’s awesome. It’s great,” Young said. “You take a look at this team from the top down, I mean, pretty good ballplayers and winning a lot of games. So to get thrown into it, I feel like I belong and I feel like it’s a good spot and a good fit, and hope we can just keep winning some ballgames.”

“You believe in yourself and you believe in the player that you are, I feel like it takes care of a lot of things.”

Jared Young
Mets utility player



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Jared Young, left, went into spring training on a major league deal with the New York Mets, but was optioned to Triple-A Syracuse to start the season before getting called up to the big league club Saturday.



JASON FRANSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Dallas Stars’ Esa Lindell, left, chases down the Oilers’ Leon Draisaitl as he gets a shot away during second-period Western Conference final action in Edmonton on Tuesday. The Oilers won 4-1.

Oilers take commanding 3-1 series lead over Stars

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Edmonton Oilers are one win away from a return trip to the Stanley Cup Final.

Leon Draisaitl and Corey Perry each had a power-play goal and an assist and Edmonton took a commanding lead in the Western Conference final series with a 4-1 victory over the Dallas Stars on Tuesday night.

Kasperii Kapanen and Adam Henrique added empty-net goals, and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Connor McDavid each had two assists for the Oilers, who took a 3-1 lead in the series by winning three consecutive games after a third-period collapse cost them the opening game in Dallas. Since that game, Edmonton has outscored the Stars 13-2.

Draisaitl said it was far from easy in Game 4.

“There are going to be some swings in a series. They’re one of the last four teams standing, so they’re going to have their push, and there’s going to be periods where they control the play. That’s just the way it is,” Draisaitl said.

“But I think we’ve managed it really well. (goalie Stuart Skinner) has been incredible when we needed him to be, and our third period was really well played.”

The Oilers are now 9-0 in Game 4s over their past three playoff runs.

Skinner continued to shine in the

NHL scoreboard

Conference Finals

Best-of-7; x-if necessary
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Florida 3, Carolina 1

Florida 5, Carolina 2
Florida 5, Carolina 0
Florida 6, Carolina 2
Carolina 3, Florida 0
Wednesday: at Carolina
x-Friday: at Florida
x-Sunday: at Carolina

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Edmonton 3, Dallas 1

Dallas 6, Edmonton 3
Edmonton 3, Dallas 0
Edmonton 6, Dallas 1
Tuesday: Edmonton 4, Dallas 1
Thursday: at Dallas, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m.
Friday CET, 10 a.m. Friday JKT
x-Saturday: at Edmonton
x-Monday: at Dallas

time. I mean, I don’t even think really what the series is, it’s just try to win one game and come back to Alberta.”

Jake Oettinger recorded 29 stops while taking the loss in the Stars net, falling to 5-11 in his career in West final contests.

After surviving a flurry of Dallas chances to start the game, Edmonton started the scoring on the power play with 8:37 to play in the opening period as Nugent-Hopkins kept up his hot play in the series, feeding it to Draisaitl who beat Oettinger with a one-timer from a bad angle for his seventh of the playoffs.

It was Nugent-Hopkins’ fourth consecutive multipoint performance, becoming the first player in 35 years to accomplish that feat in a conference final, and the first Oiler to have nine or more points through the first four games of a conference final since Wayne Gretzky 37 years ago.

There was some cause for concern for Edmonton in the first frame, however, as forward Zach Hyman took an open ice hit from Mason Marchment and left the game with an upper-body injury and did not return.

Stars forward Roope Hintz returned to the lineup after missing a game. He was helped off the ice late in the third period of Game 2 after being slashed on the top of the left foot by Oilers defenseman Darnell Nurse.

Edmonton net, making 28 saves in the win.

“How we all played as a team was fantastic and shows a lot of courage, the way that guys are blocking shots,” Skinner said. “For myself, it definitely felt good out there. I’m just trying to give my team the best chance that I possibly can every night.”

Jason Robertson scored for the Stars, who are in danger of being eliminated in the West final by the Oilers for the second year in a row.

