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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Drone attack that killed US troops likely preventable

BY ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

A drone attack that killed three U.S. soldiers in Jordan last year was most likely preventable, according to a military investigation that determined numerous failures — from complacency and indecisiveness to outright negligence — contributed to the worst assault on American troops since the fall of Afghanistan.

The small outpost, known as Tower 22, is along Jordan's border with Syria and Iraq, and largely had been spared from the assaults on American positions in those countries by Iranian proxies furious with the United States for its support of Israel's war in the Gaza Strip. However, on the morning of Jan. 28, 2024, while most of the base's 350 troops slept, there were indications an attack might be imminent, Army investigators learned.

An intelligence report transmitted to Tower 22 approximately 90 minutes before the strike warned that militia groups had discussed openly on social media their intent to target U.S. forces in the area, prompting Tower 22's second-in-command to tell the watch team to "stay vigilant." But when their radar picked up an unknown object heading toward the base, no one assessed it as a threat — and, vitally, no one issued an order for everyone to take cover, the investigation found.

Four minutes later, a powerful explosion throttled the base's living quarters.

Oneida Oliver-Sanders, whose 24-year-old daughter, Sgt. Kennedy Sanders, was killed in the attack, told The Washington Post that when Army officials ex-

SEE ATTACK ON PAGE 5



LOGAN MCGUIRE/U.S. Navy

Two U.S. Navy catapult officers signal an F/A-18F Super Hornet, attached to Strike Fighter Squadron 11, to launch from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Murky mission to defeat militants

Secrecy regarding Yemen raises questions about US progress against resilient Houthis

BY ERIC MARTIN
AND COURTNEY MCBRIDE
Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump has boasted that he's "decimated" the Houthis, the Iran-backed militants who have attacked commercial ships transiting the Red Sea since 2023. But three weeks into a campaign of U.S. airstrikes, his administration has offered limited evidence of weapons deployed and targets hit to back up that assertion.

Former President Joe Biden's administration provided frequent



AP

A Houthi security officer stands Monday over the debris of a destroyed building reportedly hit by U.S. airstrikes in Sanaa, Yemen.

updates on its hundreds of operations against the Houthis, through Pentagon briefings and shared satellite images showing the results of strikes. Officials met with members of Congress before and after operations.

Much of what's known about the recent U.S. attacks under Trump came by accident, from a Signal chat spelling out details of an impending assault that unintentionally included an editor from The Atlantic magazine.

SEE MISSION ON PAGE 8

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US blocks imports from S. Korean farm over labor concerns

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States has blocked imports of sea salt products from a major South Korean salt farm accused of using slave labor, becoming the first trade partner to take punitive action against a decadeslong problem on salt farms in remote islands off South Korea's southwest coast.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued a withhold release order against the Taepyeong salt farm, saying information "reason-

ably indicates" the use of forced labor at the company in the island county of Sinan, where most of South Korea's sea salt products are made.

Under the order issued last Wednesday, Customs personnel at all U.S. ports of entry are required to hold sea salt products sourced from the farm.

Taepyeong is South Korea's largest salt farm, producing about 16,000 tons of salt annually, which accounts for approximately 6% of the country's total output, accord-

ing to government data, and is a major supplier to South Korean food companies.

The farm, located on Jeungdo island in Sinan and leasing most of its salt fields to tenants, has been repeatedly accused of using forced labor.

The widespread slavery at Sinan's salt farms was exposed in 2014 when dozens of slavery victims — most of them with disabilities — were rescued from the islands following an investigation by mainland police.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | | Commercial rates | |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Euro costs (April 8) | 0.88 | Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3768 |
| British pound (April 8) | \$1.27 | Britain (Pound) | 1.2800 |
| Japanese yen (April 8) | 142.00 | Canada (Dollar) | 1.4234 |
| South Korean won (April 8) | 1432.00 | China (Yuan) | 7.2816 |
| | | Denmark (Krone) | 6.8219 |
| | | Egypt (Pound) | 51.3914 |
| | | Euro | 0.9139 |
| | | Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7704 |
| | | Hungary (Forint) | 373.34 |
| | | Israel (Shekel) | 3.7700 |
| | | Japan (Yen) | 147.06 |
| | | Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3078 |
| | | Norway (Krone) | 10.9324 |
| | | Philippines (Peso) | 57.29 |
| | | Poland (Zloty) | 3.92 |
| | | Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7551 |
| | | Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3477 |
| | | South Korea (Won) | 1464.13 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8581 | | |
| Thailand (Baht) | 34.63 | | |
| Turkey (NewLira) | 38.0098 | | |

(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 | 4.27 |
| 30-year bond | 4.42 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



This weather is compiled from weather.com reports.

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MILITARY

US, UK conduct hypersonic engine trials

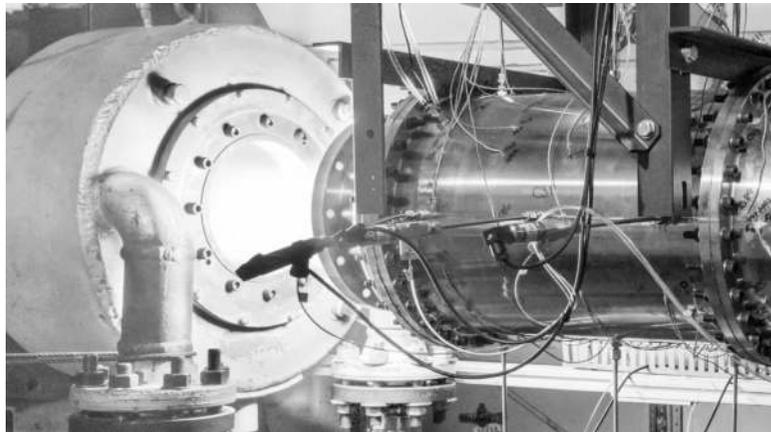
By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — American and British researchers recently completed hundreds of successful tests of an engine capable of propelling a cruise missile at hypersonic speed, demonstrating what officials are calling a critical breakthrough in countering Russian and Chinese threats.

The 233 engine trials at a range of speeds, including Mach 5 — or about 3,400 mph — were conducted over six weeks at the NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, the U.K. Defense Ministry said in a statement Sunday. Mach 5 is the threshold for hypersonic speed, which is five times the speed of sound.

The tests demonstrated the performance of “the high-speed air-breathing engine — enabling greater ranges than a conventional rocket,” the U.K. said, adding that the achievement was a significant step in European defense.

It wasn’t clear exactly when the tests were conducted but they involved “real-time data analysis to



U.K. Defense Ministry

Scientists carried out successful static test runs of an air-breathing engine at the NASA Langley Research Center in Langley, Va.

refine design aspects and boost propulsive performance,” according to the statement.

Air-breathing engines use air to create the chemical reaction needed for fuel combustion, eliminating the need for a separate on-board system. The technology allows a missile to sustain flight at hypersonic levels permitting it to potentially evade an enemy’s defense system, according to de-

fense contractor Raytheon.

In comparison, a subsonic cruise missile such as a Tomahawk would take about an hour of flight time to reach a target 500 miles away. A hypersonic cruise missile would make the journey in less than 10 minutes, according to the Atlantic Council, a Washington D.C.-based think tank.

The U.S. has progressed over the last five years in developing

hypersonic weapons but has failed to field its first weapon, the Atlantic Council said in a March 12 report.

Meanwhile, Russia and China have aggressively pursued development of long-range hypersonic weapons, fielding several types that put U.S. land and sea bases at significant risk, wrote Michael White, the report’s author.

For example, a Russian frigate armed with hypersonic Zircon missiles trained with the Chinese and South African navies in February 2023. That same year, Russia’s largest shipbuilder said the country’s newest nuclear submarines were being outfitted with the same missiles.

“Russia has developed and deployed a nuclear-armed hypersonic weapon that holds the U.S. mainland at risk from a highly survivable nuclear first strike,” White wrote.

He added that potential adversaries, such as North Korea and Iran, also reportedly have developed and deployed hypersonic weapons.

Last fall, the U.S., the U.K. and Australia signed an agreement allowing the three countries to use one another’s testing facilities and share technical information to develop, test and evaluate hypersonic weapons, the Defense Department said in a Nov. 18 statement.

The agreement, which established the Hypersonic Flight Test and Experimentation Project Arrangement, includes existing U.S. efforts and up to six trilateral flight test campaigns by 2028 with a funding pool of \$252 million, the Pentagon said.

The recent U.K. tests were coordinated with the Air Force Research Laboratory, the U.K. Defense Science and Technology Lab, and industry partners.

“This milestone moment on hypersonics research, supported by British scientists and British small businesses, demonstrates another crucial area where we are working in lockstep with the U.S. to bolster our Armed Forces and strengthen our deterrence,” U.K. Defense Secretary John Healy said in the statement Sunday.

Accompanied tours for personnel return to US air base at Incirlik

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

U.S. military personnel now have the option of requesting two-year accompanied tours at Incirlik Air Base and other duty stations in Turkey, with the reversal of a ban in place for nearly a decade.

The change applies to both military and civilian personnel. They can select either a 24-month accompanied tour or a 12-month unaccompanied tour, according to a 39th Air Base Wing statement Monday.

For those headed to Incirlik, the Air Force’s main hub in Turkey, dependents must be at least 18, the statement said. There are no dependent age restrictions for tours to other locations in Turkey, such as Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir, which

is home to a NATO command headquarters.

Col. Brandon McBrayer, leader of the 39th Air Base Wing, said he anticipates accepting command sponsorship requests by this summer. The command is identifying suitable housing and enhancing support facilities, McBrayer added.

Eligibility for accompanied tours depends on the availability of facilities and services at each location, the wing said. Those who request an accompanied tour but are deemed ineligible will be assigned a dependent-restricted tour.

The Air Force didn’t say how many accompanied tour slots were expected to open up.

Incirlik is the primary military

site used by U.S. forces in Turkey, and for years accompanied tours were commonplace at the strategic base, near the southern Turkish city of Adana. But the practice ended in 2016 because of security threats in the country.

The Pentagon ordered more than 600 military and civilian dependents to leave Incirlik. At the time, the base, just 200 miles from Turkey’s border with Syria, was part of the fight against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

U.S. fighters routinely launched strike missions from Incirlik, and at the time, there was a broader concern about safety for military families in Turkey.

Military officials have said the security situation has improved, due



HAIDEN MORRIS/U.S. Air Force

Leadership at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, tour housing designated for accompanied dependents on March 18.

in part to years of work with regional police and Turkish military officials.

Monday’s announcement culminates a push that had been building steam at Incirlik during the past two years.

In July 2023, officials from Department of Defense Education Ac-

tivity Europe visited the base to tour schools and assess needs.

That was followed by a U.S. Air Forces Europe-Africa task force that included housing, security and education representatives, who gathered information for a feasibility assessment of bringing back accompanied tours.

Probe underway for \$30K aviation helmet that disappeared in Germany

By LYDIA GORDON
Stars and Stripes



Army Criminal Investigation Division

A specialized helmet for Apache helicopter aviators went missing at Hohenfels Training Area in Germany.

HOHENFELS, Germany — The Army is offering up to \$5,000 in reward money for information leading to the return of an aviation helmet containing weapons tracking technology that disappeared during a recent exercise.

The Apache helicopter flight helmet, belonging to the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, was last seen in a hangar at the Joint Multi-national Readiness Center in Ho-

henfels between March 14 and March 16, an Army statement said Friday.

The missing helmet was equipped with an Improved Magnetic Receiver Unit, which tracks a pilot’s or gunner’s head movements to control night vision and target acquisition systems aboard the helicopter. A transmitter mounted on the AH-54E helicopter generates a magnetic field within the cockpit.

The classification of the helmet

and receiver unit was unclear Monday. However, systems with comparable functions, such as targeting and weapons guidance, are typically considered sensitive technology.

The helmet can cost more than \$30,000, Army Criminal Investigation Division spokesman Marc Martin said.

The Ansbach-based brigade was participating in exercise Allied Spirit when the equipment disappeared. The U.S.-led exer-

cise that ended March 24 brought together troops from 12 NATO and partner nations.

The reward poster says investigators are treating the disappearance of the items as “possible larceny.”

Interviews have been conducted and the search is ongoing, Martin said.

Anyone with information on the missing items is asked to call 314-587-1351 or go to www.cid.army.mil/tips.

MILITARY

Uncertainty in S. Korea after Yoon's ouster

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

Political analysts in South Korea and the United States expressed mixed reactions to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's ouster on Friday, with some warning of significant policy shifts if an opposition leader assumes power.

The country's Constitutional Court unanimously upheld Yoon's impeachment by the National Assembly, formally removing the conservative leader from office. The impeachment stemmed from Yoon's brief and unsuccessful attempt to impose martial law on Dec. 3.

Yoon, a member of the People Power Party, took office in 2022 with a hard-line approach to North Korea. His administration responded to Pyongyang's threats with displays of military strength, including the first-ever joint air power exercise involving South Korea, the U.S. and Japan in October 2023.

Sung-Yoon Lee, a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., said Yoon's removal "virtually enthrones" Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung as the likely next president.

Lee, who has not formally announced a run for the presidency, faced Yoon in the 2022 election. In December, he famously scaled a wall at the National Assembly to block Yoon's martial law decree. Yoon defended his decision, ac-



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Analysts have mixed reactions about the future leadership in South Korea after the Constitutional Court on Friday upheld the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol, removing him from office.

curring the Democrats of obstructing legislation and conducting politically motivated investigations of government appointees.

"If Lee Jae-myung or another [Democratic Party] politician takes power, we can anticipate big changes—mostly for the worse for South Korea's national security and its alliance with the U.S., based on the ignoble record on North Korea policy ...," Sung-Yoon Lee told Stars and Stripes by email Friday.

North Korea's state-run media, which frequently criticized Yoon, mentioned his ouster in a brief four-sentence report Saturday. He was "immediately removed from presidency" following the court's unanimous decision, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

North Korea may have seen Yoon as a security threat, but it remains unclear whether leader Kim Jong Un views his ouster as a victory, said Hwang Jihwan, an in-

ternational relations professor at the University of Seoul.

"Kim and North Korea may welcome Yoon's impeachment, but North Korea's foreign policy... has been more influenced by U.S. policy toward it, not the South's policies recently," Hwang told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

Tensions between the two Koreas worsened under Yoon, after both sides withdrew from key inter-Korean agreements aimed at

reducing military tensions. One such agreement, signed in 2018, prohibited military flights and artillery drills near the border.

Yoon suspended the accords in June, citing Pyongyang's missile tests and the launch of hundreds of trash-filled balloons across the border. North Korea had already severed the agreement seven months earlier.

"I think Kim Jong Un announced the end of inter-Korean relations," Hwang said. "The main and basic strategy by North Korea is to wait and see because their policy has focused more on the United States."

Critics of Yoon's predecessor, Moon Jae-in, have accused him and Democratic lawmakers of appeasing Pyongyang without delivering long-term benefits to Seoul or Washington.

Moon championed direct talks with Kim Jong Un to curb the North's nuclear weapons program. He participated in three summits with the North Korean leader, including a 2019 meeting with President Donald Trump at the Demilitarized Zone.

That diplomatic push unraveled after Trump and Kim's summit in Vietnam later that year ended without an agreement.

"Politicians are prone to switching colors on various issues," Sung-Yoon Lee said. "But Lee Jae-myung and his fellow lawmakers are united and unswerving when it comes to appeasing Kim ..."

Philippines to bolster air force with \$5.6 billion fighter jet deal

By JOSEPH DITZLER
AND SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The Philippines plans to purchase a squadron's worth of advanced U.S. fighter jets to shore up its air force, according to a recent Department of Defense notification of a proposed sale.

The \$5.58 billion package includes 20 Block 70/72 F-16 Fighting Falcons—16 C models and four D models—along with spare parts, weapons and support systems, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a news release April 1.

Lockheed Martin, the aircraft's manufacturer, describes the Block 70/72 as the most advanced fourth-generation fighter ever built. While the model features upgraded avionics, tracking and targeting systems, it lacks the stealth capabilities of fifth-generation fighters such as the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II.

"If this report is accurate, and the Philippines is getting Block 70/72 F-16s, that is a major improve-

ment in capability," Dan Leaf, the former deputy commander of what is now called Indo-Pacific Command, said by email Monday.

"These new jets have a very complete set of advanced capabilities that should give [China] pause. It is also a major investment, and if the purchase goes through will be a strong statement of Philippine commitment to its alliance with the United States."

The State Department approved the proposal, which now requires congressional notification. Although Congress does not directly approve foreign military sales, it may block them.

The deal includes spare engines, radars, mission computers, navigation systems, and other related equipment. The package also provides for a range of munitions and support gear, including:

- 40 AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder air-to-air missiles
- 112 AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles, also known as AMRAAMs
- 60 MK-82 500-pound gener-

al-purpose bombs

- 60 MK-84 2,000-pound general-purpose bombs

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner that continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in Southeast Asia," the agency said.

The Philippines is the United States' oldest military ally in the Indo-Pacific and is considered a strategic counterbalance to Beijing's growing influence in the South China Sea. The Philippine and Chinese coast guards have clashed repeatedly over the past year amid overlapping maritime claims, including an area within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Each side has accused the other of intentionally ramming patrol vessels. In one June 17 incident, Chinese coast guard crews wielding axes, knives and rocks injured a Philippine crew member, according to news reports.

Blaze scorches range during Marine Corps training on Okinawa

By BRIAN MCELHINEY
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

A fire broke out Friday during firearms training at a rifle range in northern Okinawa, burning more than 215,000 square feet, according to Marine Corps and Japanese officials.

The blaze occurred at Range 2 on Camp Hansen and caused no injuries or damage to the training area, Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokeswoman 1st Lt. Kelsey Enlow said by email Monday.

The base fire department extinguished most of the flames Friday, but "due to its location in the impact area there was a small smolder" that couldn't be reached, Enlow wrote.

"A fire watch was set up and the smolder was observed until Saturday morning when the fire department reevaluated and confirmed the area safe and the fire extinguished," she said.

Marines were training with firearms when the blaze ignited, a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau said Monday. The bureau is an arm of Japan's Ministry of Defense.

The bureau informed the Okinawa prefectural government that the fire started at 12:15 p.m. Friday and was fully extinguished by 6:20 a.m. Saturday, a prefectural spokeswoman said Monday. The fire burned an estimated 215,000 square feet and caused no reported damage outside the base, she said.

