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JONATHAN NEWTON/The Washington Post

Astronaut Chris Ferguson practices for flight in the Boeing Starliner spacecraft mock-up trainer at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Looking for a new ride

NASA, Pentagon push for SpaceX alternatives amid Trump-Musk feud

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

NASA and Pentagon officials moved swiftly this past week to urge competitors to Elon Musk's SpaceX to more quickly develop alternative rockets and spacecraft after President Donald Trump threatened to cancel Space X's contracts and Musk's defiant response.

Government officials were especially stunned after Musk responded to Trump with a salvo of his own: SpaceX would stop flying its

Dragon spacecraft, a move that would leave the space agency with no way to transport its astronauts to the International Space Station.

Musk later recanted his threat. But it alarmed officials at NASA, which entrusts SpaceX with the lives of its astronauts, and at the Pentagon, which relies heavily on the company to launch its most sensitive satellites.

The worried reaction within space and national security agencies highlights the risks of the government's heavy dependence on SpaceX for crucial tasks, including classified

missions. SpaceX, with billions of dollars in government contracts, flies people and cargo to the ISS, launches satellites for the Pentagon and develops satellites used by intelligence agencies. The concerns are compounded by the fact that its competitors have been slow to catch up, leaving SpaceX's dominance largely unchallenged and the government with few options.

This account is based on interviews with a

SEE RIDE ON PAGE 12

Space Force officer pulled off post due to trans ban

BY JANIQUA ROBINSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Space Force officer has been placed on administrative leave, pending separation, under the Defense Department's new ban on transgender service members, ending her more than 22-year military career.

Col. Bree Fram, one of the highest-ranking openly transgender officers in the U.S. military, wrote in an Instagram post Friday that her removal would take effect the following day.

"In my last official act, I was able to pin medals on three of my folks," she wrote. "The last salute broke my heart in two and the tears flowed freely even as I have so much to be thankful for



Fram

and so many amazing memories."

Fram, an astronautical engineer, served at the Pentagon as division chief for requirements integration. Her work focused on "defining the future capabilities that we're going to need to win wars far into the future," she told Stars and Stripes by phone just days before her leave.

Fram's post comes as the Pentagon begins enforcing a directive that bars individuals with gender dysphoria — when a person's biological sex does not match their gender identity — from serving. The policy stems from Executive Order 14183, signed in January by President Donald Trump and cleared for enforcement after the Supreme Court granted a stay in the case *Shilling v. United States*.

Under the new rules, active-duty troops had until Friday to volun-

SEE TRANS ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Salmonella tied to eggs sickens across 7 states

Associated Press

A salmonella outbreak linked to a large egg recall has made dozens of people sick in seven states in the West and Midwest, federal health officials said Saturday.

The August Egg Company recalled about 1.7 million brown organic and brown cage-free egg varieties distributed to grocery stores between February and May because of the potential for salmonella, according to an announcement Friday on the Food and Drug Administration's website.

At least 79 people in seven states have gotten a strain of salmonella that was linked to the eggs, and 21 people have been hospitalized, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The recall covers Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Washington and Wyoming. A list of brands and plant codes or Julian dates can be found on the FDA and CDC websites.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning include diarrhea, fever, se-

vere vomiting, dehydration and stomach cramps. Most people who get sick recover within a week.

Infections can be severe in young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems, who may require hospitalization.

The CDC advises people to throw away recalled eggs or return them to the store where they were purchased. Consumers should also wash and disinfect any surfaces that came in contact with the eggs.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (June 9)	0.85	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3743
British pound (June 9)	\$1.32	Britain (Pound)	1.3527
Japanese yen (June 9)	139.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.3692
South Korean won (June 9)	1322.00	China (Yuan)	7.1886
		Denmark (Krone)	6.5454
		Egypt (Pound)	49.5914
		Euro	0.8774
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8469
		Hungary (Forint)	353.93
		Israel (Shekel)	3.5006
		Japan (Yen)	144.80
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3055
		Norway (Krone)	10.1086
		Philippines (Peso)	55.72
		Poland (Zloty)	3.76
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7451
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.2891
		South Korea (Won)	1359.06
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8221		
Thailand (Baht)	32.76		
Turkey (NewLira)	39.2288		

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

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Federal funds market rate	4.38
3-month bill	4.35
30-year bond	4.97

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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MILITARY

Soldier gets 23-year sentence for killing wife

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD, Hawaii — The Hawaii-based soldier who killed his pregnant wife and disposed of her body in an incinerator last summer on Oahu was sentenced Thursday to 23 years in prison, the maximum possible under the terms of a deal in which he pleaded guilty to two counts of voluntary manslaughter.

During the sentencing at the Wheeler Army Airfield courthouse, Judge Rebecca Farrell said she imposed the maximum sentence on Pfc. Dewayne Johnson II, 29, due to “particularly aggravating facts” in the case.

He had also pleaded guilty to

obstruction of justice and providing false official statements.