“It’s time to reset again, it’s not over until somebody wins four games,” said Dallas forward Mikko Rantanen, who has been held scoreless for seven straight games after scoring nine goals in the six previous games. “So now we go on home ice and it’s just one game at a

FRENCH OPEN

Borges, bad knee knock out Ruud

No. 7 seed had reached at least semifinals past three years; Alcaraz, Swiatek advance

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Clearly hampered by a bad left knee, two-time French Open finalist Casper Ruud dropped 13 of the last 14 games and lost 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 to Nuno Borges in the second round at Roland-Garros on Wednesday, then revealed he had been playing in pain off-and-on throughout the clay-court season.

The seventh-seeded Ruud reached at least the semifinals each of the past three years in Paris — he was the runner-up to Rafael Nadal in 2022 and Novak Djokovic in 2023 — and this exit is his earliest at the tournament since bowing out in the second round in his debut in 2018.

Ruud's been taking pain-killing and anti-inflammatory pills the past several weeks, and did so again Wednesday. But he said the knee began bothering him in the first set against Borges, who is ranked 41st and became the first Portuguese man to get to the French Open's third round.

Ruud said the worst shot for his knee is an open-stance backhand, in which he slides on his left foot, so he's been avoiding it in practice. "Certain movements out there are kind of what makes it painful. Certain shots are painful to do. When you're playing matches, you can't really control it in the same way (as in practice). You do everything you can to get to every ball," said Ruud, who also reached the final at the 2023 U.S. Open. "Sometimes you kind of forget that this is a shot I shouldn't go for."

Ruud was visited by a trainer

and took some pills during Wednesday's match, but nothing seemed to help.

"It's a Slam. I love this tournament," Ruud said. "Looking back, I tried my best to continue (and tried) to avoid the shots that are hurting. But towards the end, there were also other movements that started hurting, so it wasn't ideal."

Ruud said the problems began in his first clay event of the pre-French Open stretch, at Monte Carlo in April, and that he had medical exams a couple of weeks later in Madrid — where he went on to win the title. He pulled out of the Geneva Open, which was played last week.

Now he'll have more tests done.

"I took five days completely off at home. It wasn't enough to make the pain go away," Ruud said. "I wish I could stay here longer."

What else happened?

Both defending champions were in action at Court Philippe-Chatrier. Carlos Alcaraz overcame a one-set blip to defeat Fabian Marozsan 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, and Iga Swiatek beat Emma Raducanu.

The 23-year-old Swiatek was in fine form against 2021 U.S. Open champion Raducanu, putting together a whopping 32-8 edge in winners and saving all four break points she faced while taking all eight of her service games.

"I felt good on court, so I could do whatever I planned to, whatever I wanted to," said Swiatek, who improved to 5-0 against Raducanu and ran her winning streak in the



LINDSEY WASSON/AP

Casper Ruud reacts as he plays Nuno Borges during their second-round match of the French Open on Wednesday. Borges eliminated the No. 7 seed and two-time runner-up 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.

clay-court Grand Slam tournament to 23 matches.

This follows a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Raducanu at the Australian Open this January and now means that Swiatek has won all 10 sets the two have played against each other.

Other women's winners included 2024 runner-up Jasmine Paolini, Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen and 18-year-old Canadian qualifier Victoria Mboko, while Olympic silver medalist and Wimbledon semifinalist Donna Vekic lost to unseeded American Bernarda Pera 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (10-3).

Men advancing included No. 8 Lorenzo Musetti and No. 25 Alexei Popyrin.

Who is playing Thursday?

The second round concludes with 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic taking on France's Corentin Moutet in Court Suzanne-Lenglen in a match that could feature a raucous atmosphere. French fans are likely to make a lot of noise at Court Philippe-Chatrier, too, because another one of their own, Richard Gasquet, could be playing the final match of his career when he takes on No. 1 Jannik Sinner. At night in Chatrier, No. 5 Jack Draper of Britain takes on yet another French veteran, Gael Monfils.