Some Japanese officials speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

"These types of fires are not uncommon on ranges," Enlow said. "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."

MILITARY

Attack: Investigators found base's battle drills were 'inadequate'**FROM PAGE 1**

plained the investigation to her family, they were thorough and forthright about the lapses that were found. She said she was encouraged to learn there were other troops who braved danger to help, but disturbed that the attack drone was allowed to breach the base's defenses.

"They did have time to alert them to take cover, and because of poor judgment, they didn't," Oliver-Sanders said.

Also killed in the blast were Staff Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, and Sgt. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23. More than 70 personnel were wounded, some seriously.

This account is based on the voluminous report detailing the Tower 22 investigation, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post via the Freedom of Information Act, interviews with the slain soldiers' survivors, and a separate summary of the findings the military provided to them. The report is more than 4,500 pages, though the Army withheld more than half of it and redacted much of the material it released.

The incident is the only deadly strike on U.S. troops since Iranian-backed militants unleashed their campaign of violence in response to the Gaza war. The Pentagon rushed additional defenses to the region to shore up protections for deployed service members, but Tower 22, a support base for another American outpost nearby in Syria, was deemed to be at lower risk of attack, officials have said.

The investigation's findings appear to have some contradictions. For instance, investigators faulted Tower 22's leaders for failing to "visualize risk" and not appreciating the likelihood of an attack.

Yet commanders above them also failed to envision the base's vulnerability. Four months before the attack, Army Central, which oversees operations throughout the Middle East, denied a request for an air defense system capable of shooting down drones because, investigators found, only one such system was available and troops in the United States needed it to prepare for deployments. A request for a radar system that could better detect drones also was denied, the report said.

The only counter-drone defenses at Tower 22 were electronic warfare systems designed to disable the aircraft or disrupt their path to a target, according to the investigation and previous reporting by The Post.

A spokesperson for Army Central did not respond to repeated requests for additional information, including who at Army Central denied Tower 22's appeal for an air defense system.

The Sanders family was told that four officers faced disciplin-



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

A casket holding the remains of Army Reserve Staff Sgt. William Jerome Rivers is carried from a church after a funeral service on Feb. 13, 2024, in Carrollton, Ga.

ary action as a result of the attack. The investigation does not identify them or detail what their punishment was.

The attack

While senior military leaders determined there was less risk facing Tower 22, soldiers posted there would later report increasing unease. In October, a drone was brought down outside the base perimeter, and smaller reconnaissance drones were seen nearby in subsequent weeks but troops struggled to detect or disable them.

Sanders, Rivers and Moffett belonged to an engineering unit responsible for reinforcing Tower 22's defenses. Rivers, an experienced noncommissioned officer, helped oversee electrical work. Moffett and Sanders operated heavy machinery such as bulldozers and excavators.

The day before the attack was spent preparing for construction projects. After dinner, Sanders and Moffett went to a tent to partake in one of the few luxuries of a Middle East deployment: playing a few rounds of "Call of Duty."

After 1 a.m., they retired to the spartan housing unit they shared. While they slept, the night crew in the Base Defense Operations Center, or BDOC, monitored intelligence streams and the facility's air defense systems. At one point, a laser was pointed at Tower 22 from Rukban, a camp less than two miles away housing thousands of displaced Syrians.

Just past 4 a.m., Tower 22 received the report that a Telegram channel affiliated with local militias had posted about plans for a drone attack, the investigation says.

At 5:30 a.m., troops in the oper-



This combination of photos provided by Shawn Sanders, left, and the U.S. Army, center and right, show from left, Sgt. Kennedy Sanders, Rivers and Sgt. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett. The three Army reservists were killed by a drone strike on Jan. 28, 2024, on Tower 22, their base in Jordan near the Syrian border.

ations center watched as a U.S. drone finished a surveillance flight. A minute later, the screen pinged, showing an unknown object approaching Tower 22 from the south, but the watch team — and a powerful surveillance camera — was focused on the friendly drone as it came in to land, the report says.

At 5:35 a.m., the investigation says, a low whirring sound, like a lawn mower, could be heard — and then a fiery blast.

A leader, who is not identified in the report, burst into the BDOC and screamed, "How did you guys not see it?" the report says. The call was sounded for everyone to take cover, and people raced barefoot to the bunkers as shrapnel and other debris rained down.

Once the all-clear was given, personnel rushed to the wreckage to look for survivors, pushing through their own injuries and with the threat that more attack drones could be on the way.

Rivers was killed on impact and buried in rubble, the report says. The force of the explosion pro-

pelled Sanders onto the roof of her housing unit. She and Moffett were unresponsive and taken to the surgical station, which was overwhelmed with patients. Physicians tried to resuscitate Moffett, but the crush of wounded personnel forced them to move on to troops they felt they could save, the report says.

Some time later, another drone approached and was shot down by an air defense system at the Tanf Garrison, a U.S. base 13 miles away in Syria, the report says.

The base chaplain administered final rites to Sanders, Moffett and Rivers, and fellow service members guarded their remains before a helicopter arrived to evacuate them.

Problems exposed

The Army's investigation places significant blame on the operations center's leadership and crews. The attack was allowed to happen because of their "failure to interrogate or assess the unidentified aircraft" that pinged on

the radar, the investigation concluded.

Troops monitoring for incoming threats told investigators that they did not see the drone on their screens, describing instead two objects they assessed were birds or too far away to be a concern.

Yet when there was an opportunity to alert base personnel to a possible threat, there was confusion among troops in the operations center about roles and responsibilities, the investigation found. The night shift was considered the most likely period an attack could occur, but an enlisted leader, rather than an officer, was in charge and as a result the crew "did not feel fully empowered to make important decisions," the report says, "even when faced with imminent danger to the base."

Leaders at Tower 22 also failed to implement proper training, and the base's battle drills were "inadequate," investigators determined.

Service members told investigators that watching the friendly drone land may have distracted them from scrutinizing the unknown object.

Other factors included "cumulative exhaustion" among the night crew and radars that don't classify whether incoming objects are drones. In response, Army officials reduced the night shift from 12 to eight hours, assigned more leadership to the base and conducted more training.

Francine Moffett told The Post that she was comforted to learn her daughter received final rites, but overcome by the thought she could not hold her in her last moments. She said she struggles to recall much from the Army's briefing.

"When you say her name, and say deceased, you can't hear anything else," Moffett said.

Her daughter's legacy has endured, though. Breonna Moffett was a reservist and, when not fulfilling her Army duties, worked at a treatment center for cerebral palsy, which created an award in her honor.

Shawn Sanders, Kennedy Sanders' father, said he and his wife were heartened by the dedication of her fellow troops who ensured their daughter's remains were protected, though he acknowledged it was difficult to accept the failures investigators found.

"It's beyond frustrating to know four minutes elapsed and human error allowed this to take place," he said.

His daughter was full of potential and planned to study radiology, he explained, and after her death, their community in Waycross, Ga., came together to support the family.

Today, a section of their street has a new name: Kennedy L. Sanders Way.

MILITARY

First mission-ready Skyraider II delivered

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force's newest aircraft, a crop-duster style plane modified to perform armed overwatch and intelligence gathering, was delivered last week to Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

The OA-1K Skyraider II, now fully modified for military use, is an inexpensive but capable light attack aircraft to provide eyes in the sky for special operations forces on the ground.

It is intended to replace several different airframes that are currently due for retirement, the Air Force said.

Its name is a nod to the A-1 Skyraider, a propeller-driven attack aircraft that saw heavy use throughout both the Korean and Vietnam wars before its retirement in 1973.

"Skyraider II represents not just a new platform, but a modular solution to our national security needs," Lt. Gen. Michael Conley, AFSOC commander, said Thursday. "It will redefine how we approach joint campaigning, crisis response and the evolving landscape of modern warfare."

In addition to versatility, the Skyraider II requires a much smaller maintenance package and costs less per flying hour than other conventional or other special operations aircraft, the



PHOTOS BY NATALIE FIORILLI/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Conley, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, steps from the OA-1K Skyraider II as part of a delivery ceremony Thursday at Hurlburt Field, Fla.



The OA-1K Skyraider II will replace airframes set for retirement.

Air Force said.

Air Force Special Operations Command has sought a new armed overwatch aircraft since

at least 2017, ultimately choosing in 2022 the single-engine, turbo-prop aircraft manufactured by L3 Harris and Air Tractor to per-

form that mission.

The Skyraider II is based on Air Tractor's AT-802U Sky Warden, a heavily modified crop dusting-style plane that can be outfitted to conduct a wide variety of missions, including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations. It also can carry 500-pound to 1,000-pound bombs and guns from .50-caliber machine guns to 20 mm cannons.

Like the first Skyraider, the OA-1K is a small, agile aircraft

that features attack capabilities.

Both Skyraiders feature a tail-wheel — a small wheel under the aircraft's tail — which give them "the capability for short takeoffs and landings as well as the ability to operate from unimproved or austere airfields," according to the command.

"This aircraft embodies the very essence of our command, it's agile, it's adaptable and it's always ready to deliver lethality," Conley said.

"AFSOC exists to accomplish the missions others can't do. The Skyraider II is a testament to that enduring promise," he said.

Officials expect it will be able to replace two aging Air Force Special Operations Command aircraft — the U-28 Draco and MC-12 manned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance planes, which are expected to be retired by the end of the decade.

Air Force Special Operations Command initially sought 75 OA-1Ks in its \$3 billion contact with L3 Harris and Air Tractor, but it ended up slimming its purchase plan last year to 62 amid budget constraints, officials said at the time.

Additional aircraft will flow from the production line to Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, Okla., where the Skyraider II formal training unit is located, in the coming months.

Coast Guard urges use of locator beacons following recent rescues

By **SETH ROBSON**

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Coast Guard often relies on sharp eyes and quick response times to rescue mariners in the vast Pacific Ocean. But the service continues to promote one high-tech tool that could make those rescues faster: satellite locator beacons.

A pair of mariners adrift in an 18-foot skiff near Namuluk Atoll in Micronesia were spotted by a commercial aircraft and rescued March 29 by the Coast Guard, Chief Warrant Officer Sara Muir, spokeswoman for Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam, said by email Saturday.

"Bringing mariners back to their families never gets old," Lt. Ray Cerrato, commander of the responding cutter, said in a Coast Guard news release that day. "It's a feeling that stays with you."

Pacific mariners can enhance their safety when they're out on the water by carrying locator beacons, Muir added.

The beacons emit a 406 MHz signal when activated and are

monitored by satellites, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website.

April 6 — or 4/06 — is recognized as Beacon Awareness Day to promote their use.

The Coast Guard frequently credits the devices for speeding rescues.

In July, it rescued a yacht in distress about 200 miles from Palau after responding to a beacon signal, Muir said.

In September, the USCGC Oliver Henry followed a signal to six fishermen adrift 27 miles north-northwest of Satawal after their engine failed.

Those rescues show how locator beacons "shrink the Pacific's vast search grid into a precise target, slashing response times and boosting survival odds," Muir said.

When activated, a beacon sends a digital distress signal to a constellation of search-and-rescue satellites, which then relay the signal to the nearest SARTSAT, which stands for Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking, ground sta-



LEVI READ/U.S. Coast Guard

Locator beacons emit a 406 MHz signal when activated and are monitored by satellites operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

tion.

From there, the signal goes to a mission control center and ultimately to a rescue coordination center.

"In the United States, Rescue Coordination Centers are run by the U.S. Air Force for any land-based distress and by the U.S. Coast Guard for any maritime distress," NOAA's website states.

Russia reduces sentence for convicted US soldier

Associated Press

MOSCOW — An appellate court in Russia's far east on Monday reduced the prison sentence for an American soldier convicted of stealing and making threats of murder, Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

Staff Sgt. Gordon Black, 34, flew to the Pacific port city of Vladivostok to see his girlfriend and was arrested in May 2024 after she accused him of stealing from her, according to U.S. officials and Russian authorities.

A month later, a court in Vladivostok convicted him and sentenced him to three years and nine months in prison. Black was also ordered to pay the equivalent of \$115 in damages.

Black lost one appeal in a regional court that upheld his sentence, but the judge in the 9th Court of Cassation on Monday agreed to reduce his sentence to three years and two months in prison.

Black's defense had asked the court to acquit him of making threats of murder and reduce the punishment for theft, a request the

judge partially sustained, according to the RIA report.

Black was on leave and in the process of returning to his home base at Fort Cavazos, Texas, from South Korea, where he had been stationed at Camp Humphreys with the Eighth Army.

Under Pentagon policy, service members must get clearance before any international travel from a security manager or commander.

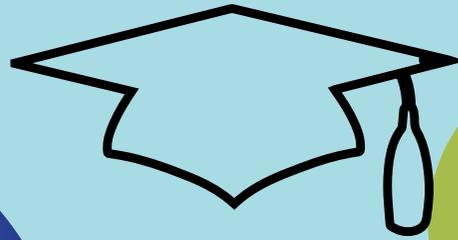
The U.S. Army said last month that Black hadn't sought such travel clearance and it wasn't authorized by the Defense Department.

Given the hostilities in Ukraine and threats to the U.S. and its military, it is extremely unlikely he would have been granted approval.

Black's girlfriend, Alexandra Vashchuk, told reporters last year that "it was a simple domestic dispute," during which Black "became aggressive and attacked" her, stealing money from her wallet.

She described Black as "violent and unable to control himself."

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MILITARY

DOD aims to turn bird refuge into rocket site

By DINO GRANDONI
AND AARON GREGG
The Washington Post

The U.S. military is seeking to turn a remote Pacific wildlife refuge into a landing site for SpaceX rockets, a move that could ultimately advance military capabilities but could also threaten a rare sanctuary for 1.5 million birds.

The U.S. Space Force last month announced its intention to build two landing pads on Johnston Atoll, an unincorporated U.S. territory consisting of four tiny islands about 800 miles southwest of Honolulu.

The Space Force wants to use the site to test the Rocket Cargo Vanguard program, which aims to expedite the movement of military cargo around the globe by deploying large commercial rockets.

Although the notice of intent did not mention SpaceX, vehicles from Elon Musk's rocket company would be used for the project, according to a government official familiar with the proposal who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it.

SpaceX did not reply to a request for comment.

The company signed a \$102 million contract with the government in 2022 and has been working toward a demonstration of the point-to-point transport concept. Several other companies have research-



MICHAEL GRIFFIN/U.S. Coast Guard

A Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules flies near Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. The Pentagon is considering turning the atoll — now a bird refuge — into a landing facility for SpaceX cargo rockets.

and-development agreements with the U.S. Transportation Command related to rocket cargo transportation. Among them is Blue Origin, whose owner, Jeff Bezos, also owns *The Washington Post*.

But SpaceX is far ahead of the pack, and its Starship rocket offers far more payload capacity than any other rocket capable of reentry.

In November, Space Force Gen. Chance Saltzman, chief of space operations, joined Musk and the newly elected Donald Trump to watch a Starship test flight out of Texas. Although Musk often talks up the potential for Starship to fly to Mars, he has also said, "I think there's a pretty good chance that it does Earth-to-Earth transport, as well. ... It's the fastest way to get somewhere."

SpaceX's Texas launches have

damaged nearby bird nests and eggs, according to local environmentalists. But the Space Force said in its notice of intent that it expects the construction and operation of the demonstration project on Johnston to have no significant environmental impact.

In a statement Thursday, the Department of the Air Force, which includes the Space Force, said it was exploring different launch systems and working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "to develop meaningful measures, as appropriate, to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to the migratory bird populations on Johnston Island."

But scientists and conservationists familiar with Johnston are highly concerned.

"Johnston Atoll, for some of these species, will be the only land these birds ever know," said Brad Keitt, a marine ornithologist with the nonprofit American Bird Conservancy who has monitored birds there. "If we scare them off of this island, they don't have another place to go."

Johnston is part of "one of the last wild and intact ocean ecosystems that we have on Earth," said Jonee Peters, head of the Conservation Council for Hawaii, which opposes the rocket project.

"It is a seabird paradise," Keitt said. "There are just not that many habitats like this left in the world."

Biologists are concerned that rocket noise — even if initially limited to landings — will spook birds from their nests, leading some to abandon their clutches of eggs.

"Landings still emit a sonic boom which would be greatly disturbing to a bunch of nesting birds," said biologist Ryan Rash, who volunteered on Johnston twice to confirm the success of ant eradication efforts. "Just us riding our bikes around the island would flush birds off their nests," he said.

Keitt said reopening runways for airplanes could also disturb the birds and risk the introduction of other pests.

The rocket cargo program is also still in the process of proving its feasibility.

Using current modes of transport, it can take two to three weeks to resupply forces in the Western Pacific, a delay that raises questions about whether the Pentagon could come to the aid of Taiwan if China invaded. Delivery by plane might be difficult or impossible if hostile forces denied access to the area.

One potential solution would be launching a rocket with the necessary equipment and munitions, and then landing it where supplies are needed. Such a system could also be used to quickly drop supplies for humanitarian aid, according to the Air Force Research Laboratory.

But there are also concerns that such a system could create confusion, as a U.S.-launched rocket falling into a conflict zone might appear to be a ballistic missile.

Some in the scientific community have dismissed point-to-point delivery as impractical.

"These are old ideas and they have been rejected time and time again because there isn't a great need for them, they would be an expensive option, and because 'point to point' delivery looks a lot like a nuclear delivery system, and it's just too risky," Laura Grego, a senior scientist and research director with the Union of Concerned Scientists, said in a December email.

Mission: US officials insist latest wave of strikes is much more effective

FROM PAGE 1

The secrecy about Yemen is raising skepticism among foreign policy and national security experts that Trump's strategy — which he's touted as "powerful and decisive" — can restore freedom of navigation on one of the world's most important shipping routes. Major shipping lines continue to rely on a longer, and costlier, but safer route around the southern tip of Africa.

There's little doubt that the recent U.S. airstrikes have been intensive — more than \$200 million in munitions have been used so far, according to the *New York Times* — but the Houthis have proved resilient through years of attacks.

Efforts by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. for most of a decade failed to defeat the militants. The group has seized control of northern Yemen, holding its capital Sanaa since 2014 as well as the key Red Sea port of Hodeida.

The recent airstrikes on the Houthis come as Trump is threatening to bomb Iran unless it engages in direct negotiations with the U.S. and then signs a deal renouncing nuclear weapons. Iran

has said it will participate in indirect talks and maintains its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes.

Trump backed up his threat by ordering that two aircraft carrier strike groups, rather than the usual one, be deployed to the Middle East to pressure Iran and protect U.S. interests.

The Houthis' operations, including the drones on which they rely, are easy to move from one place to another, making them difficult to target from the air, said Jonathan Panikoff of the Atlantic Council's Middle East Program.

"The question that I've been asking, and others have been asking, is, 'Why does the Trump administration expect this bombing of the Houthis to have any more effect than seven years of pretty extreme Saudi and Emirati bombings, including a ground invasion?'" said Annelle Sheline, a research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft who spent a year serving in the State Department during the Biden administration.

In response to questions from Bloomberg News, a U.S. defense official said that Central Com-

mand is carrying out strikes across multiple Houthi locations every day and night.

The official said the U.S. has confirmed the death of several Houthi leaders and destroyed command and control facilities, air defense systems, weapons manufacturing facilities and advanced weapons storage locations. The official spoke on condition of anonymity and declined to share specific military tactics and targets, citing operational security.

But Trump posted an aerial video on X Friday night showing an oval formation of people followed by a huge explosion.

"These Houthis gathered for instructions on an attack," he wrote. "Oops, there will be no attack by these Houthis!"

More than 60 civilians have been killed in the strikes since mid-March, according to the Houthi-run health ministry based in Sanaa. The Houthis have acknowledged that at least 40 of their fighters have been killed, including some with the rank of colonel. The Houthis' leader, Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, is still at large.

Trump promised before taking office to end "forever wars" like

the past conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the Pentagon has so far offered no public blueprint for completing the mission in Yemen. Defense Department spokesman Sean Parnell has said that the U.S. plans to "use overwhelming lethal force until we have achieved our objective" but cautioned that "this is also not an endless offensive."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters at a foreign ministers meeting in Brussels that "the world should be grateful to the United States for being involved in this and doing this" because "nobody else can project power there and do this."

National security adviser Mike Waltz has contrasted the overwhelming force of recent U.S. attacks with what he depicted as hundreds of slow and measured "pinprick" attacks under Biden that he derided as "feckless."

But the reliance on airstrikes shows that Trump is following the same core path as Biden, said Frederick Wehrey, a senior fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and veteran Air Force officer.

"This is an administration that

came to office promising an end to the forever wars," Wehrey said. "Now you have the administration going down the very same path as the Biden administration."

The lack of details about the current operations in Yemen has attracted attention in Congress.

Sens. Jeff Merkley, an Oregon Democrat, and Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican, wrote to Trump asking him to explain his plan to deal with the Houthis.

The senators said the president failed in his responsibility to consult with Congress before the Yemen operation, as required under the long-disputed War Powers Act, and they raised concerns about the potential of war with Iran.

The Trump administration is "not sharing a lot of information in the sense of even after-action reports," said Ben Friedman, policy director of Defense Priorities, a Washington, D.C., think tank that's skeptical about the use of force. "The administration is conflating violence with success. They're talking about bombing buildings, collapsing buildings, as if that were a victory. The tactical effect is not particularly meaningful."

MILITARY

Congress wants \$15B DOD didn't ask for

By JOHN M. DONNELLY
CQ-Roll Call

Defense appropriators in Congress have recommended adding nearly \$15 billion the Pentagon did not request in fiscal 2025 for several hundred military research and procurement programs, a new database shows.

In most cases, those increases were additions to the amount of funds the Pentagon had sought. But more than one-third of the money went to scores of new programs, mostly weapons, that were not in the Pentagon's budget plans for fiscal 2025, according to the report and corresponding database, which were released Wednesday by Taxpayers for Common Sense, a nonpartisan budget monitor.

The report is the latest in a series of analyses in recent years by the group and CQ Roll Call that have disclosed how members of Congress appear to be funneling billions of Defense dollars to their constituents — and sometimes to campaign contributors — for initiatives the Pentagon did not formally seek and that bankroll contracts that defense lobbyists acknowledge are often open to competition in name only.

In the new report, the taxpayers organization spotlights programs that were not sought by the Pentagon but were inserted in the funding tables by members as ideologically diverse as such as Illinois' Democratic Sens. Richard J. Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and Republicans such as Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, a close ally of President Donald Trump, and Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-Texas, an appropriator.

The spending directions from Congress are included in tables that Republican Defense appropriators sent the department last month to spell out how members believe Defense money in the fiscal 2025 continuing resolution should be spent.

The stopgap spending bill's \$895.2 billion for Defense programs is \$6 billion over fiscal 2024, a cut in spending after inflation is factored in, while nondefense departments and agencies saw their nominal funding cut by \$13 billion compared to fiscal 2024.

Lawmakers always add money to the Defense budget above the requested amount for some programs and cut it for others. But, more and more in recent years, as uncompetitive earmarks have been halted except for nonprofit organizations, members have in many cases used so-called "program increases" to try to in effect funnel defense funds to favored recipients.

Gabe Murphy, policy analyst for Taxpayers for Common Sense, said in an interview that the De-



MACIEJ GOGLON/TNS

A pair of U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters fly at a base in Warsaw, Poland.

fense Department program increases are "backdoor earmarks."

Steve Ellis, the group's president, said in a statement that earmarks require lawmakers to "disclose their involvement in proposing them, spell out their purpose, and certify that they have no financial interest in the earmark. In contrast, program increases are largely anonymous, come with little to no justification, and do not require lawmakers to certify anything."

The billions in added Defense funds for program increases often go each year to high-profile, top-dollar initiatives such as the F-35 fighter jet program.

But the vast majority of the hundreds of annual additions, in fiscal 2025 and previously, are worth less than \$30 million apiece but add up to sizable amounts even in the massive national defense budget.

Congressional and Pentagon auditors have previously confirmed that they have not produced any reports examining the effectiveness of the congressional "program increases."

Lawmakers' appetite for adding unrequested funds each year for projects they say will benefit their states or districts is a bipartisan and bicameral phenomenon.

One of the funding increases was \$5 million for the Army to research a "thermoplastic tail rotor drive system" for Black Hawk helicopters — spending the service had not sought.

Stefanik issued a press release last June after the House and the

Senate Appropriations committees had signed off on fiscal 2025 Defense spending bills with the money included.

Even though such "program increase" money is supposed to be put out for competition, Stefanik listed the Black Hawk system as one of the "defense wins" she had garnered for her district and region.



Stefanik

"The investments I secured through this year's defense appropriations bill ... will bolster our national security and further solidify Upstate New York's role as a defense technology hub," Stefanik's statement said.

She noted that the funds will enable the Army to "research using thermoplastic made by Collins Aerospace in Rome, NY."

Collins Aerospace is a subsidiary of RTX Corp., formerly Raytheon.

According to OpenSecrets.org, a nonpartisan and nonprofit monitor of campaign money, RTX Corp.'s PAC contributed \$10,000 to Stefanik's campaign committee in the 2024 election cycle, the report said.

"As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am proud to advocate on behalf of Upstate New York and the North Country in the annual national defense bills," Stefanik said by email. "I will always work to deliver results for NY-21 defense

companies that support jobs in my district and ensure our service members have access to the best technology possible."

The funding tables also include \$100 million in unrequested Army funds for a "Next Generation HMMWV Shop Equipment Contact Maintenance Vehicle," a Humvee that provides mobile maintenance to maneuvering units.

In a joint press release last July celebrating "Spending Bills With Illinois Priorities Secured By Durbin, Duckworth," the senators highlighted the Senate bill's proposed funding for the project, which was \$120 million, "to continue manufacturing" of the vehicle at the Army's Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois.

The vehicle is built at the arsenal by AM General. That company is owned by KPS Capital Partners, which has contributed to both senators' campaign accounts.

Duckworth's office did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

A spokesperson for Durbin said by email Wednesday that tactical vehicles at the Rock Island Arsenal are "recognized as critical by the Army."

Despite Durbin's previous touting of the added funding for the Humvee program, the spokesperson said Democrats "did not have any hand" in writing

the new stopgap spending bill, "so any questions about lawmakers increasing DoD funding in the FY25 bill should go to the Majority."

Another added spending line was \$15 million for the Air Force to support "Vertical Integration of Scramjet Supply Chain."

In a June 2024 press release celebrating his role in crafting the House's Defense spending measure, Gonzales wrote that the funding would "accelerate the research, development, and production of hypersonic propulsion systems/airbreathing hypersonic engines" by putting all the suppliers in a single location.

Notably, his statement said: "The Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio specializes in this area of military innovation."

In 2024, the institute paid \$320,000 in lobbying fees to Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, the taxpayer group said, and records show individuals and PACs associated with Akin Gump contributed \$14,503 to Gonzales' campaign in the 2024 election cycle.

Gonzales' aides did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The funding tables in Defense appropriations laws are not hard requirements in statute, but they communicate to the Pentagon how appropriators want the funds to be spent — and the department normally adheres to their direction.

Because the fiscal 2025 funding tables were sent to the department only after the continuing resolution had been enacted and were the work of only Republicans, they might be construed as being less binding than usual.

Yet the tables represent just about all the detailed information the department has to go on about lawmakers' intent.

In fiscal 2023 Defense spending law, the funding tables included 996 unrequested additions for program increases amounting to \$12.2 billion. Not included in the Taxpayers for Common Sense tallies are congressional hikes to spending for military personnel, operations and maintenance, military construction or other major categories of defense spending.

In the fiscal 2024 law, the number surged to \$21 billion for 1,072 separate increases.

The fiscal 2025 total of \$14.95 billion, while down from the prior year, may not be the end of congressional insistence on unrequested boosts for little-known weapons accounts.

Senators unveiled on Wednesday a compromise budget resolution that could add at least \$100 billion for defense programs over the next decade, and lawmakers have said they want those monies spent in the next couple of years.



Durbin

NATION

Trump eyes new tariffs as markets drop

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN
AND JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Undeterred by a stock market collapse that has continued for days, President Donald Trump threatened additional tariffs on China on Monday, raising fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war.

Trump's threat, which he delivered on social media, came after China said it would retaliate against U.S. tariffs he announced last week.

"If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," he wrote on Truth Social. "Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated!"

If Trump implements his plans, U.S. tariffs on imports from China would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as punishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could

that increase prices for American consumers, it could give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper partnerships with other trading partners.

As of midday on Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had fallen 750 points, or 2%. The S&P 500 had slumped 1.5%, and the Nasdaq composite was off 1.2%. The drop in the markets briefly reversed in the morning after a false report that Trump was considering a pause in his tariff plans. The frantic trading, which sent stocks spiking before plummeting again, showed how investors are operating on a hair trigger and are eager for any sign of encouraging news.

The White House account said it was "fake news" that Trump was considering a pause. The Republican president has remained defiant despite fears that he could be pushing the U.S. toward a recession, insisting that his tariffs are necessary for rebuilding domestic manufacturing and resetting trade relationships with other countries.

"Be Strong, Courageous, and Patient, and GREATNESS will be the result!" he wrote on Truth Social.



LUIS M. ALVAREZ/AP

President Donald Trump talks with Air Force Col. Angela F. Ochoa, Commander, as he walks from Air Force One upon his arrival at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Sunday.

He accused other countries of "taking advantage of the Good OL' USA" said "our past 'leaders' are to blame for allowing this." Trump also called on the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates. On Friday, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned that the tariffs could increase inflation, and he said "there's a lot of waiting and seeing going on, including by us," before any decisions would be

made.

Investors expect the U.S. central bank to cut its benchmark interest rates at least four times by the end of this year, according to CME Group's FedWatch, a sign that concerns about inflation will be eclipsed by fears of layoffs and a shrinking economy.

Goldman Sachs issued a new forecast saying a recession has become more likely even if Trump

backtracks from his tariffs. The financial firm said economic growth would slow dramatically "following a sharp tightening in financial conditions, foreign consumer boycotts, and a continued spike in policy uncertainty that is likely to depress capital spending by more than we had previously assumed."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the European Union would focus on trade with other countries besides the United States, saying there are "vast opportunities" elsewhere.

Trump said he spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to start trade negotiations. He complained on Truth Social "they have treated the U.S. very poorly on Trade" and "they don't take our cars, but we take MILLIONS of theirs."

Ishiba said he told Trump that he's "strongly concerned" that tariffs would discourage investment from Japan, which has been the world's biggest investor in the U.S. in the past five years. He described the situation as a "national crisis" and said that his government would negotiate with Washington to urge Trump to reconsider the tariffs.

US trading partners puzzle over negotiation potential

BY ELAINE KURTENBACH
Associated Press

BANGKOK — The impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's blast of tariff hikes was reverberating across world markets Monday as America's trading partners puzzled over whether there is room for negotiating better deals.

Several countries said they were sending trade officials to Washington to try to talk through the crisis, which has cast uncertainty over the global economic outlook, hammered markets and left U.S. allies wondering about the value of their ties with the world's largest economy.

However, Germany's economy minister, Robert Habeck, was defiant as he arrived at a meeting of European Union trade ministers in Luxembourg, saying the premise of the wide-ranging tariffs was "nonsense" and that attempts by individual countries to win exemptions haven't worked in the past.

It's important for the EU to stick together, he said. That "means being clear that we are in a strong position — America is in a position of weakness."

China, which hit back Friday at Washington with 34% tariffs on U.S. products and other retaliatory moves, accused the U.S. of failing to play fair.



JAN WORTAS/AP

Rolling stock is pictured at a terminal in Leipzig, Germany, Monday.

"Putting 'America First' over international rules is a typical act of unilateralism, protectionism and economic bullying," Foreign Affairs spokesperson Lin Jian said.

The ruling Communist Party struck a note of confidence even as markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai crumpled. "The sky won't fall," declared The People's Daily, the party's official mouthpiece. "Faced with the indiscriminate punches of U.S. taxes, we know

what we are doing and we have tools at our disposal."

Leading big drops in many markets, Hong Kong's stock benchmark, the Hang Seng, plunged 13.2%. The Shanghai Composite index, meanwhile, lost 7.3% despite reported moves by regulators to staunch the losses.

China's Commerce Ministry said officials met with representatives of 20 American businesses including Tesla and GE Healthcare over the weekend and urged

them to take "concrete actions" to address the tariffs issue.

During the meeting, Ling Ji, a vice minister of commerce, promised that China will remain open to foreign investment, according to the readout by the ministry.

South Korea's Trade Ministry said its top negotiator, Inkyo Cheong, will visit Washington this week to express Seoul's concerns over the 25% tariffs on Korean goods and discuss ways to mitigate the damage to South Korean businesses, which include major automakers and steel makers.

Pakistan also planned to send a delegation to Washington this month to try negotiate over the 29% tariffs on its exports to the U.S., officials said. The prime minister ordered Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to assess the tariff's potential impact on Pakistan's fragile economy and draw up recommendations.

The U.S. imports around \$5 billion worth of textiles and other products each year from Pakistan, which heavily relies on loans from the International Monetary Fund and other lenders.

In Southeast Asia, Malaysia's Trade Minister Zafrul Abdul Aziz said his country will seek to forge a united response from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to Trump's sweeping tariffs.

As chair of the 10-nation body this year, Malaysia will lead a meeting Thursday in its capital Kuala Lumpur to discuss broader implications of the trade war on regional trade and investment, Zafrul told reporters.

"We are looking at the investment flows, macroeconomic stability and ASEAN's coordinated response to this tariff issue," Zafrul said. He denied reports Malaysia had imposed a 47% tariff on imports from the U.S., saying the actual average Malaysian tariff on American exports is 5.6%.

He said that he had met with the U.S. ambassador to Malaysia to try to clarify how the U.S. came up with its 24% tariff.

Indonesia, one of the region's biggest economies, said it would work to increase its imports of U.S. wheat, cotton, oil and gas to help reduce its trade surplus, which was \$18 billion in 2024.

Coordinating Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartarto told a news conference that Indonesia will not retaliate against the new 32% tariff on Indonesian exports, but would use diplomacy to seek mutually beneficial solutions.

Some Southeast Asian neighbors, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, face tariffs of over 40%, giving Indonesia a slight advantage, he noted.

NATION

Swollen rivers inundate towns across South

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**
AND **KRISTIN M. HALL**
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Days of unrelenting heavy rain and storms that killed at least 18 people worsened flooding as some rivers rose to near-record levels and inundated towns across an already saturated South and parts of the Midwest.

Cities ordered evacuations and rescue crews in inflatable boats checked on residents in Kentucky and Tennessee, while utilities shut off power and gas in a region stretching from Texas to Ohio.

“I think everybody was shocked at how quick (the river) actually did come up,” said salon owner Jessica Tuggle, who was watching Monday as murky brown water approached her business in Frankfort, Ky., the state capital along the swollen Kentucky River.

She said that as each new wave of rain arrived over the weekend, anxious residents hoped for a reprieve so they could just figure out how bad things would get and how to prepare.

She and friends packed up everything she could haul out of her salon, including styling chairs,

hair products and electronics, and they took it all to a nearby tap house up the hill.

“Everybody was just ‘stop raining, stop raining’ so we could get an idea of what the worst situation would be,” she said.

Officials diverted traffic and turned off utilities to businesses in the city as the river was expected to approach a record crest on Monday.

For many, there was a sense of dread that the worst was still to come.

“As long as I’ve been alive—and I’m 52 — this is the worst I’ve ever seen it,” said Wendy Quire, the general manager at the Brown Barrel restaurant downtown.

“The rain just won’t stop,” Quire said Sunday. “It’s been nonstop for days and days.”

The 18 reported deaths since the storms began on Wednesday included 10 in Tennessee. A 9-year-old boy in Kentucky was caught up in floodwaters while walking to catch his school bus. A 5-year-old boy in Arkansas died after a tree fell on his family’s home, police said. A 16-year-old volunteer Missouri firefighter died in a crash while seeking to rescue people

caught in the storm.



JON CHERRY/AP

Search and rescue firefighters conduct wellness checks in a Frankfort, Ky., neighborhood on Sunday.

caught in the storm.

The National Weather Service warned Sunday that dozens of locations in multiple states were expected to reach a “major flood stage,” with extensive flooding of structures, roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure possible.

In north-central Kentucky, emergency officials ordered a mandatory evacuation for Falmouth and Butler, towns near the bend of the rising Licking River. Thirty years ago, the river reached a record 50 feet, resulting in five deaths and 1,000 homes destroyed.