No. 2-seeded Coco Gauff, against Tereza Valentova, and No. 3 Jessica Pegula, against Ann Li in an all-American match, are among the top women in action, along with No. 6 Mirra Andreeva against Ashlyn Krueger of the United States.

Scoreboard

Wednesday

At Stade Roland Garros
Paris
Purse: Euro 20,509,000
Surface: Red clay
Seedings in parentheses
Men's Singles
Second Round

Ben Shelton (13), United States, def. Hugo Gaston, France, walkover.
Lorenzo Musetti (8), Italy, def. Daniel Elahi Galan, Colombia, 6-4, 6-0, 6-4.
Alexei Popyrin (25), Australia, def. Alejandro Tabilo, Chile, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.
Hamad Medjedovic, Serbia, def. Juan Manuel Cerundolo, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5.
Mariano Navone, Argentina, def. Reilly Opelka, United States, 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-3.
Daniel Altmaier, Germany, def. Vit Koprieva, Czechia, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.
Nuno Borges, Portugal, def. Casper Ruud (7), Norway, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.
Carlos Alcaraz (2), Spain, def. Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.
Quentin Halys, France, def. Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 7-5.
Karen Khachanov (24), Russia, def. Sebastian Ofner, Austria, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2.
Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia-Herzegovina, def. Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard (31), France, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Women's Singles Second Round

Amanda Anisimova (16), United States, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 6-0, 6-2.
Victoria Mboko, Canada, def. Eva Lys, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.
Zheng Qinwen (8), China, def. Emiliania Arango, Colombia, 6-2, 6-3.
Jasmine Paolini (4), Italy, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 6-3, 6-3.
Elena Svitolina (13), Ukraine, def. Anna Bondar, Hungary, 7-6 (4), 7-5.
Yuliia Starodubtseva, Ukraine, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-2.
Bernarda Pera, United States, def. Donna Vekic (18), Croatia, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (3).
Iga Swiatek (5), Poland, def. Emma Raducanu, Britain, 6-1, 6-2.
Clara Tauson (22), Denmark, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 7-6 (2), 7-5.

Men's Doubles First Round

Jacob Fearnley, Britain, and Gabriel Diallo, Canada, def. Nicolas Barrientos, Colombia, and Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli, India, 6-0, 6-2.
Mate Pavic, Croatia, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (1), El Salvador, def. Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-3, 6-2.
Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (5), Argentina, def. Lucas Miedler, Austria, and Francisco Cabral, Portugal, 7-6 (2), 6-3.
Romain Arneodo, Monaco, and Manuel Guinard, France, def. Marcelo Melo and Rafael Matos, Brazil, 6-3, 6-4.
Luke Johnson, Britain, and Sander Arends, Netherlands, def. Marcelo Demoliner, Brazil, and Nicolas Jarry, Chile, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6).
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Orlando Luz, Brazil, def. Geoffrey Blancaneaux and Valentin Royer, France, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Yuki Bhambhani, India, and Robert Galloway, United States, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, and Hendrik Jebens, Germany, 6-3, 6-7 (8), 6-3.
Ryan Seggerman and Learner Tien, United States, def. Arthur Gae and Moise Kouame, France, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Women's Doubles First Round

Timea Babos, Hungary, and Luisa Stefani (14), Brazil, def. Xu Yifan, China, and Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 6-0, 6-1.
Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, and Peyton Stearns, United States, def. Angelica Moratelli, Italy, and Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-3, 6-3.
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Elena Pridankina, Russia, def. Estelle Cascino and Carole Monnet, France, 6-4, 6-1.
Jodie Burrage and Sonay Kartal, Britain, def. Ena Shibahara, Japan, and Hanyu Guo, China, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-3.
Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, and Giuliana Olmos (9), Mexico, def. Suzan Lamens, Netherlands, and McCartney Kessler, United States, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (8).
Laura Siegemund, Germany, and Beatriz Haddad Maia (13), Brazil, def. Jessica Ponchet and Leolia Jeanjean, France, 6-3, 6-0.
Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia, and Maya Joint, Australia, def. Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and Sofia Kenin (8), United States, 7-6 (7), 6-4.
Xinyu Jiang, China, and Fang-Hsien Wu (10), Taiwan, def. Camila Osorio, Colombia, and Alicia Parks, United States, 6-4, 6-1.
Yanina Wickmayer, Belgium, and Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, def. Harriet Dart, Britain, and Kimberly Birrell, Australia, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-2.
Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, and Ann Li, United States, def. Julie Belgraver and Lois Bosson, France, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Viktoria Tomova, Bulgaria, and Rebecca Sramkova, Slovakia, def. Quinn Gleason and Katie Volynets, United States, 7-5, 6-2.
Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini (2), Italy, def. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, and Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, 6-2, 6-3.
Shuko Aoyama and Moyuka Uchijima, Japan, def. Zeynep Sonmez, Turkey, and Polina Kudermetova, Russia, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Mixed Doubles First Round

Diane Parry and Harold Mayot, France, def. Nicolas Mahut and Chloe Paquet, France, 7-6 (6), 6-2.



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Defending champion Iga Swiatek returns the ball to Emma Raducanu during their second-round match Wednesday. Swiatek won 6-1, 6-2 and improved to 5-0 against Raducanu.

BASKETBALL



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton shoots the ball past New York Knicks guard Miles McBride during the second half of Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals in Indianapolis on Tuesday. The Pacers won 130-121.

Pacers top Knicks to move win away from NBA Finals

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Tyrese Haliburton finished with 32 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds without a turnover in a historic postseason performance to lead the Indiana Pacers past the New York Knicks 130-121 on Tuesday night for a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

With his father, John, back in Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Haliburton became the first player with such a stat line in the postseason since turnovers were first tracked in 1977-78 and he carried Indiana within a victory of its second trip to the NBA Finals. Nikola Jokic and Oscar Robertson are the only other players to post 30 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds in a playoff game.

Game 5 is Thursday in New York.

"I'll look at that later and reflect on that at a different time. For me, it's just about winning," Haliburton said. "I wanted to prove I could respond when my back is against the wall, my team's back is against the wall. I feel like we responded the right way."

Pascal Siakam added 30 points while Haliburton had four steals in his second career postseason triple-double. Obi Toppin's 3-pointer with 46 seconds left sealed it.

Jalen Brunson scored 31 points. Karl-Anthony Towns had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and OG Anunoby finished with 22 points.

NBA scoreboard

Conference Finals

Best-of-7; x-if necessary
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Indiana 3, New York 1

Indiana 138, New York 135, OT
Indiana 114, New York 109
New York 106, Indiana 100
Tuesday: Indiana 130, New York 121
Thursday: at New York, AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Friday CET, 10 a.m. Friday JKT
x-Saturday: at Indiana
x-Monday: at New York

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Oklahoma City 3, Minnesota 1

Oklahoma City 114, Minnesota 88
Oklahoma City 118, Minnesota 103
Minnesota 143, Oklahoma City 101
Oklahoma City 128, Minnesota 126
Wednesday: at Oklahoma City
x-Friday: at Minnesota
x-Sunday: at Oklahoma City

But New York couldn't rally from another double-digit deficit.

It marked the first time in the series the home team won and leaves the Knicks one loss away from getting eliminated for the second straight year by the Pacers.

"We've all got to be better. We've got to be better as a team," Towns said after shaking off a left leg injury with 2:11 to play to finish the game. "It's unfortunate we couldn't find a way tonight when we found a way in all the other series to do it."

Nearly a dozen former Indiana players, including Jermaine O'Neal and Lance Stephenson, joined Haliburton's father in the heavily gold-clad crowd. So did WWE Hall of Famer Triple H, rappers Rob 49 and 50 Cent and singers John Mellencamp and Jel-

ly Roll. Haliburton also brought New York firefighter Hans Perez, a Pacers fan, to the game and gave him a signed No. 0 jersey.