The storms come after the Trump administration cut jobs at NWS forecast offices, leaving half of them with vacancy rates of about 20%, or double the level of a decade ago.

Forecasters attributed the violent weather to warm temperatures, an unstable atmosphere, strong winds and abundant moisture streaming from the Gulf.

The NWS said 5.06 inches of rain fell Saturday in Jonesboro, Ark. — making it the wettest day ever recorded in April in the city. Memphis, Tenn., received 14 inches of rain from Wednesday to Sunday, the NWS said.

Rives, a northwestern Tennessee town of about 200 people, was almost entirely underwater after the Obion River overflowed.

Domanic Scott went to check on his father in Rives after not hearing from him in a house where water reached the doorstep.

“It’s the first house we’ve ever paid off. The insurance companies

around here won’t give flood insurance to anyone who lives in Rives because we’re too close to the river and the levees. So if we lose it, we’re kind of screwed without a house,” Scott said.

In Dyersburg, Tenn., dozens of people arrived over the weekend at a storm shelter near a public school clutching blankets, pillows and other necessities. Just days earlier the city was hit by a tornado that caused millions of dollars in damage.

For some, grabbing the essentials also meant taking a closer look at the liquor cabinet.

In Frankfort, with water rising up to his window sills, resident Bill Jones fled his home in a boat, which he loaded with several boxes of bottles of bourbon.

Kennedy visits epicenter of Texas measles outbreak

Associated Press

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. visited the epicenter of Texas’ still-growing measles outbreak on Sunday, the same day a funeral was held for a second young child who was not vaccinated and died from a measles-related illness.

Kennedy said in a social media post that he was working to “control the outbreak” and went to Gaines County to comfort the families who have buried two young children. He was seen late Sunday afternoon outside of a Mennonite church where the funeral services were held, but he did not attend a nearby news conference held by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the outbreak.

Seminole is the epicenter of the outbreak, which started in late January and continues to swell — with nearly 500 cases in Texas alone, plus cases from the outbreak believed to have spread to New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Mexico.



ANNIE RICE / AP

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., left, arrives Sunday at Reinlander Mennonite Church in Seminole, Texas.

The second young child died Thursday from “what the child’s doctor described as measles pulmonary failure,” and did not have underlying health conditions, the Texas State Department of State Health Services said Sunday in a news release. Aaron Davis, a spokesperson for UMC Health System in Lubbock, said that the

child was “receiving treatment for complications of measles while hospitalized.”

This is the third known measles-related death tied to this outbreak. One was another elementary school-aged child in Texas and the other was an adult in New Mexico; neither were vaccinated.

It’s Kennedy’s first visit to the

area as health secretary, where he said he met with families of both the 6- and 8-year-old children who died.

Kennedy, an anti-vaccine advocate before ascending to the role of nation’s top health secretary earlier this year, has resisted urging widespread vaccinations as the measles outbreak has worsened under his watch. On Sunday, however, he said in a lengthy statement posted on X that it was “the most effective way to prevent the spread of measles.”

The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine has been used safely for more than 60 years and is 97% effective against measles after two doses.

Dr. Manisha Patel, CDC incident manager, said in a Sunday news conference that the MMR vaccine is the best way to protect against measles. She also told parents in Gaines County that it was important not to “delay care” for a child who is sick with measles.

“Call your doctor and make sure you’re talking to a health care

professional who can guide you on those next steps,” Patel said.

Neither the CDC nor the state health department included the death in their measles reports issued Friday, but the CDC acknowledged it when asked Sunday.

The number of cases in Texas shot up by 81 between March 28 and April 4, and 16 more people were hospitalized. Nationwide, the U.S. has more than double the number of measles cases it saw in all of 2024.

Dr. Peter Marks, the Food and Drug Administration’s former vaccine chief, said responsibility for the death rests with Kennedy and his staff. Marks was forced out of the FDA after disagreements with Kennedy over vaccine safety.

“This is the epitome of an absolute needless death,” Marks told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday. “These kids should get vaccinated — that’s how you prevent people from dying of measles.”

NATION

Administration asks high court to block order to return man from El Salvador

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Monday asked the Supreme Court to block a court order requiring it to return a Maryland man who was mistakenly deported to a prison in El Salvador.

The Justice Department argued in an emergency appeal to the justices that U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis overstepped her authority when she ordered Kilmar Abrego Garcia returned to the United States.

The administration has conceded that Abrego Garcia should not have been sent to El Salvador because an immigration judge found he likely would face persecution by local gangs.

But he is no longer in U.S. custody and the government has no way to get him back, the administration argued.

Xinis gave the administration until just before midnight to “facilitate and effectuate” Abrego Garcia’s return.

“The district court’s injunction—which requires Abrego Garcia’s release from the custody of a foreign sovereign and return to the United States by midnight on Monday—is patently unlawful,” Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote in court papers, casting the order as one in “a deluge of unlawful injunctions” judges have issued to slow President Donald Trump’s agenda.

The Trump administration is separately asking the Supreme Court to allow Trump to resume deportations of Venezuelan migrants accused of being gang members to the same Salvadoran prison under an 18th century wartime law.

The federal appeals court in Richmond, Va., denied



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Jennifer Vasquez Sura, the wife of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was mistakenly deported to El Salvador, speaks in Hyattsville, Md., on Friday.

the administration’s request for a stay. “There is no question that the government screwed up here,” Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson wrote in a brief opinion accompanying the unanimous denial.

The White House has described Abrego Garcia’s deportation as an “administrative error” but has also cast him as an MS-13 gang member. Attorneys for Abrego Garcia said there is no evidence he was in MS-13.

Abrego Garcia, a 29-year-old Salvadoran national who has never been charged or convicted of any crime, was detained by immigration agents and deported last month. His wife is a U.S. citizen.

Officials: US ends more aid contracts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has notified the World Food Program and other partners that it has terminated some of the last remaining lifesaving humanitarian programs across the Middle East, a U.S. official and a U.N. official told The Associated Press on Monday.

The projects were being canceled “for the convenience of the U.S. Government” at the direction of Jeremy Lewin, a top lieutenant at Trump adviser Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency whom the Trump administration appointed to oversee and finish dismantling the U.S. Agency for International Development, according to a letter sent to USAID partners and viewed by the AP.

About 60 letters canceling contracts were sent over the past week, including for major projects with the World Food Program, the world’s largest provider of food

aid, a USAID official said. An official with the United Nations in the Middle East said WFP received termination letters for Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

Some of the last remaining U.S. funding for key programs in Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe also were affected, the USAID official said.

The Trump administration had pledged to spare those most urgent, lifesaving programs in its cutting of aid and development programs through the State Department and USAID.

The administration already has canceled thousands of USAID contracts as it dismantles USAID, which it accuses of wastefulness and of advancing liberal causes.

The newly terminated contracts were among about 900 surviving programs that Secretary of State Marco Rubio had notified Congress he intended to preserve, the USAID official said.

Trump, Netanyahu to meet in Washington on tariffs, Gaza and Iran

BY TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet President Donald Trump in Washington on Monday, becoming the first foreign leader to visit Trump since he unleashed tariffs on countries around the world.

Whether Netanyahu’s visit succeeds in bringing down or elimi-

nating Israel’s tariffs remains to be seen, but how it plays out could set the stage for how other world leaders try to address the new tariffs.

Netanyahu’s office has put the focus of his hastily organized Washington visit on the tariffs, while stressing that the two leaders will discuss major geopolitical issues including the war in Gaza, tensions with Iran, Israel-Turkey

ties and the International Criminal Court, which issued an arrest warrant against the Israeli leader last year. Trump in February signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the ICC over its investigations of Israel.

The prime minister soon after arriving in Washington on Sunday evening met with senior Trump administration officials, Com-

merce Secretary Howard Lutnick and U.S. Trade Representative Jameson Greer, to discuss the tariffs.

Trump and Netanyahu are also likely to discuss Israel’s hoped-for annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank, which the Palestinians want as the heart of their future independent state.

Eytan Gilboa, an expert on U.S.-Israel relations, said he expected

Trump to use the tariffs as leverage to force concessions from Netanyahu.

In Israel’s case, those concessions might not be economic. Trump may pressure Netanyahu to move toward ending the war in Gaza — at the very least through some interim truce with Hamas that would pause the fighting and free more hostages.

STARS AND STRIPES

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market




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944

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WORLD

Israeli strike at Gaza hospital kills and wounds journalists



ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

Palestinians inspect a site hit by an Israeli strike in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Monday. Israel has carried out waves of strikes across Gaza since it ended its ceasefire with Hamas last month.

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel struck a media tent outside a hospital in the Gaza Strip early Monday, killing two people, including a local reporter, and wounding six other journalists, medics said. The Israeli military said the strike targeted a man it says was a Hamas militant posing as a journalist.

Thirty-two other people were killed in multiple strikes around Gaza, including 19 women and children and an emergency room doctor, according to hospital officials.

Israel has carried out waves of

strikes across Gaza and ground forces have carved out new military zones since it ended its ceasefire with Hamas last month. Israel has barred the import of food, fuel, medicine and humanitarian aid for well over a month as it seeks to pressure Hamas to accept changes to the truce agreement they reached in January.

The strike outside Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis at around 2 a.m. set the media tent ablaze, killing Yousef al-Faqawi, a reporter for the Palestine Today news website, and another man, according to the hospi-

tal. The military said the strike targeted Hassan Esiaiah, who it said was a Hamas militant who had entered Israel and taken part in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war. Esiaiah was among six journalists who were wounded in the strike, according to the hospital.

Esiaiah had occasionally contributed images to The Associated Press and other international media outlets as a freelance journalist, including on Oct. 7. The AP has not worked with him for over a year.

Israel also struck tents on the edge of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the

central city of Deir al-Balah, wounding three people, according to the hospital.

Israel has vowed to keep escalat-

ing military pressure until Hamas releases its remaining hostages, lays down its arms and leaves the territory.

Iran says it's ready for Oman-mediated talks with US on nuke deal

Bloomberg News

Iran has sent a "generous and wise" proposal for indirect talks with the U.S. about its nuclear program that could involve Oman as a mediator, officials said.

President Donald Trump has said he wants direct discussions with the Islamic Republic over a new nuclear deal to replace the one that he abandoned during his

first term. Iran has repeatedly rebuffed the idea of direct negotiations with the U.S.

Trump in March gave Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei two months to reach an agreement or face possible military action. In his reply, Khamenei made clear that Iran "won't start a war, but will respond to any threat with full force," the state-run Islamic Re-

public News Agency reported on Sunday, citing Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, chief of staff of Iran's armed forces.

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said "we are waiting for the U.S. response. Our proposal for indirect negotiations is a responsible, generous, and wise offer."

He added that the Gulf-Arab

Sultanate of Oman, which has facilitated dialogue between Tehran and Washington in the past, is a "main candidate" to mediate talks with the U.S. if they take place.

In separate comments on Monday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said "the ball is in the U.S. court."

"The offer for direct negotiations isn't acceptable to us for rea-

sons repeatedly stated before, but we're ready for indirect negotiations through Oman," Araghchi said, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Kanaani added that a trilateral, expert-level meeting is taking place in Moscow on Monday involving Iranian, Russian and Chinese officials to discuss the moribund 2015 nuclear deal.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Galapagos tortoises are parents at nearly 100

PA PHILADELPHIA — A pair of critically endangered, nearly 100-year-old Galapagos tortoises at the Philadelphia Zoo have become first-time parents.

The zoo said it is “overjoyed” at the arrivals of the four hatchlings, a first in its more than 150-year history. The babies are the offspring of female Mommy and male Abrazzo, the zoo’s two oldest residents.

The quartet is being kept behind the scenes inside the Reptile and Amphibian House for now, “eating and growing appropriately,” the zoo said. They weigh between 70 and 80 grams, about the weight of a chicken egg. The first egg hatched on Feb. 27 and more that still could hatch are being monitored by the zoo’s animal care team.

“Mommy arrived at the Zoo in 1932, meaning anyone that has visited the Zoo for the last 92 years has likely seen her,” she said.

White House cuts plan to cover anti-obesity drugs

DC WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s administration has decided not to cover expensive, high-demand obesity treatments under the federal government’s Medicare program.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said it would not cover the medications under Medicare’s Part D prescription drug coverage. Medicare covers health care expenses mainly for people age 65 and older.

Trump’s predecessor, Joe Biden, proposed a rule in late November after Trump won re-election that would have extended coverage of drugs like Zepbound and Wegovy. The rule was not expected to be finalized until Trump took office.

Lawmaker’s ex-husband apologizes for harassment

GA JOHNS CREEK — The ex-husband of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., has apologized for berating three Muslim women in Georgia days after a video of the incident went viral.

“I came today just to meet with the young ladies that I was mean to and treated disrespectfully about their religion and about what they were doing,” Perry Greene said at a press conference outside the women’s place of worship in Johns Creek, Ga.

“I just wanted them to know that I humbly apologized to them because no one should be treated that way, and that’s not the right way for us to treat anybody.”

According to the three women, they were praying at the empty parking lot when a man driving a Tesla Cybertruck interrupted them and demanded to know what



GREG EANS, THE (OWENSBORO, Ky.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

A record fun day

Michael Fulkerson, center, laughs with his granddaughter, Hannah Greenwell, while looking through records during the Record Show at the Daviess County Public Library, Saturday, in Owensboro, Ky.

country they were from.

The man, later identified as Greene, went on to tell them they were “worshipping a false god” and instructed them to “go back to [their] country.”

Judge temporarily blocks new immigration law

FL TALLAHASSEE — A federal judge temporarily blocked police and prosecutors from enforcing a new state law that makes it a crime for immigrants to come into Florida after they enter the country illegally.

Calling the law likely unconstitutional, U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams suspended enforcement of it for 14 days and scheduled a hearing for April 18.

The ruling is a setback for Gov. Ron DeSantis and law-enforcement officials who were already making arrests and prosecuting cases under the law, which was enacted in February following a contentious special session meant to enact policies that would help President Donald Trump’s immigration enforcement plans.

Order for school district to return 19 books halted

CO DENVER — The saga surrounding 19 “highly sensitive” books that Colorado’s Elizabeth School District removed from its libraries last year

continued Friday as the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals paused a federal judge’s order requiring the district to re-shelve the titles.

U.S. District Judge Charlotte N. Sweeney on Thursday had denied an appeal from the Elbert County school district and ordered the books be returned by 5 p.m. Saturday.

But the district filed an emergency motion in the 10th Circuit late Thursday and, on Friday, the appellate court issued a temporary stay.

Elizabeth school board members voted in the fall to pluck the books — including “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini, Toni Morrison’s “Beloved” and “The Bluest Eye,” and Angie Thomas’ “The Hate U Give” — from shelves

2 US border inspectors charged with taking bribes

CA SAN DIEGO — Two U.S. border inspectors in Southern California have been charged with taking thousands of dollars in bribes to allow people to enter the country through the nation’s busiest port of entry without showing documents, prosecutors said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers Farlis Almonte and Ricardo Rodriguez were assigned to immigration inspection booths at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. They were charged after investigators found phone evi-

dence showing they had exchanged messages with human traffickers in Mexico and discovered unexplained cash deposits into their bank accounts, according to a criminal complaint unsealed.

Surveillance video showed at least one instance in which a vehicle with a driver and a passenger stopped at a checkpoint but only the driver was documented as having entered the country, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said the officers waved dozens of vehicles carrying people without documents. They said both men were paid thousands for each vehicle they waved through.

Commutated con charged for violating his release

NY NEW YORK — A convicted New York drug dealer whose 10-year federal prison sentence was commuted by President Donald Trump in January 2021 is back in custody after he was accused of several crimes, including assaulting a toddler.

Jonathan Braun, 41, was charged with violating the terms of his supervised release and ordered detained in Brooklyn federal court, according to the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York’s office.

Braun is charged with seven violations of his release stemming from multiple arrests over the

past seven months, said John Marzulli, a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney’s office.

He said Braun has been charged with assault of an elderly man; assault of his wife; groping his nanny’s breast without her permission; assault of a 3-year-old child and menacing a hospital staffer.

Lawmakers eye limit to sex abuse claim liabilities

MD ANNAPOLIS — Maryland lawmakers passed a measure to try to limit future liabilities from claims of sexual abuse at state and private institutions after thousands of people unexpectedly came forward with allegations of abuse, many of them in youth detention centers, putting potentially billions of dollars at stake for the state.

The wave of cases targeting the state’s juvenile justice system resulted after Maryland eliminated the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse claims two years ago with the Catholic Church abuse scandal in mind.

The measure, which now goes to Gov. Wes Moore, reduces caps on settlements from \$890,000 to \$400,000 for cases filed after May 31 for state institutions and from \$1.5 million to \$700,000 for private institutions.

From wire reports

FACES

A big-time blockbuster

'A Minecraft Movie' takes in \$157M, becomes year's 1st real box-office hit

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Hollywood needed "A Minecraft Movie" to be a hit, and it delivered in its opening weekend, significantly narrowing this year's box-office deficit.

No one guessed just how big it would be. In its first few days in theaters, the movie earned a staggering \$157 million in ticket sales from theaters in the U.S. and Canada, according to studio estimates Sunday. Internationally, it's looking at an additional \$144 million for a global debut of \$301 million. And with school spring breaks ongoing, "A Minecraft Movie" is just getting started.

"We're just thrilled that audiences are responding and that everyone's going to the theater," said Pamela Abdy, the co-chair and CEO of the Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group.

Not only did it have the biggest opening of 2025, "A Minecraft Movie" also broke the record for a video game adaptation, a distinction previously held by "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" (\$146 million). Going into the weekend, analysts projected "Minecraft" might hit \$80 million. Instead, it nearly doubled that figure.

"You can't underestimate the value of earnest, entertaining, joyous cinema," said Michael DeLuca, also co-chair and CEO. "People really want an escape, especially when it involves the whole family."

Nothing is guaranteed in the movie business, but an offering based on the bestselling video game of all time makes for a good start. It hardly mattered that the block-based game doesn't exactly have a narrative. Many of its 200 million active monthly players turned out in droves.

DeLuca said it's one of the "broadest playing movies" they've ever seen, meaning it's working in all sizes of cinemas all over the world.



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Jack Black (left), Danielle Brooks and Jason Momoa team up in "A Minecraft Movie," which became an unexpected hit.