John Haliburton had been forced to watch Indiana's previous eight postseason games from afar after he ran onto the court and confronted Milwaukee star Giannis Antetokounmpo following his son's last-second shot to eliminate the Bucks in the first round. The Pacers allowed him to return for Game 4 and he sat in a suite.

Both teams were shooting at a clip of 70% long into the first quarter as Indiana raced to a 43-35 lead. Haliburton helped the Pacers close the half on a 6-0 run to make it 69-64 as he finished the half just two rebounds short of his third career triple-double.

"He was our leader tonight and we had some difficult film stuff yesterday, not fun," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. "We allowed things to go a different direction than they needed to go in Game 3 and tonight we were determined to turn it back in our direction."

Did they ever.

The Pacers opened the second half with an even more aggressive style that spurred a 9-2 run and closed the quarter on a 9-4 spurt to extend the margin to 102-91. Siakam scored the final five points of a 9-3 run early in the fourth to give Indiana a 111-96 lead.

The Knicks got as close as six three times in the closing minutes, but couldn't get any loser.

Bueckers scores 21, gets first pro win in Connecticut return

By DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

UNCASVILLE, Conn. — Paige Bueckers returned to a familiar place to get the first win of her WNBA career.

The No. 1 pick in the draft by Dallas had lost the first four games as a pro and couldn't remember a longer losing streak in her storied basketball career. She wouldn't let it get to five.

Bueckers scored a season-best 21 points in the Wings' 109-87 victory over the Connecticut Sun on Tuesday night.

"Felt great just to play like that as a team and obviously that environment is special to me," Bueckers said. "To play like that as a team and put a full 40 minutes together. ... It felt good to be out there."

It's been a week of homecomings for Bueckers as the former UConn star played in the state of Connecticut for the first time since helping the Huskies win the school's 12th national championship nearly two months ago. Six days before the game in Connecticut, she played in Minnesota, where she grew up.

With the victory, Bueckers remained unbeaten at Mohegan Sun Arena, where the Sun plays their home games. She went 15-0 at the arena, including winning four Big East championships while playing for UConn.

"I don't think I ever lost here. I was trying to carry that into tonight," Bueckers said.

Tuesday night was like a home game for Bueckers, who received a loud ovation from the sellout

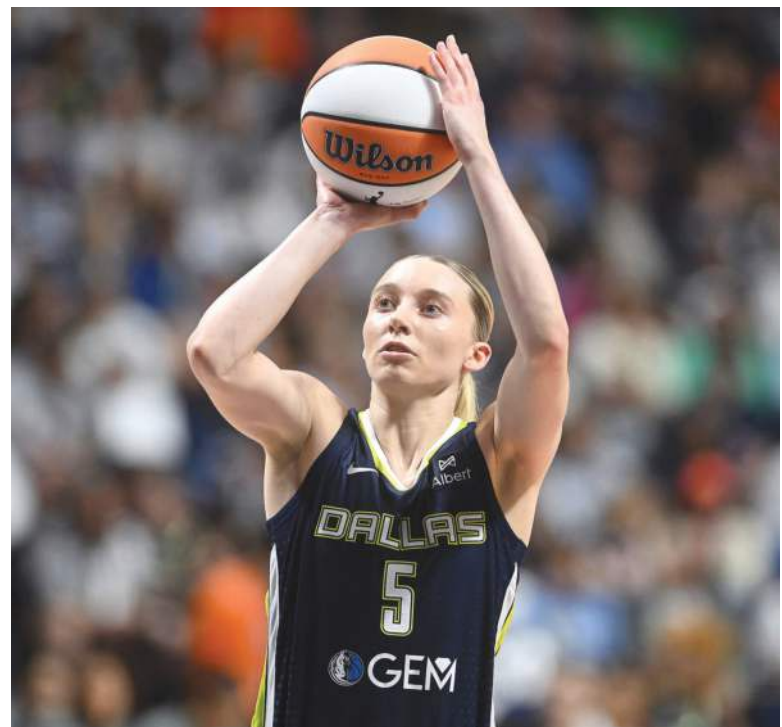
crowd when introduced before the game. Many fans were wearing her No. 5 jersey from the Huskies and Dallas, cheering everything she did. The St. Teresa's basketball team was sitting on the bench pregame and screamed with jubilation when she ran onto the court.