The PG-rated movie, directed by Jared Hess ("Napoleon Dynamite"), was a co-production of Legendary Entertainment and Warner Bros. It cost a reported \$150 million to make, not including marketing and promotion expenses. Jack Black and Jason Momoa lead the ensemble cast (Danielle Brooks, Emma Myers and Sebastian Eugene Hansen). Their characters are transported into an imaginative dimension called the Overworld and need to go on a dangerous, and immensely silly, adventure to get home.

"We made the movie for the fans and the fans exceeded our expectations," DeLuca said.

Critics were largely mixed on "A Minecraft Movie," but audiences gave it a more promising B+ CinemaScore and 4/5 stars in PostTrak exit polls. Men made up around 62% of the audience, and 64% were under the age of 25.

Video game adaptations have had some pivotal successes in recent years, including "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," the "Sonic" series and "Five Nights at Freddy's."

"Video games were once a genre that had very mixed results at the box office, but the code has finally been cracked," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

Second place at this week's box office went to the Jason Statham action pic "A Working Man," which added \$7.3 million in its second weekend. Third place was occupied by the second installment in the episodic "The Chosen: Last Supper" series. Part 2 (made up of episodes 3-5) earned \$7 million over the weekend.

"Snow White" slid to fourth place in its third weekend, bringing in \$6.1 million. It's now made more than \$168 million globally.

It's been a difficult start to 2025 for Hollywood and movie theaters, with disappointments including "Snow White" and "Mickey 17." Before this weekend, the box office was running at a 13% deficit compared with last year. Now the gap is down to 5%.

Wolfhard wears many hats with new slasher film

By RODNEY HO

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Finn Wolfhard effectively has spent his teen years into his early adulthood in the upside-down world of "Stranger Things," the monster Netflix series that shepherded the world into streaming. The show wrapped filming at the end of 2024, with the final season set to debut later this year.

Wolfhard, now 22, is well aware that fans and journalists will be asking him about "Stranger Things" for many years to come.

"I'm legitimately at peace with it," said Wolfhard in a Zoom call promoting a film he co-directed, co-produced and co-starred in called "Hell of a Summer," now in stateside theaters. "Last year, I was thinking as we were shooting the last season, 'I don't care if I'm going to be that kid.'"

Wolfhard is best known as Mike Wheeler, the moral compass and reliable group leader in "Stranger Things" and boyfriend of Eleven, played by Millie Bobby Brown.

He hopes to carve out a career

akin to that of Ron Howard, who managed to get past his Opie and Richie Cunningham days of decades yore to become a successful, highly respected director. "If I can attain even a fraction of the success of Ron Howard," he said, "that'd be an amazing place to be."

Wolfhard has begun his journey behind the camera with "Hell of a Summer," a collaboration with his friend Billy Bryk. They met as teens in 2019 on the set of "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" and began writing the script for this slasher comedy set at a summer camp.

"This movie came to be for our shared love of comedies, especially teen ensemble comedies," Wolfhard said. "We had both written slashers as shorts. I had grown up loving slashers. It felt like a perfect thing for us to write together."

"Hell of a Summer" is set in current times, but many of the scenes could have been carved out of a film from the 1980s with its character tropes and John Carpenter-esque musical soundtrack. The

setup is simple: counselors are inexplicably dying in gruesome fashion at an isolated sleepaway camp the weekend before campers arrive. The owners are nowhere to be found, so lead character Jason (Fred Hechinger) takes it upon himself to temporarily take charge. Characters start wondering: Who is causing this mayhem?

Hechinger's Jason is nothing like the seminal hockey-mask-wearing psychopath Jason in the 1980 slasher film "Friday the 13th." Rather, this version is a sweet but aimless 24-year-old who has yet to figure out his lot in life and keeps going back to summer camp because it harbors the best memories of his life to date.

Despite his earnest awkwardness, Jason manages to become a hero in the movie, a juncture point where he can move forward and grow up. But his actions are aligned to his personality.

"All the characters in the movie can't help but be themselves," Hechinger said. "The ways they

are heroic are still connected to their specific eccentricities. Sometimes in horror movies, once the killing starts, everyone snaps into being a classic movie hero, but in our experiences in life, that's not the case. Your neuroses and hang-ups remain even when issues arise. It was important Jason continues to be himself. His heroism comes from all of his uniqueness."

Wolfhard, who portrays a sweet, well-meaning gender studies major in the film not unlike his Mike Wheeler character, said he has met plenty of adults who can't let go of their childhood: "We talked about 'Disney adults,' which I can identify with. The people who are trying to get back to their inner child. A healthy amount of that is good, but Jason takes it a little too far."

Bryk, who plays the comically self-centered Bobby, said he hopes "Hell of a Summer" appeals to multiple generations who have watched "Scream"-style films.

"Our goal is to tear down the



ANDY KROPA, INVISION/AP

Actor Finn Wolfhard co-directed, co-produced and co-starred in "Hell of a Summer."

idea there is a massive generational gap," he said. "There are so many themes in this movie that are timeless and universal. I love watching coming-of-age movies from the past like 'The Graduate' I can still relate to, even if the world couldn't be any more different. We wanted to give people some fun scares, some laughs and a lot of heart."

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer

Lt. Col. Katie R. Fidler, Europe commander

John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff

Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Pacific commander

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Climate change is a national security threat

By JAMES STAVRIDIS

Bloomberg Opinion

Every year, the heads of the key U.S. intelligence agencies take part in a ritual called the worldwide threat brief, testifying before Congress at an unclassified level about the biggest perils facing the nation. In general, we know what to expect: warnings on China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, cybercrime, terrorism and other usual suspects.

But this year things turned out very differently, in two ways. First, the debate was hijacked — appropriately — by the uproar over the inadvertent release to a journalist, through the communications app Signal, of details concerning strikes against Houthi terrorists. The director of national intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, and CIA Director John Ratcliffe spent much of their time parrying tough questioning from Democratic senators.

The second difference was something that was not brought up as a threat to the U.S., although it has featured prominently for more than a decade in the annual report: climate change. Its absence came as something of a surprise, even if President Donald Trump has long denied the validity of climate-related dangers and has been slashing jobs at the National Weather Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

It was a shift for the Republicans because the DNI during Trump's first term, Dan Coats, did include climate in the worldwide threat reports. But this year's document dropped any mention of the deterioration of the environment. Evidently, none of the agencies represented — DNI, CIA, FBI, NSA, DIA — deemed the direct threat sufficient. During questioning by Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, Gabbard indicated that she had not directed the various agencies to drop climate change.

Has the intelligence community simply

stopped thinking about the environment as a security challenge? Does this matter? Is climate change really a national security threat?

I believe it is, as do many senior national security analysts and officials from both parties. There are four key dangers we should track closely.

First is instability in vulnerable regions of the globe stemming from major droughts, massive storms and melting ice packs. When I was the military commander of NATO, we watched the worst drought in nearly a millennium destroy crops across the Middle East from 2009-12. It helped spark the Arab Spring risings and catalyzed the Syrian civil war, which has caused millions of deaths and tens of millions of displacements. The military-trained meteorologists on my staffs at NATO and at U.S. European Command were closely monitoring the effect of climate-caused devastation throughout the Levant.

Another example of increased instability can be found at the top of the world. The Trump administration is foolish for threatening to occupy Greenland militarily, but right about the island's immensely important geographic position, astride the increasingly open shipping routes at the entrance to the Arctic Ocean. As global warming causes melting ice, we will see a geopolitical thunderstorm emerge in the High North. The chances of conflict between Russia, which has the largest footprint in the Arctic, and the seven NATO nations on the other side — Canada, U.S., Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark (through Greenland) — is rising as assuredly as the temperatures.

Then there are rising sea levels. Naval Station Norfolk — the largest naval base in the world, with more than 100,000 civilian and military employees — is already at high risk of flooding, as are the many other critical facilities in the Virginia Tidewater region. Even if

new dikes, tidal gates and barriers, pump stations and piping can mitigate rising oceans, the cost of safeguarding the bases may become prohibitive. Other key East Coast ports like Miami and Charleston, S.C., are also in danger.

Finally, there are the opportunity costs of using active-duty military and reserve forces to respond to climate-related catastrophes in the U.S. Every time state and National Guard units are called out to respond to wildfires in the Western U.S. or hurricanes in the Southeast, resources marked for deployment must be used for domestic transport and their war-fighting training is disrupted. My friend Adm. Thad Allen did a great job leading the 2005 Hurricane Katrina joint task force — but it required more than 65,000 active-duty and Guard troops.

Finally, there is the global strategic instability that could emerge as the nations clustered around the equator — including many of the world's largest and fastest growing populations in Africa, Latin America and Asia — come to believe the advanced economies have done little to mitigate the global warming they mostly caused. This kind of anger and resentment could lead to breakdowns in global order and massive conflict.

My co-author Elliot Ackerman and I are finishing the final novel in a trilogy about cataclysmic 21st-century conflicts: "2084: A Novel of the Climate War." It envisions global combat stemming out of inequalities driven by climate change. Today, the premise is fictitious. But if the U.S. ignores the very real threats of rising temperatures, it may be more suited for the nonfiction aisles.

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and vice chairman of global affairs at the Carlyle Group. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

It is not faith that divides us. Perhaps it is certainty.

By JAMES MILLEY

Los Angeles Times

As a missionary for five years in Ethiopia, then minister at a large church in Southern California for 11, I've been keenly aware of people's need for certainty — spiritual, personal, political, professional.

The doubt of living through unfolding history can be acute, all the more so when news cycles spin faster than ever before and we feel less common ground with those around us. Uncertainty, however, is the permanent human condition, and it can be a gift.

This was eloquently explored in a speech in the middle of the recent film "Conclave," which tells the story of smoke-filled-room machinations electing a new pope. The dean of the College of Cardinals, played by Ralph Fiennes, delivers a homily to the cardinals before they begin their deliberations.

"There is one sin I have come to fear above all others: certainty. Certainty is the great enemy of unity. Certainty is the deadly enemy of tolerance," he says. "Our faith is a living thing precisely because it walks hand in hand with doubt. If there was only certainty and no doubt, there would be no mystery, and therefore no need for faith."

I hadn't seen "Conclave" until a friend, born into a Jewish family that managed to survive living in Hungary under Hitler's Nazis, then under Stalin's Communists, called to say I had to see the movie so we could talk

about it.

My friend, a software programmer, isn't a believer in God in the traditional sense. He seeks to live an ethical life but sees God as a catastrophic failure, given the Holocaust and the insanities of injustice in societies we call "developed." I understand why he would question and doubt the goodness of God and God's existence.

The Fiennes speech surprised my friend. When he and I met, he said: "I always thought people with faith meant they were certain in their belief. They sure acted that way, and I didn't want to be like them. But in 'Conclave' I was led to think. According to how I interpret the cardinal, faith could be defined as living in a certain way, as if there is something giving us a purpose and a measure of good, even when we are not certain about that something. This is a radical redefinition of the word 'faith' for me."

I told my friend that I believed he was a person of faith. I've watched him be kind to a person living in a van in front of his home, defending him when most neighbors were having meetings about how to get homeless people out of their neighborhood. That's an act of faith in the face of uncertainty.

I shared with my friend the biblical story about the reaction of Jesus' disciples when they encounter him — alive — after he was killed on the cross. The text says they worshipped Jesus, yet it also says, "And some doubted." They were looking at the resurrec-

ted Jesus. They doubted, and yet they worshipped.

Four thousand years of Scripture extol the person who has faith. In the New Testament's Epistle to the Hebrews (11:7-8): "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

While faith is extolled and essential, the exercise of faith does not mean the absence of doubt. The apostle Thomas was one of those who doubted. Jesus came to him to show him the scars on his hands and his feet. Jesus did not chastise Thomas or condemn him. Jesus encouraged his ability to trust, believe and act by his faith.

We exercise faith when, lacking certainty, we do what we think God would want us to do — or when we do what we think is right, to put it another way for my nonbeliever friends. If we had certainty, no faith would be needed.

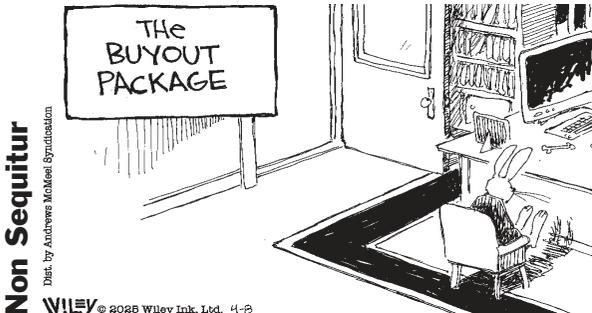
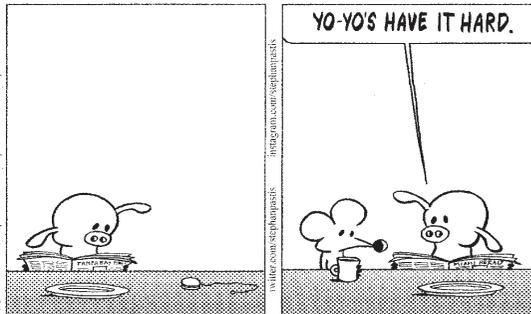
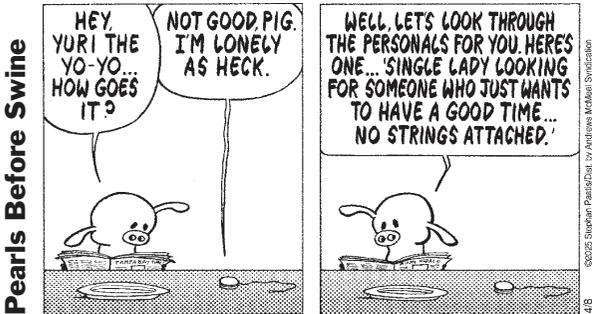
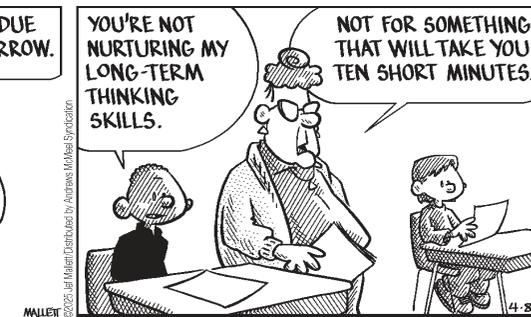
Could it be that certainty — especially, these days, political — is the thing that divides us, rather than faith? I think "Conclave" got it right: "Certainty is the deadly enemy of tolerance."

James Milley is the executive director of BridgesUS, a nonprofit that trains lay missionaries to work in communities in the U.S.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | |
| 12 | | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | | | |
| | | | 21 | | | | 22 | | | | | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | | | | 26 | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |
| 30 | | | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | 34 | | | | 35 | | | | |
| | | | 36 | | | | | | 37 | | | | | |
| 38 | 39 | 40 | | | | | | | 41 | | | 42 | 43 | 44 |
| 45 | | | | | | | | | 46 | | | | | 47 |
| 48 | | | | | | | | | 49 | | | | | 50 |
| 51 | | | | | | | | | 52 | | | | | 53 |

ACROSS

- 1 Fit of anger
- 5 Leading lady?
- 8 Chicago paper, briefly
- 12 Geometric calculation
- 13 Compete
- 14 Speck
- 15 Hockey player's dream
- 17 Jacob's twin
- 18 Carte lead-in
- 19 Giverny summer
- 20 Song of praise
- 21 Mermaid's home
- 22 Pen name
- 23 Noisy kiss
- 26 "My bad!"
- 30 "Insecure" actress Rae
- 31 Towboat
- 32 Regretted
- 33 Paramount
- 35 Painter of ballerinas
- 36 Thurs. follower
- 37 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
- 38 Bamboo eater
- 41 "The Hangover" actor Jeong
- 42 Gallery display
- 45 Crunchy cookie
- 46 Save diligently
- 48 Shredded cabbage dish
- 49 Year in Mexico
- 50 German city
- 51 Undecided

- 52 Standard
- 53 Writer Wiesel

DOWN

- 1 "Funny!"
- 2 Russian river
- 3 Greek cheese
- 4 Corpulent
- 5 Musical set in Argentina
- 6 Bad habit
- 7 "A spider!"
- 8 Overtime causes
- 9 Activist Parks
- 10 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 11 Oz creator L. Frank —
- 16 Stink
- 20 Math ratios
- 21 Eat quickly
- 22 Cranberry territory
- 23 Venus, to Serena
- 24 The Spartans' sch.
- 25 Venomous viper
- 26 Take to court
- 27 Bad hairpiece
- 28 "Angie" actor
- 29 Gridiron stats
- 31 Texter's "More than I need to know!"
- 34 Time line period
- 35 Like a dungeon
- 37 Interior design
- 38 Blog entry
- 39 Woody's son
- 40 Close
- 41 Coffee-growing region of Hawaii
- 42 Missing GI
- 43 Hindu royal
- 44 Emmy-winning actress Daly
- 46 Enervate
- 47 Prez on a penny

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4-8

CRYPTOQUIP

HD GKTS AKLJTE TX YBKLT SKW
T QYJBTEU DYLV ZUHEN TEW
MKXXHEN MSYQOM, GYZXW
SATS VK T LYOKLTNK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POP SONG ABOUT A FELLOW WHO GETS GOSSIP FROM A BOARDINGHOUSE RESIDENT: "I HEARD A ROOMER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals G

SCOREBOARD/AUTO RACING

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Recalled RHP Hunter Dobbins from Worcester (IL).
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reinstated OF Mike Tauchman from the 10-day IL. Designated OF Travis Jankowski for assignment.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Selected the contract of RHP Michael Darrell-Hicks from Salt Lake (PCL). Optioned RHP Caden Dana to Salt Lake. Released RHP Hans Crouse.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Sent SS Brooks Lee to Fort Myers (FSL) on a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Announced RHP Adam Ottavino refused an outright assignment to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and elected to become a free agent. Optioned LHP Brent Headrick to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Returned C Sean Murphy from his rehabilitation assignment and reinstated him from the injured list. Designated C Chadwick Tromp for assignment.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Selected the contract of RHP Chase Dollander from Albuquerque (PCL). Optioned RHP Bradley Blalock to Albuquerque. Sent LHP Austin Gomber to Albuquerque on a rehab assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled RHP Matt Sauer from Oklahoma City (PCL). Placed LHP Blake Snell on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 3.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed LHP Nestor Cortes on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 4. Recalled LHP Grant Wolfgram from Nashville (IL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed RHP Colin Holderman on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Chase Shugart from Indianapolis (IL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Selected the contract of Logan Gillaspie from El Paso (PCL). Optioned LHP Omar Cruz to El Paso. Designated LHP Tom Cosgrove for assignment.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Recalled RHP Gordon Graceffo from Memphis (IL).