Bueckers gave them and the rest of the crowd — which included a few of her former UConn teammates — a lot to cheer about. She got the Wings (1-4) going early with seven points and four assists in the opening quarter as she was aggressively attacking for baskets or finding opening teammates. She finished the half with 15 points as Dallas took control, going up by 14 points at the break.

"She just continues to do things that should be surprising but aren't," Wings coach Chris Koclanes said. "I take a step back to just appreciate, the type of player and even more so the type of person that she is."

A day earlier, Bueckers posted on Instagram a video of a surprise meeting that Verizon put together of people who had benefited from a food security project that the guard started in Minnesota in 2022. As Chegg's first student-athlete brand ambassador, she worked to raise awareness about student hunger, an issue that had worsened due to the pandemic.

"It was a total, complete surprise just for them to bring in those people who have been a part of my story and been a part of my journey," Bueckers said. "It means so much to give back, to see the impact firsthand. It's truly inspiring. I was extremely grateful for that."



SARAH GORDON, THE DAY/AP

The Wings' Paige Bueckers shoots against the Connecticut Sun on Tuesday in Uncasville, Conn. Bueckers earned her first win as a pro.

SPORTS



Nearly there

Pacers take 3-1 series advantage over Knicks in East finals » **Basketball, Page 39**

MLB

Getting chance to shine

Mets receive power boost from journeyman Young after S. Korea stint

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After hitting a two-run shot for the New York Mets on Tuesday night, Jared Young was reminded it was his first major league homer in 613 days.

“Felt that long, yeah,” he said. “It’s the best league in the world, so you’ve got to play your best to be here and have success here. But I’m glad to be back, and that one felt good.”

Called up from the minors Saturday after spending part of last season in South Korea, the 29-year-old from Canada helped power the Mets to a 6-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Young gave New York a 4-2 lead in the first inning with a drive over the right-field fence that marked his third career longball and first in the big leagues since Sept. 22, 2023, for the Chicago Cubs against the Colorado Rockies.

Young also delivered a well-struck double to right-center that set up Jeff McNeil’s sacrifice fly in the third, giving him multiple extra-base hits for the first time in his 26 major league games.

“He looked great. He’s been having really good at-bats and I felt like tonight you really got to see what he’s able to do,” said Mets slugger Pete Alonso, who launched a two-run homer of his own two batters before Young connected.

“He’s a great guy to have. Not only is he a great performer but I mean, the couple days that he’s been here, he’s been a really good teammate. So, he’s been a treat to have so far.”

With designated hitter Jesse Winker (also a left-handed batter) on the injured list, the Mets brought up Young from Triple-A Syracuse to face a string of right-handed starters over the past few days.

Young’s started four games in a row and impressed manager Carlos Mendoza with the way he controls the strike zone — but his home run Tuesday was his first hit for New York.

“Look, he’s getting an opportunity,” Mendoza said. “He’s back in the big leagues after a lot of grinding. Whether it’s minor leagues, up and down, going overseas, he’s getting an opportunity back here in the States, and here we are giving him a chance and he’s taking advantage of it. Like I

SEE SHINE ON PAGE 37

INSIDE

Dodgers beat Guardians behind Ohtani’s league-leading 20th home run of season
Page 36



ANGELINA KATSANIS/AP

The Mets’ Jared Young celebrates his first MLB home run since 2023, a two-run shot, during the first inning against the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday in New York. Young had two hits in the Mets’ 6-4 victory.

Oilers need 1 more win for Finals return » NHL playoffs, Page 37



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