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

EDMONTON OILERS — Reassigned Connor Clattenburg to Bakersfield (AHL).

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Recalled RW Jesse Puljujarvi, D Matt Kiersted and C Rasmus Asplund from Charlotte (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Reassigned Carter George to Ontario (AHL).

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Recalled Joonas Koppanen from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Recalled Dalibor Dvorsky from Springfield (AHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Reassigned C Ludwig Persson to Hershey (AHL).

COLLEGE

GEORGIA TECH — Hired Karen Blair as head women's basketball coach.

GOLF

Texas Open

**PGA Tour
Sunday
At San Antonio
Purse: \$9.5 million
Yardage: 7,438; Par: 72
Final Round**

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Brian Harman, \$1,710,000 | 66-66-72-75-279 -9 |
| Ryan Gerard, \$1,035,500 | 73-66-74-69-282 -6 |
| M. McNealy, \$560,500 | 68-72-71-72-283 -5 |
| Andrew Novak, \$560,500 | 68-70-69-76-283 -5 |
| Bud Cauley, \$304,000 | 70-72-72-70-284 -4 |
| Patrick Fishburn, \$304,000 | 70-72-74-68-284 -4 |
| Ryo Hisatsune, \$304,000 | 70-67-73-74-284 -4 |
| Tom Hoge, \$304,000 | 72-68-68-76-284 -4 |
| Chan Kim, \$304,000 | 69-71-73-71-284 -4 |
| Thorbjorn Olesen, \$304,000 | 70-72-74-68-284 -4 |
| Chad Ramey, \$304,000 | 72-68-70-74-284 -4 |
| Nate Lashley, \$182,875 | 74-67-74-70-285 -3 |
| Keith Mitchell, \$182,875 | 64-72-73-76-285 -3 |
| Henrik Norlander, \$182,875 | 72-67-73-73-285 -3 |
| Jordan Spieth, \$182,875 | 67-73-73-72-285 -3 |
| Alejandro Tosti, \$182,875 | 70-71-71-73-285 -3 |

LIV Golf Miami

**Sunday
At Doral, Fla.
Purse: \$20M (Individual); \$5M (Team)
Yardage: 7,701; Par: 72
Final Round**

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Marc Leishman, \$4,000,000 | 71-71-68_210 -6 |
| C. Schwartzel, \$2,250,000 | 70-75-66_211 -5 |
| Sergio Garcia, \$1,500,000 | 70-71-71_212 -4 |
| Carlos Ortiz, \$1,000,000 | 74-73-66_213 -3 |
| B. DeChambeau, \$800,000 | 69-70-75_214 -2 |
| Phil Mickelson, \$700,000 | 69-73-73_215 -1 |

T-Mobile Match Play

**LPGA Tour
Sunday
At North Las Vegas
Yardage: 7,560; Par: 72
Purse: \$2 million
Semifinals**

| |
|--|
| Lauren Coughlin def. Ariya Jutanugarn, 1 up. |
| Madelene Sagstrom def. Angel Yin, 4 & 2. |

Finals

| |
|---|
| Madelene Sagstrom def. Lauren Coughlin, 1 up. |
|---|

AUTO RACING

Goodyear 400

**NASCAR Cup Series
Sunday
At Darlington Raceway
Darlington, S.C.
Lap length: 1.37 miles
Start position in parentheses**

- (3) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 297 laps, 48 points.
- (1) William Byron, Chevrolet, 297, 56.
- (17) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 297, 39.
- (7) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 297, 41.
- (9) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 297, 43.
- (14) Chris Buescher, Ford, 297, 38.
- (25) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 297, 30.
- (15) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 297, 29.
- (11) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 297, 32.
- (8) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 297, 27.
- (6) Austin Cindric, Ford, 297, 29.
- (16) Zane Smith, Ford, 297, 27.
- (18) Joey Logano, Ford, 297, 33.
- (12) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 297, 23.
- (30) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, 297, 22.
- (29) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 297, 24.
- (34) Erik Jones, Toyota, 297, 20.
- (22) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 297, 20.
- (26) Noah Gragson, Ford, 297, 18.
- (36) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, 297, 17.
- (5) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 297, 25.
- (31) Cole Custer, Ford, 297, 15.
- (23) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 297, 14.
- (21) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 297, 13.
- (28) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 297, 12.
- (2) Ryan Preece, Ford, 297, 19.
- (35) Cody Ware, Ford, 297, 10.
- (4) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 297, 9.
- (10) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 297, 8.
- (27) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 297, 7.
- (37) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 296, 0.
- (13) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 296, 5.
- (20) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 295, 9.
- (32) Riley Herbst, Toyota, 295, 3.
- (33) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 280, 3.
- (24) Josh Berry, Ford, accident, 194, 7.
- (19) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, suspension, 122, 1.
- (38) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, brakes, 30, 1.

Race Statistics

Average speed of race winner: 120.963 mph.

Time of race: 3 hours, 21 minutes, 14 seconds.

Margin of victory: .597 seconds.

Caution flags: 8 for 45 laps.

Lead changes: 4 among 4 drivers.

Lap leaders: W.Byron, 0-243; D.Hamlin 244-247; T.Reddick 248-289; R.Blaney 290-291; D.Hamlin 292-297

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): W.Byron, 1 time for 243 laps; T.Reddick, 1 time for 42 laps; D.Hamlin, 2 times for 10 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 2 laps.

Wins: C.Bell, 3; D.Hamlin, 2; W.Byron, 1; K.Larson, 1; J.Berry, 1.

Top 16 in points: 1. W.Byron, 315; 2. D.Hamlin, 266; 3. C.Bell, 263; 4. C.Elliott, 256; 5. T.Reddick, 254; 6. K.Larson, 244; 7. R.Blaney, 236; 8. B.Wallace, 233; 9. J.Logano, 232; 10. A.Bowman, 227; 11. C.Buescher, 215; 12. R.Chastain, 199; 13. R.Preece, 184; 14. C.Briscoe, 178; 15. K.Busch, 177; 16. A.Allmendinger, 168.

TENNIS

Credit One Charleston

**WTA
At Family Circle Tennis Center
Charleston, S.C.
Purse: \$1,064,510
Surface: Red clay
Seedings in parentheses
Women's Singles
Championship**

Jessica Pegula (1), United States, def. Sofia Kenin, United States, 6-3, 7-5.

US Men's Clay Court

**Championship
Sunday
At Houston
Purse: \$663,135
Surface: Red clay
Seedings in parentheses
Men's Singles
Championship**

Jenson Brooksby, United States, def. Frances Tiafoe (2), United States, 6-4, 6-2.

Grand Prix Hassan II

**ATP World Tour
Saturday
At Marrakech, Morocco
Purse: Euro 596,035
Surface: Red clay
Seedings in parentheses
Men's Singles
Championship**

Luciano Darderi (7), Italy, def. Tallon Griekspoor (1), Netherlands, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4).

AP SPOTLIGHT

April 8

1941 — In his fourth title defense in nine weeks, Joe Louis beats Tony Musto by TKO in the ninth round.

1968 — MLB decides to postpone Opening Day because of the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

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

Western Conference

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

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

Saturday's games

Charlotte FC 2, Nashville 1
Real Salt Lake 2, LA Galaxy 0
FC Dallas 1, Atlanta 1, tie
Cincinnati 1, New England 0
Columbus 2, CF Montreal 1
New York 2, Chicago 1
Orlando City 0, Philadelphia 0, tie
Portland 0, Austin FC 0, tie
Houston 1, Los Angeles FC 0
Sporting Kansas City 2, St Louis City 0
Vancouver 2, Colorado 0
San Diego FC 3, Seattle 0

Sunday's games

Minnesota 2, New York City FC 1
San Jose 6, D.C. United 1
Toronto FC 1, Miami 1, tie

Saturday, April 12

Minnesota at Toronto FC
New England at Atlanta
New York at Orlando City
Cincinnati at D.C. United
Charlotte FC at CF Montreal
Philadelphia at New York City FC
Austin FC at Vancouver
Seattle at FC Dallas
Real Salt Lake at Nashville
San Diego FC at Colorado
Houston at LA Galaxy
San Jose at Los Angeles FC

Sunday, April 13

Portland at Sporting Kansas City
Miami at Chicago
Columbus at St Louis City

NWSL

| | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Orlando | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 10 | 1 |
| Kansas City | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| Washington | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Angel City | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| San Diego | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Seattle | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Bay FC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Houston | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Louisville | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| North Carolina | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Portland | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Gotham FC | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Utah Royals FC | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Chicago | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |

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

Friday, April 11

Portland at Utah Royals FC

Saturday, April 12

Washington at Louisville
Angel City at Houston
Orlando at Seattle
Kansas City at San Diego

Sunday, April 13

North Carolina at Gotham FC
Chicago at Bay FC



SCOTT KINSER/AP

Denny Hamlin celebrates on Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series race at Darlington Raceway on Sunday.

Hamlin holds off Byron in overtime

By PETE IACOBELLI

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Denny Hamlin did his job so his pit crew could do its most stellar stop at the perfect time.

Hamlin came into the pits after a final caution in third place and told himself to hit every mark, then let his guys take over.

And that's what the Joe Gibbs Racing group did, pulling off a perfect winning moment that sent Hamlin out with the lead. He took over on the final restart and held off William Byron to win the Goodyear 400 on Sunday.

It was Hamlin's 56th career NASCAR win, his fifth at Darlington Raceway and his second straight this season.

"When you think about 56 wins, that's a huge deal," said Gibbs, Hamlin's longtime car owner.

Hamlin said he hung on throughout as Byron and others looked like they might pull out victory. Instead, Hamlin waited out his time and then pounced as he broke away during the green-white-checked finish.

"I can still do it, I can do it at a high level and look forward to winning a lot of races this year," Hamlin said.

Hamlin won for a second straight week after his success at Martinsville.

Hamlin chose the outside lane for a final restart and shot out to the lead and pulled away from series points leader Byron and NASCAR wins leader Christopher Bell.

Hamlin looked like he'd have a strong finish, but not a winning one as Ryan Blaney passed Tyler Reddick for the lead with three laps left. But moments later, Kyle Larson spun out forcing a final caution and the extra laps.

It was then time for Hamlin's Joe Gibbs Racing pit crew to shine as it

got him out quickly and in the lead.

Byron, who led the first 243 laps, was second with Hamlin's JGR teammate Bell in third.

"There are two people I really love right now, my pit crew and Kyle Larson," Hamlin said to a round of boos from those in the stands.

Reddick was fourth and Blaney was fifth. The rest of the top 10 finishers were Chris Buescher, Ross Chastain, Chase Elliott, Ty Gibbs and Kyle Busch.

Hamlin credited the past two victories to his pit crew.

"The pit crew just did an amazing job," he said. "They won it last week, they won it this week. It's all about them."

Blaney had thought he was clear to his first-ever Darlington victory after getting by Reddick late. When he saw the caution flag for Larson's spin, he said he thought, "Oh, no! I thought we had the race won."

So did Byron, who sought to become the first NASCAR driver in nearly 25 years to lead every lap on the way to victory. He got shuffled down the standings during the last round of green-flag pit stops and could not recover.

"It was looking like it was going to be a perfect race and we were going to lead every lap," he said.

But once "we lost control, it was too late to get back up there," Byron said.

Bad day

Larson, who won the Southern 500 here in 2023, had high hopes for a second Darlington win. But he slid into the inside wall coming off the second turn on lap three and went right to garage where his team worked the next couple of hours to get him back on track. Larson returned on lap 164 after falling 161 laps off the pace. He finished next to last in 37th.

NBA

Scoreboard

ROUNDUP

Doncic leads Lakers' rout of Thunder

| Eastern Conference | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Atlantic Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| y-Boston | 58 | 20 | .744 | — |
| x-New York | 50 | 28 | .641 | 8 |
| Toronto | 29 | 50 | .367 | 29½ |
| Brooklyn | 25 | 53 | .321 | 33 |
| Philadelphia | 23 | 55 | .295 | 35 |
| Southeast Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Orlando | 38 | 40 | .487 | — |
| Atlanta | 37 | 41 | .474 | 1 |
| Miami | 35 | 43 | .449 | 3 |
| Charlotte | 19 | 59 | .244 | 19 |
| Washington | 17 | 61 | .218 | 21 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| y-Cleveland | 62 | 16 | .795 | — |
| x-Indiana | 47 | 31 | .603 | 15 |
| x-Milwaukee | 44 | 34 | .564 | 18 |
| x-Detroit | 43 | 35 | .551 | 19 |
| Chicago | 36 | 42 | .462 | 26 |
| Western Conference | | | | |
| Southwest Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Houston | 52 | 27 | .658 | — |
| Memphis | 46 | 32 | .590 | 5½ |
| Dallas | 38 | 41 | .481 | 14 |
| San Antonio | 32 | 46 | .410 | 19½ |
| New Orleans | 21 | 57 | .269 | 30½ |
| Northwest Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| z-Oklahoma City | 64 | 14 | .821 | — |
| Denver | 47 | 32 | .595 | 17½ |
| Minnesota | 46 | 32 | .590 | 18 |
| Portland | 35 | 44 | .443 | 29½ |
| Utah | 16 | 63 | .203 | 48½ |
| Pacific Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| L.A. Lakers | 48 | 30 | .615 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 46 | 32 | .590 | 2 |
| Golden State | 46 | 32 | .590 | 2 |
| Sacramento | 38 | 40 | .487 | 10 |
| Phoenix | 35 | 43 | .449 | 13 |

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Sunday's games

L.A. Lakers 126, Oklahoma City 99
Toronto 120, Brooklyn 109
Boston 124, Washington 90
Atlanta 147, Utah 134
Sacramento 120, Cleveland 113
Portland 120, San Antonio 109
New York 112, Phoenix 98
Indiana 125, Denver 120
Milwaukee 111, New Orleans 107
Chicago 131, Charlotte 117
Houston 106, Golden State 96

Monday's games

Sacramento at Detroit
Philadelphia at Miami

Tuesday's games

Atlanta at Orlando
Chicago at Cleveland
Memphis at Charlotte
Washington at Indiana
Boston at New York
New Orleans at Brooklyn
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City
Minnesota at Milwaukee
Golden State at Phoenix
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers

Wednesday's games

Boston at Orlando
Philadelphia at Washington
Charlotte at Toronto
L.A. Lakers at Dallas
Miami at Chicago
Portland at Utah
Denver at Sacramento
Oklahoma City at Phoenix
San Antonio at Golden State
Houston at L.A. Clippers

Scoring leaders

Through Sunday

| | G | FG | FT | PTS | AVG |
|------------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Gil-Alex., OKC | 75 | 846 | 592 | 2442 | 32.6 |
| Antetokoun., MIL | 64 | 762 | 417 | 1953 | 30.5 |
| Jokic, DEN | 67 | 763 | 347 | 2007 | 30.0 |
| Edwards, MIN | 75 | 679 | 395 | 2056 | 27.4 |
| Tatum, BOS | 70 | 645 | 351 | 1884 | 26.9 |
| Durant, PHO | 62 | 592 | 303 | 1647 | 26.6 |
| Brunson, NY | 62 | 561 | 358 | 1621 | 26.1 |
| Booker, PHO | 72 | 630 | 422 | 1864 | 25.9 |
| Cunningham, DET | 67 | 640 | 300 | 1723 | 25.7 |
| Lillard, MIL | 58 | 444 | 362 | 1447 | 24.9 |
| James, LAL | 67 | 626 | 244 | 1641 | 24.5 |
| Curry, GS | 66 | 527 | 265 | 1613 | 24.4 |

Associated Press
OKLAHOMA CITY — Luka Doncic scored 30 points and the Los Angeles Lakers routed the league-leading Oklahoma City Thunder 126-99 on Sunday.

Austin Reaves scored 20 points and LeBron James added 19 points and seven assists for the Lakers, who have won four of five.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 26 points and Jalen Williams added 16 for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City remained two games ahead of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the race for the league's best record with five games to play. Instead of closing in on the top seed and homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs, the Thunder lost consecutive games for just the second time this season.

The teams will meet again Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

Los Angeles led 78-56 at half-time after making a franchise record 15 3-pointers in the first half. It was the most points the Thunder had given up in any half this season. Doncic led the way with 22 points and hit five 3-pointers, with most being well contested.

Bulls 132, Hornets 117: Coby White scored 37 points, shooting 6-for-8 from 3-point range, Josh Giddey added 23 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and visiting Chicago rolled past Charlotte for its third straight win.

Nikola Vucevic contributed 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who entered one game behind the Atlanta Hawks for the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference.

Mark Williams had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets, who have lost 10 of 12 games. K.J. Simpson and Jusuf Nurkic each had 18 points.

Raptors 120, Nets 109: Rookie Jonathan Mogbo tied his career highs with 17 points and 11 rebounds as visiting Toronto beat Brooklyn.

Mogbo also had a season-high seven assists for the Raptors. Ochai Agbaji added 15 points as Toronto snapped a three-game skid. RJ Barrett and AJ Lawson each had 13, Cole Swider and Jamison Battle each had 12 and Jared Rhoden added 10. Jamal Shad finished with a career-high 12 assists to go with nine points.

Reece Beekman led eight Nets in double figures with 14 points and also had five assists and three steals. Keon Johnson added 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Dariq Whitehead, Trendon Watford, Drew Timme and Maxwell Lewis also had 13 points apiece. Tosan Evbuomwan had 12 and Ziaire Williams added 11.

Celtics 124, Wizards 90: Luke



NATE BILLINGS/AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Doncic looks to shoot over Thunder guard Alex Caruso during the first half Sunday in Oklahoma City.

Kornet scored 13 points and had 14 rebounds, Al Horford had 11 points with 10 boards and host Boston ran away from undermanned Washington.

Derrick White added 19 points for the Celtics, making five of the team's 24 3-pointers. Boston had a season-high 62 rebounds.

Justin Champagnie scored 15 points with 13 rebounds and Alex Sarr scored 16 for the Wizards.

Kings 120, Cavaliers 113: Zach LaVine scored 37 points, including 11 in the decisive fourth quarter, and visiting Sacramento remained in position for a play-in spot with a victory over Cleveland.

DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points and Domantas Sabonis added 27 points and nine rebounds for the Kings, who moved into ninth place in the Western Conference with their second straight victory.

Ty Jerome led the Cavaliers with 20 points and Donovan Mitchell added 19. Jerome saw his first action since March 25 after he had missed five games due to left knee tendinitis.

Trail Blazers 120, Spurs 109:

the best scoring stretch of his career, even with Jalen Brunson returning to host New York's lineup, as they beat Phoenix.

Brunson had 15 points and six assists after missing 15 games with a sprained right ankle that he sustained exactly a month earlier. The Knicks didn't need much from their All-Star guard, especially while Anunoby was going 7-for-7 in the third quarter, 5-for-5 from 3-point range.

Devin Booker scored 40 points for the Suns, who have lost six straight after a three-game road trip in which they played without Kevin Durant because of a sprained left ankle.

Pacers 125, Nuggets 120: Obi Toppin scored 22 points in his second start of the season and visiting Indiana overcame the absence of Pascal Siakam to hand reeling Denver its fourth consecutive loss.

Myles Turner's 24 points led the Pacers, who overcame a 13-point first-half deficit and an off-night by Tyrese Haliburton, whose nine points on eight shots were less than half his scoring average.

The Nuggets lost their fourth straight despite Nikola Jokic's 41 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists and a career-high 30 points from Christian Braun.

Bucks 111, Pelicans 107: Gary Trent Jr. scored a season-high 29 points, and visiting Milwaukee improved its hold on fifth place in the Eastern Conference by defeating New Orleans.

Brook Lopez had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Bucks (44-34), who won their fourth straight, and took a full game lead on idle Detroit (43-35).

Antonio Reeves scored 23 and fellow rookie Yves Missi had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans, who lost their third straight. Second-year pro Lester Quinones, playing in just his ninth NBA game this season, scored 17 points.

Rockets 106, Warriors 96: Alperen Sengun had 19 points and 14 rebounds, Dillon Brooks scored 24 points and visiting Houston snapped Golden State's five-game winning streak with a victory in a matchup of Western Conference powers.

Stephen Curry was held to three points on 1-for-10 shooting — missing seven of eight 3-pointers — for his lowest total this season in a game he was healthy. Curry scored two points Dec. 19 at Memphis, but suffered a pelvic contusion in a hard fall.

Jalen Green scored 21 points and Jabari Smith Jr. tested his right ankle sprain before the game and came off the bench to score 16 points for Houston, currently ranked second in the West standings with three games to go.

NHL

Ovi: New record holder thanks his teammates, past and present

FROM PAGE 24

Chants of “Ovi! Ovi! Ovi!” drowned out the announcement of the penalty; it was a tripping call on Casey Cizikas, drawn by defenseman Rasmus Sandin, but few could hear it in real time. What they could hear instead: the buzz of anticipation, perhaps even expectation, as history loomed.

Winger Tom Wilson sent a pass across the ice to Ovechkin as he flew at full speed into the offensive zone, and when Ovechkin caught the pass at the top of the left circle, there was no doubt. A power-play goal from the spot that he turned into his office was the only way No. 895 could go. And as he rocketed the shot past Ilya Sorokin — the 183rd goaltender Ovechkin has scored on — the anticipation turned into an explosion.

“To be honest with you, when I was tying the record [Friday], I still can’t believe it,” Ovechkin said. “It was so emotional, it was such a great night, but this is something crazy. I’m going to need a couple more days or maybe a couple weeks to realize what does it mean to be number one. But I can say I’m very proud. I’m really proud for myself. I’m really proud for my family, for all my teammates that help me to reach that milestone and for all my coaches. It’s huge. It’s unbelievable. It’s unbelievable moment, and I’m happy.”

The game came to a halt as Ovechkin’s teammates streamed onto the ice, matching his joy with exhilaration of their own. It was even more enthusiastic than their celebration less than 48 hours earlier, when Ovechkin tied Gretzky at 894 on Friday. The sheer delight was tinged with relief, primarily for the man whose No. 8 was on the backs of many of the red jerseys in the stands.

Islanders players shook his hand as the arena prepared for a ceremony, with a carpet emblazoned with “Alex Ovechkin” and “895” placed at center ice. Gretzky, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, Capitals owner Ted Leonsis and Ovechkin’s family — wife Nastya, sons Sergei and Ilya, mother Tatyana and Nastya’s father Kirill — joined him to celebrate the moment.

“We have all witnessed history in front of greatness,” Bettman said.

As he waited for the ceremony, Ovechkin skated to the bench to celebrate with the rest of the Capitals’ staff, starting with a hug for longtime equipment staffer Craig “Woody” Leydig, who has been with Ovechkin every step of the way in Washington.

“What a day, huh? Like I always said, all the time, it’s a team sport, and without my boys — the whole organization, the fans, the trainers, coaches — I would never stand there and obviously I would



RICH GRAESSLE/For The Washington Post

Alex Ovechkin, top center, celebrates with his Washington Capitals teammates Sunday after scoring his 895th career goal.



JOHN McDONNELL/For The Washington Post

Ovechkin’s record-breaking goal, scored on a power-play, came from the left face-off circle — an area from which he achieved stardom.

never pass the Great One,” Ovechkin said during the ceremony.

“So, fellas, thank you very much. I love you so much. I know Nicklas Backstrom is here, T.J. Oshie, fellas, I love you. We did it, boys. We did it.”

After the game, Bettman, Gretzky and the Ovechkin family visited the Capitals’ dressing room. So too did Oshie, Backstrom and Devante Smith-Pelly, all of whom shared the ice with Ovechkin in Washington.

Backstrom, long Ovechkin’s center, stepped away from the game in 2023 amid lingering hip issues. Oshie, long the heart of the Capitals, hasn’t played since last season, sidelined with a back that at times left him unable to stand. All three lifted the Stanley Cup with Ovechkin in 2018.

Sorokin, the Russian goalie un-

lucky enough to be in net for the Islanders on Sunday, also stopped by a dressing room that carried evidence of Washington’s post-game celebration: a wet floor and a distinct aroma of beer. Amid the celebration on the ice, Ovechkin had skated to Sorokin and requested his stick. When Sorokin brought it over, he had signed it and written “895!”

“It’s kind of a historical moment — Russian score against Russian and setting the record — so it’s pretty cool,” Ovechkin said. “He’s such a great kid, and my kids love him. So it’s a tremendous moment, it’s a tremendous day for hockey.”

Ovechkin’s teammates, the ones who see him the closest and know him the best, are no less awed by his accomplishments than the outside world. Many of them, as these Capitals have turned younger,



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Wayne Gretzky, left, embraces Ovechkin on the ice Sunday after the Capitals left wing broke his career goals record.

grew up watching him. To be alongside him as he made history was, for all of them, surreal.

“It’s all about Ovi. Everyone knew how good of a goal scorer he is for his whole career. Then obviously he won the Stanley Cup in 2018, and to kind of have this — there’s good things ahead for us, for sure — but for him to have this, he’s the greatest goal scorer of all time,” center Dylan Strome said. “Everyone would agree with that now. It’s an incredible honor, and to be even a little part of it, it’s truly an honor. There’s not really words you can say to describe what you’re feeling.”

NHL records will note that it was Strome who fed Wilson, who in turn fed Ovechkin, who let it fly for the record. Connor McMichael watched his teammates and knew immediately.

“It was pretty cool, you know?” he said. “I was just telling these

guys, I had his jersey when I was 6 years old. Now to be his teammate for this moment, it’s really special. It’s something I can’t put into words. It’s an honor.”

Ovechkin broke the record on the 21st anniversary of the day the Capitals won the lottery for the first pick in the 2004 draft. That pick, of course, is the one Washington used to select Ovechkin.

When the Capitals drafted him, they knew they were getting a dominant physical force with an unparalleled shot. They couldn’t have known, though, how far he would go and how far he would take Washington along the way.

Ovechkin became synonymous with the Capitals and captured the hockey world’s attention with his sheer joy and relentless scoring ability. In 2018, he helped Washington win the Stanley Cup for the first time, at long last arriving at a summit that some had started to doubt he would ever reach.

The next mountaintop was Gretzky’s record. In December 2022, he passed Gordie Howe for second place on the all-time list. Less than three years later, Ovechkin stood alone at the top.

“Finally I’m not going to have those questions — ‘When do you think you’re going to break it?’” Ovechkin said. “It’s already done. Try to figure out what the next questions are going to be. For me, and for all the boys, it’s a fun time. You can see how many people traveled from all over the world to see that moment. Yeah. It’s special.”

NHL/MLB



MATT KROHN/AP

The Wild celebrate Marcus Foligno's goal against the Dallas Stars during the third period Sunday. Minnesota snapped a four-game skid.

ROUNDUP

Rossi's goal in OT helps Wild end skid

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Marco Rossi scored on a power play 58 seconds into overtime for the Minnesota Wild, who stopped a four-game losing streak by beating the Dallas Stars 3-2 on Sunday.

Matt Boldy, who scored early in the third period and assisted on Marcus Foligno's go-ahead goal less than two minutes later, drew a tripping penalty on Jason Robertson to give Minnesota a 4-on-3. Boldy and Mats Zuccarello set up Rossi's tap-in.

Filip Gustavsson made 23 saves for the Wild, who lead the Flames by six points for the last spot in the Western Conference playoffs.

Minnesota has four games left, including a crucial one at Calgary on Friday. The Flames have six games remaining.

Robertson's 34th goal of the season on Mikko Rantanen's 53rd assist gave Dallas an early lead, after its seven-game winning streak ended a day earlier against Pittsburgh.

With rare consecutive losses, the Stars missed a chance to catch the Jets for the Western Conference lead. Dallas is three points behind Winnipeg, and both have five games left.

Senators 4, Blue Jackets 0: Linus Ullmark made 30 saves for Ottawa's second straight shutout and the host Senators moved to the brink of their first playoff appearance since 2017, beating Columbus for their third straight victory.

With five games left, Ottawa holds the first wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference — five points ahead of Montreal.

Adam Gaudette and Nikolas Matinpalo — with his first NHL goal — scored early in the first period in the opener of a home-and-home set. David Perron and Shane Pinto, into an empty net, also scored, and Thomas Chabot

had two assists.

Red Wings 2, Panthers 1: Alex DeBrincat and J.T. Compher scored in the second period and Cam Talbot finished with 32 saves to help host Detroit keep its fading playoff hopes alive with a win over Florida.

The Red Wings have just six games remaining in the regular season to rally into a wild card to end a nine-year postseason drought.

The defending champion Panthers have lost five straight for the first time since 2017.

Golden Knights 3, Canucks 2: Victor Olofsson broke a tie with 3:14 left off William Karlsson's nifty feed from behind the net and visiting Vegas beat Vancouver.

The Golden Knights increased their Pacific Division lead over Los Angeles to five points. The Canucks are eight points out of a playoff berth with four games to go.

Ivan Barbashev and Nicolas Roy also scored for Vegas. Nils Hoglander and Aatu Raty replied for Vancouver.

Blackhawks 3, Penguins 1: Ilya Mikheyev scored twice, Frank Nazar added a goal and Spencer Knight stopped 28 shots as host Chicago snapped a five-game skid with a win over Pittsburgh.

Rickard Rakell scored on a power play and Alex Nedeljkovic made 28 saves for the Penguins, who have lost five of their last seven games.

Sabres 6, Bruins 4: Tage Thompson had a hat trick, Jason Zucker scored the go-ahead goal early in the the third period and host Buffalo beat Boston for its fourth straight victory.

Thompson extended his scoring streak to four games in the second period after the Bruins took an early 2-0 lead. He scored on a breakaway early in the third peri-

NHL scoreboard

| Eastern Conference | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | | |
| x-Washington | 77 | 49 | 19 | 9 | 107 | 277 | 211 | | |
| x-Toronto | 76 | 47 | 25 | 4 | 98 | 250 | 221 | | |
| x-Carolina | 76 | 46 | 26 | 4 | 96 | 247 | 207 | | |
| x-Tampa Bay | 76 | 44 | 26 | 6 | 94 | 271 | 201 | | |
| x-Florida | 77 | 44 | 29 | 4 | 92 | 238 | 209 | | |
| Ottawa | 77 | 42 | 29 | 6 | 90 | 222 | 215 | | |
| m-New Jersey | 77 | 41 | 29 | 7 | 89 | 231 | 201 | | |
| Montreal | 77 | 38 | 30 | 9 | 85 | 232 | 252 | | |
| N.Y. Rangers | 76 | 36 | 33 | 7 | 79 | 229 | 230 | | |
| Detroit | 76 | 36 | 33 | 7 | 79 | 218 | 238 | | |
| N.Y. Islanders | 76 | 34 | 32 | 10 | 78 | 210 | 231 | | |
| Columbus | 76 | 34 | 33 | 9 | 77 | 245 | 262 | | |
| Buffalo | 76 | 34 | 36 | 6 | 74 | 253 | 268 | | |
| Pittsburgh | 78 | 31 | 35 | 12 | 74 | 228 | 285 | | |
| Philadelphia | 77 | 31 | 37 | 9 | 71 | 219 | 266 | | |
| Boston | 78 | 31 | 38 | 9 | 71 | 205 | 259 | | |

| Western Conference | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | | |
| x-Winnipeg | 77 | 52 | 21 | 4 | 108 | 262 | 181 | | |
| x-Dallas | 77 | 50 | 22 | 5 | 105 | 264 | 198 | | |
| x-Vegas | 77 | 47 | 22 | 8 | 102 | 258 | 206 | | |
| x-Colorado | 78 | 47 | 27 | 4 | 98 | 265 | 221 | | |
| x-Los Angeles | 76 | 44 | 23 | 9 | 97 | 226 | 189 | | |
| p-Edmonton | 76 | 44 | 27 | 5 | 93 | 242 | 222 | | |
| St. Louis | 78 | 43 | 28 | 7 | 93 | 241 | 221 | | |
| Minnesota | 78 | 42 | 29 | 7 | 91 | 212 | 224 | | |
| Calgary | 76 | 36 | 27 | 13 | 85 | 200 | 223 | | |
| Vancouver | 77 | 35 | 29 | 13 | 83 | 221 | 239 | | |
| Utah | 77 | 35 | 30 | 12 | 82 | 218 | 234 | | |
| Anaheim | 76 | 33 | 35 | 8 | 74 | 208 | 243 | | |
| Seattle | 77 | 33 | 38 | 6 | 72 | 234 | 246 | | |
| Nashville | 77 | 27 | 42 | 8 | 62 | 192 | 252 | | |
| Chicago | 77 | 22 | 45 | 10 | 54 | 209 | 278 | | |
| San Jose | 76 | 20 | 46 | 10 | 50 | 196 | 290 | | |

x-clinched playoff spot (a, c, m, p)-top three in their division
Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games
 New Jersey 4, N.Y. Rangers 0
 Ottawa 3, Florida 0
 Pittsburgh 5, Dallas 3
 Vancouver 6, Anaheim 2
 Los Angeles 3, Edmonton 0
 Boston 5, Carolina 1
 Toronto 5, Columbus 0
 St. Louis 5, Colorado 4
 Utah 4, Winnipeg 1
 Montreal 3, Philadelphia 2
 Buffalo 3, Tampa Bay 2, SO
 Seattle 5, San Jose 1
 Vegas 3, Calgary 2, OT

Sunday's games
 N.Y. Islanders 4, Washington 1
 Minnesota 3, Dallas 2, OT
 Ottawa 4, Columbus 0
 Detroit 2, Florida 1
 Chicago 3, Pittsburgh 1
 Buffalo 6, Boston 3
 Montreal 2, Nashville 1
 Vegas 3, Vancouver 2

Monday's games
 Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers
 St. Louis at Winnipeg
 Calgary at San Jose
 Edmonton at Anaheim
 Seattle at Los Angeles

Tuesday's games
 Boston at New Jersey
 Carolina at Buffalo
 Chicago at Pittsburgh
 Detroit at Montreal
 Ottawa at Columbus
 Toronto at Florida
 N.Y. Islanders at Nashville
 Vancouver at Dallas
 Seattle at Utah
 Vegas at Colorado

Wednesday's games
 Toronto at Tampa Bay
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers
 San Jose at Minnesota
 Calgary at Anaheim
 St. Louis at Edmonton

od, and got his 43rd goal of the season into the empty net in the final minute.

Canadiens 2, Predators 1: Cole Caufield and Patrik Laine scored in the second period to rally visiting Montreal to a victory over Nashville.

Jakub Dobes turned back 36 shots for the Canadiens, who extended their winning streak to five games after a five-game skid.

MLB BRIEFS

Source: Jays give Guerrero 14-year, \$500M extension

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the Toronto Blue Jays agreed to a 14-year, \$500 million contract that starts in 2026, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, a deal that removes what would have been the biggest star from next offseason's free-agent market.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity early Monday because the agreement had not been announced.

Guerrero's deal does not include any deferred money, the person said.

Guerrero agreed in January to a \$28.5 million, one-year contract that avoided arbitration, and the four-time All-Star first baseman had said he wouldn't negotiate after he reported to spring training in mid-February. Still, talks with his agent continued well into the regular season.

Guerrero got the third-largest contract in total dollars behind outfielder Juan Soto's \$765 million, 15-year contract with the New York Mets that started this season and two-way star Shohei Ohtani's \$700 million, 10-year agreement with the Los Angeles Dodgers that began last year and is heavily deferred.

Guerrero's \$35.71 million average annual value under the new deal ranks eighth among current contracts behind the agreements of Ohtani (\$70 million), Soto (\$51 million), Phillies pitcher Zack Wheeler (\$42 million), Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge (\$40 million), Rangers pitcher Jacob deGrom (\$37 million), Dodgers pitcher Blake Snell (\$36.4 million) and Yankees pitcher Gerrit Cole (\$36 million).

A son of Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero, the Blue Jays star turned 26 last month and would have been a free agent this fall at a relatively young age.

Guerrero is a .277 career hitter with 160 homers and 511 RBIs. He's batting .256 with no homers and four RBIs in the first 10 games this season.

Brewers pitching hit again as Cortes heads for IL

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Brewers placed left-hander Nestor Cortes on the 15-day injured list Sunday with a flexor strain in his left elbow, further depleting the team's starting pitching.

The loss of Cortes leaves the Brewers with Freddy Peralta as the only healthy pitcher among those projected to be in the five-man rotation this season.

Cortes' elbow problem surfaced last weekend following a rough outing that saw him give up three home runs on consecutive pitches and five overall in a 20-9 loss to the New York Yankees. Imaging tests revealed no structural damage, and Cortes threw six shutout innings against the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday night.

"Leading up to the game it wasn't feeling great but it felt good enough to pitch and that's what I did," Cortes said. "After that is when I started feeling more sore than usual."

Cortes said the elbow didn't feel right Friday, and Saturday he and the team agreed he needed to go on the injured list.

Cortes is the eighth Brewers pitcher, and seventh starter, to land on the injured list so far this season.



CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. agreed with the Blue Jays on a 14-year \$500 million contract that starts in 2026.

MLB

ROUNDUP

Phillies rally twice to beat Dodgers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Nick Castellanos hit a grand slam, and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied with two runs in the seventh inning to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-7 on Sunday.

Philadelphia took two of three from defending World Series champion Los Angeles, a series that might not mean much by October but put a little juice into an early April weekend.

Teoscar Hernández homered twice and had five RBIs for the Dodgers, whose only two losses this season have come in this three-game series.

Castellanos hit his eighth career grand slam on reliever Alex Vesia's first pitch in the third inning. The Phillies scored six times in the third and led 6-4 entering the seventh.

LA went ahead in a three-run seventh against Philadelphia's bullpen. Mookie Betts hit an RBI double, Hernández's fifth RBI came on a tying sacrifice fly and Will Smith knocked a run-scoring double off the right-field wall for 7-6 lead.

Bryson Stott tied the game 7-all in the seventh with an RBI single off Blake Treinen (0-1) and Edmundo Sosa beat out at first base a potential double-play ball to shortstop that brought home the go-ahead run.

Red Sox 5-18, Cardinals 4-7: Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer and tied a career high with six RBIs, Rafael Devers had four hits and drove in three runs, and host Boston rolled to a win and a doubleheader sweep of St. Louis.

Wilyer Abreu added a double and three RBIs for the Red Sox, who finished with a season-best 22 hits. It was the 14th career four-hit game for Devers. Bregman posted his 10th career game with four hits.

All that offense made for an easy night for Hunter Dobbs (1-0), who scattered five hits and gave up two runs over five innings to win his major league debut. Cooper Criswell gave up four runs in the ninth, but went three innings for his first save.

Cardinals starter Miles Mikolas (0-1) allowed nine runs and 11 hits in 2½ innings. Thomas Saggase hit a three-run homer in the ninth and Brendan Donovan had two RBIs for St. Louis. The Cardinals extended a team record with their ninth straight game getting at least 10 hits.

In the makeup of Saturday's rainout, Abreu singled off the Green Monster to drive in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning as Boston rallied for a victory in the opener. Devers, who began the season 0 for 21 with 15 strikeouts,



DERIK HAMILTON/AP

Phillies right fielder Nick Castellanos, center, celebrates with Bryce Harper after hitting a grand slam off the Los Angeles Dodgers' Alex Vesia during the third inning Sunday in Philadelphia.

also hit his first homer of the year in the first game.

Nationals 5, Diamondbacks 4: Alex Call and Paul DeJong each had two hits and drove in a run and Trevor Williams (1-0) struck out six in five innings as host Washington beat Arizona and ace Corbin Burnes (0-1).

The Nationals took two of three from the Diamondbacks, winning a series from Arizona for the first time since 2021. It was Washington's first home series victory over the D-backs since 2017.

Mets 2, Blue Jays 1: Pete Alonso hit a go-ahead single in the third inning and host New York beat Toronto for its first series sweep of the Blue Jays in 24 years.

The Mets extended their winning streak to four by taking three in a row from Toronto. New York had last swept the Blue Jays from July 15-17, 2001, at Shea Stadium.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3: Spencer Torkelson smacked a two-run double to cap host Detroit's three-run rally in the ninth inning and give the Tigers a win over Chicago.

Javier Báez had three hits and drove in a run for Detroit. Jackson Jobe gave up three runs, two earned, and struck out four in five innings in his second career start.

Royals 4, Orioles 1: Kris Bubic (2-0) took a shutout into the seventh inning and host Kansas City won its first series of the season with a victory over Baltimore.

Bobby Witt Jr. had three of the Royals' 13 hits, falling a home run shy of the cycle. Salvador Perez, Mark Canha and Maikel Garcia each had two hits and scored a run.

Brewers 8, Reds 2: Jackson Chourio homered twice and matched a career high with five RBIs as host Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

Chad Patrick (1-0) allowed one run and two hits in 5½ scoreless innings for his first major league win. Since starting the season 0-4, the Brewers have won five of six.

Pirates 5, Yankees 4 (11): Tommy Pham's run-scoring single in the bottom of the 11th inning lifted host Pittsburgh to a victory over New York for just its second win in eight games.

The Yankees scored three times in the ninth off Ryan Borucki to tie the game at 4. Oswald Peraza doubled in a run with two outs and Trent Grisham followed with a two-run single after hitting two homers in Saturday's 10-4 win.

Astros 9, Twins 7 (10): Jose Altuve drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the 10th inning after Jordan Alvarez tied it with a two-run homer in the ninth and visiting Houston rallied from an early six-run deficit to beat Minnesota.

Matt Wallner had four hits and Trevor Larnach drove in three runs for the Twins.

Rockies 12, Athletics 5: Chase Dollander (1-0) won his major league debut with five solid innings, and host Colorado beat the Athletics, snapping a six-game skid.

Brenton Doyle homered, doubled, singled and drove in four runs and Ezequiel Tovar tied a career-high with four hits and had three RBIs to help the Rockies sal-

vage the finale of the three-game series.

Rangers 4, Rays 3: Jonah Heim's walk-off single with two outs in the ninth inning to center field scored Josh Smith and host Texas beat Tampa Bay for its fifth consecutive win.

Smith and Heim, hitting seventh and eighth in the order, combined for five of the Rangers' seven hits.

Angels 6, Guardians 2: Logan O'Hoppe homered in his fourth consecutive game, and Jorge Soler hit a tiebreaking shot in the sixth inning of host Los Angeles' victory over Cleveland.

Kyren Paris also homered for the Angels, who have won six of eight after taking two of three from Cleveland in their only home series during the first three weeks of the season.

Padres 8, Cubs 7: Luis Arraez had four hits, Fernando Tatis Jr. scored the go-ahead run in the ninth inning when first baseman Justin Turner couldn't make the catch to finish a double play, and visiting San Diego beat Chicago.

Jackson Merrill homered for the Padres, who had lost two straight after opening the season with seven consecutive victories for the best start in franchise history.

Giants 5, Mariners 4: Wilmer Flores hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning and host San Francisco beat Seattle to sweep the three-game series.

Mike Yastrzemski hit a three-run homer for the Giants, who are 8-1 and off to their best start since 2003.

Scoreboard

American League

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| New York | 6 | 3 | .667 | — |
| Boston | 6 | 4 | .600 | ½ |
| Toronto | 5 | 5 | .500 | 1½ |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 5 | .444 | 2 |
| Baltimore | 4 | 6 | .400 | 2½ |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Detroit | 5 | 4 | .556 | — |
| Kansas City | 4 | 5 | .444 | 1 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 6 | .333 | 2 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 6 | .333 | 2 |
| Chicago | 2 | 7 | .222 | 3 |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Texas | 8 | 2 | .800 | — |
| Los Angeles | 6 | 3 | .667 | 1½ |
| Houston | 4 | 5 | .444 | 3½ |
| Athletics | 4 | 6 | .400 | 4 |
| Seattle | 3 | 7 | .300 | 5 |

National League

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 2 | .778 | — |
| New York | 6 | 3 | .667 | 1 |
| Miami | 5 | 4 | .556 | 2 |
| Washington | 3 | 6 | .333 | 4 |
| Atlanta | 1 | 8 | .111 | 6 |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Chicago | 7 | 5 | .583 | — |
| Milwaukee | 5 | 5 | .500 | 1 |
| St. Louis | 4 | 5 | .444 | 1½ |
| Cincinnati | 3 | 7 | .300 | 3 |
| Pittsburgh | 3 | 7 | .300 | 3 |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| San Francisco | 8 | 1 | .889 | — |
| Los Angeles | 9 | 2 | .818 | — |
| San Diego | 8 | 2 | .800 | ½ |
| Arizona | 5 | 5 | .500 | 3½ |
| Colorado | 2 | 7 | .222 | 6 |

Sunday's games

N.Y. Mets 2, Toronto 1
 Detroit 4, Chicago White Sox 3
 Kansas City 4, Baltimore 1
 Pittsburgh 5, N.Y. Yankees 4, 11 innings
 Boston 5-18, St. Louis 4-7
 Texas 4, Tampa Bay 3
 Houston 9, Minnesota 7, 10 innings
 Colorado 12, Athletics 5
 L.A. Angels 6, Cleveland 2
 San Francisco 5, Seattle 4
 Washington 5, Arizona 4
 Philadelphia 8, L.A. Dodgers 7
 Milwaukee 8, Cincinnati 2
 San Diego 8, Chicago Cubs 7
 Miami at Atlanta, ppp.

Monday's games

N.Y. Yankees at Detroit
 St. Louis at Pittsburgh
 L.A. Dodgers at Washington
 Toronto at Boston
 Miami at N.Y. Mets
 Minnesota at Kansas City
 Texas at Chicago Cubs
 Baltimore at Arizona
 Houston at Seattle
 Cincinnati at San Francisco
 San Diego at Athletics

Tuesday's games

N.Y. Yankees (Carrasco 1-0) at Detroit (Skubal 0-2)
 Chicago White Sox (Smith 0-0) at Cleveland (Lively 0-1)
 St. Louis (Gray 1-0) at Pittsburgh (Skenes 1-0)
 L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at Washington (TBD)
 Toronto (Berríos 0-1) at Boston (Crochet 1-0)
 L.A. Angels (Hendricks 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Baz 1-0)
 Miami (Gillispie 0-1) at N.Y. Mets (Holmes 0-1)
 Philadelphia (Wheeler 1-0) at Atlanta (Sale 0-1)
 Minnesota (López 1-1) at Kansas City (Ragans 0-0)
 Texas (Corbin 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Tailor 1-1)
 Milwaukee (Peralta 0-1) at Colorado (Freeland 0-1)
 Baltimore (Morton 0-2) at Arizona (Kelly 1-1)
 Houston (TBD) at Seattle (Castillo 1-1)
 Cincinnati (Lodolo 1-1) at San Francisco (Roupp 0-0)
 San Diego (Cease 1-0) at Athletics (Springs 1-1)

WOMEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

UConn crushes South Carolina for 12th title

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — During the final sweet moments of UConn's 12th national title, Geno Auriemma and Paige Bueckers embraced after the star guard departed her final game with the Huskies.

It was the moment they wanted all along.

"They've all been gratifying, don't get me wrong," Auriemma said. "But this one here, because of the way it came about and what's been involved, it's been a long time since I've been that emotional when a player has walked off the court."

Bueckers, Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong led the way as UConn returned to the top of women's college basketball by rolling to an 82-59 victory over defending champion South Carolina on Sunday.

Fudd, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, scored 24 points. Strong had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Bueckers scored 17 points for the Huskies (37-3).

"Well, it's amazing to have three players, three people like that on the same team," said the 71-year-old Auriemma, who became the

oldest coach in major college basketball to win a championship. "And Sarah, you would think Sarah was graduating the way she plays, right? All three of them complement each other so well. They all have such unique skill sets."

Bueckers capped her stellar career with UConn's first championship since 2016, ending a nine-year drought for the team. That was the longest period for Auriemma and his program without a title since Rebecca Lobo and Jen Rizzotti led the Huskies to their first championship in 1995.

Since then, UConn has had dominant championship runs, including in the early 2000s led by Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi, 2009-10 with Maya Moore and finally the four straight from 2013-16 with Breanna Stewart. All were in attendance Sunday.

"You just never know if you'll ever be back in this situation again," Auriemma said. "And there were so many times when I think we all questioned, 'Have we been here too long? Has it been time?' And we kept hanging in there and hanging in there and that's because these players make



JOHN RAOUX/AP

UConn head coach Geno Auriemma holds up the championship trophy after UConn defeated South Carolina in the national championship game at the Final Four of the women's NCAA Tournament on Sunday in Tampa, Fla.

me want to hang in there every day."

Bueckers, the expected No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft on April 14, delivered for UConn throughout its championship season.

Winning a title was the only thing missing from an incredible Huskies career that was slowed by injuries. She was the first freshman to win AP Player of the Year before missing much of her sophomore season with a tibial plateau fracture and meniscus tear. She then tore an ACL before the next season.

"It's been a story of resilience, gratitude of overcoming adversity and responding to life's challenges," Bueckers said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

UConn closed the first half up 10 points and then put the game away in the third quarter, with Fudd, Strong and Bueckers combining for 23 of the team's 26 points in the period. The Huskies were up 50-39 with 3:21 left before closing with a 12-3 run.

Fudd and Strong got it started with back-to-back 3s, and the rout was on. Auriemma subbed Bueckers, Fudd and Strong out with 1:32 left in the game.

UConn's trio finished the tourney with 368 points, including an NCAA freshman record 114 for Strong. It was the highest point total for three teammates in a single NCAA Tournament, according to Stats Perform. Chamique Holdslaw, Tamika Catchings and Se-

meka Randell scored 363 points for Tennessee in the 1998 women's tournament, and Glen Rice led the way for a trio of Michigan men that had 366 points in 1989.

The Huskies trio proved to be way too much for South Carolina.

Dawn Staley's team was trying for a third title in four years and fourth overall. It would have tied her with Kim Mulkey for third-most behind Auriemma and former Tennessee Hall of Fame coach Pat Summitt, who had eight.

"Our kids gave it all they had. When you can understand why you lost and when you've been on the other side of that three times, you understand it," Staley said. "You can swallow it. We lost to a very good basketball team."

Fudd named Final Four's Most Outstanding Player

By **ALANIS THAMES**
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — This time, Azzi Fudd was healthy. And she made a big difference for UConn.

Fudd was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four after leading the Huskies to the program's 12th national championship. The dynamic guard scored 24 points during Sunday's 82-59 victory over South Carolina in the title game.

UConn also reached the Final Four last season, but Fudd was sidelined by a torn meniscus and anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee. She could only watch as the Huskies were eliminated by Caitlin Clark and Iowa in the semifinals.

Fudd was ready to go this time around. She scored 19 points in Friday's 85-51 victory over UCLA.

Then, with the Gamecocks trying for a second straight championship, Fudd was terrific. She went 9-for-17 from the field. She also had five rebounds, three steals and an assist.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

UConn guard Azzi Fudd scored 43 points in the two games of the Final Four round to be named Most Outstanding Player.

Fudd scored 11 in the third quarter when UConn broke the game open. It was the most points in a single quarter of an NCAA title game by a Huskies women's player, and sixth-most by any

women's player.

"I think all of our mindset was just to be aggressive, stay locked in, stay disciplined, stay together," Fudd said. "And that's exactly what we did. I happened to score 11

points, but I was doing what the game was giving."

The cheering crowd for the championship included her parents. Her mother wore a shirt that read "FUDD AROUND AND FIND OUT."

"I mean, they're the reason I'm playing basketball," Fudd said. "They taught me most of the things I know. So shoutout Mom and Dad. But to be able to stand here, to see all the people that I love in the crowd, people I love here on the stage with me, I don't even have words to describe this moment right now."

Fudd got plenty of help against South Carolina. Sarah Strong had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Paige Bueckers scored 17 points in her final game with UConn.

Healthy again, Fudd paid tribute to her teammates and all the people around her for the championship season.

"My teammates, the people I'm with every single day, they support me, encourage me," Fudd said. "I lean on them, and they're there for

me every day. My family, the coaching staff, the support staff here, just the people I surround myself with, I think that their resilience then feeds off into me."

After playing just two games last season, Fudd averaged 13.3 points per game — third on the team behind Bueckers and Strong — and posted career highs in shooting percentage (47.2%) and 3-point rate (44.6%) this season.

UConn is 68-8 when Fudd plays and 26-1 when she scores at least 15 points.

"We as coaches felt like Azzi was the key to the tournament," Huskies coach Geno Auriemma said. "We felt if she could have an Azzi-type game, that we would win. We kind of know what we're going to get from Paige. We kind of know what we're going to get from Sarah. So Azzi became the focal point for us of who has to step up tonight. And she did magnificently, obviously."

Fudd announced last month she plans to return for one more year in Connecticut.

SPORTS



Huskies return to top

UConn wins 1st women's NCAA title since '16 in Bueckers' finale » Page 23

Ovi slides past Gretzky



RICH GRAESSLE/For The Washington Post

Alex Ovechkin celebrates after scoring his 895th career goal on Sunday against the Islanders in Elmont, N.Y. The power-play tally was Washington's only goal in a 4-1 loss.

Capitals star breaks Great One's NHL career goals record with No. 895

By BAILEY JOHNSON
The Washington Post

NEW YORK — The enduring image of the 895th goal of Alex Ovechkin's career, the one that completed his pursuit of Wayne Gretzky's NHL record and put his name at the top of the league's most celebrated list, will be his full-extension belly slide across the ice, with the jubilant exuberance of a child despite his 39 years of life.

That was it. He had done it. There would be no more questions of if. Those questions, in recent years, had shifted to when, then grew in intensity and volume along with the chants of his name everywhere the Wash-

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Wild stop skid in OT, keep hold on wild card
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ington Capitals went. With one trademark flick of his stick from the top of the left face-off circle on the power play, Ovechkin became the NHL's all-time leading goal scorer, converting from the spot where he built his legend to achieve his biggest accomplishment yet.

The anticipation reached a fever pitch in

the seconds before Ovechkin, who burst into the NHL two decades ago and has hardly slowed down since, lit the lamp. The Capitals fell to the New York Islanders, 4-1, at UBS Arena on Sunday, but the result hardly mattered to those who filled the stands, sporting red and transporting Capital One Arena north to Long Island for the afternoon.

When Washington went on its first power play, seven minutes into the second period, those red-clad fans rose, all eyes on what they hoped was about to happen.

SEE OVI ON PAGE 20



JOHN McDONNELL/For The Washington Post

Ovechkin holds the record-breaking puck.

Source: Jays give Guerrero \$500M extension » MLB, Page 21



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