Johnson admitted in court Tuesday that he killed 19-year-old Mischa Johnson, who was six months pregnant, during a heated argument on July 12. He struck her head with a machete in the bedroom of the home they shared on Schofield Barracks in central Oahu.

Over the next few days, he purchased a chainsaw, cut off her arms, legs and head, stashed them separately in garbage bags and tossed them into a dumpster used

by his unit on the base.

That dumpster is emptied directly into the island’s solid waste incinerator.

Her body has not been found.

Johnson concocted a complex scheme intended to fool his wife’s family and friends into believing she was alive as he dismembered her body and destroyed evidence.

On Aug. 1, he reported her missing, telling law enforcement that she was depressed and possibly suicidal. Army units at Schofield conducted numerous searches on and around the base — searches led at times by Johnson.

During closing statements Wednesday, Johnson’s defense team argued that the minimum sentence of 18 years was sufficient

to rehabilitate him and render him no longer a threat to society.

Farrell, however, said the maximum was warranted for a number of reasons.

Mischa Johnson was particularly vulnerable as a pregnant woman who lived on a military base and depended on her husband for her well-being, she said.

Johnson’s desecration of his wife’s body was particularly gruesome, an act that not only deprived her family of her life, but also robbed them of her remains for a funeral or a final resting place, Farrell said.

Johnson’s lies also adversely affected training, readiness and trust among the soldiers and units that spent long hours over many

days in futile searches, she said.

Johnson, a cavalry scout assigned to the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, will serve his sentence at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He will receive a dishonorable discharge as part of the plea deal.

“While no amount of confinement will ever be able to truly ease the pain of the loss of Ms. Johnson and her unborn child for her family and friends, it is my hope that Pfc. Johnson’s admissions of guilt and the information he provided as part of the plea agreement can provide some element of closure and finality for the family and all stakeholders,” Lt. Col. Nicholas Hurd, the lead prosecutor, said in a news release Thursday.



Johnson

Top enlisted Marine caps NCO’s rise to stardom via email mistake

By LYDIA GORDON

Stars and Stripes

Cpl. Andrew Hundley became an unexpected Marine Corps celebrity several weeks ago, after a staff sergeant’s routine email about a simple certificate for Hundley accidentally was sent to most of the service’s members.

The Hundley buzz was reignited Thursday when the service’s top enlisted leader, Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz, made a surprise appearance at Camp Johnson, N.C., for Hundley’s much-anticipated graduation from a month-long leadership course.

A cyberspace warfare operator from the Camp Lejeune-based 8th Communications Battalion, Hundley was marking completion of the standard corporals course, a required leadership school for promotion eligibility.

“The Marine Corps gods have called upon me,” Ruiz said as he entered the packed graduation room, a video posted to his official Instagram page Thursday shows.

“Where are you at, Hundley? Raise your hand.”

Ruiz personally handed Hundley his certificate as he crossed the stage, capping off the viral journey with a moment of recognition, which was met with a chorus of cheers from the audience.

Ruiz’s in-person congratulations were the showstopper in a saga that began April 16, when Hundley’s staff noncommissioned officer attempted to email a prerequisite certificate he needed to attend professional military education course.

Instead of reaching the intended recipient, the message was mistakenly sent to the entire 8th Communications Battalion distribution list, which inadvertently also contained many of the service’s email addresses.

In classic Marine Corps fashion, the reply-all storm that followed quickly spiraled into chaos. Hundreds of Marines chimed in with jokes, congratulations or desperate pleas to be removed from the

thread.

Cpl. Hundley is “a hard charger that took responsibility for his career and leadership skills by completing the (online prerequisite class) for the Corporals Course Distance Education Program,” one r/USMC Reddit user said in April.

Amid the chaos, Hundley’s name became a running headline as he was celebrated for completing his online course requirements.

Marines who weren’t on the original distribution list quickly became curious, eager to uncover why Hundley had suddenly become a Corps-wide sensation.

“For three or four days as I traveled the Corps, the question was not about barracks or quality of life; it’s ‘Corporal Hundley,’” Ruiz said at the ceremony. “And that’s why the gods have called me to see you graduate.”

Ruiz had received the April 16 email, and he was aware of a Change.org petition to have the



ALEXANDER LESKO/U.S. Marine Corps

Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz, center, makes a surprise visit to a corporals course graduation ceremony at Camp Johnson, N.C., on Thursday. Ruiz was there to congratulate Cpl. Andrew Hundley, who unexpectedly became a Marine Corps celebrity in April after a routine email featuring his name was accidentally sent to a mass distribution list.

Corps’ top leaders attend the ceremony, Military.com reported Thursday.

“I didn’t want this kind of thing to take away from the experience of all the other corporals that were go-

ing in that course with me, because they worked so hard,” Hundley told Military.com.

“They deserved more fame than I ever got from it, even just that little bit,” he added.

Navy deploys destroyer USS Sampson to southern border mission

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

The Navy last week deployed a guided-missile destroyer to join U.S. Northern Command’s southern border operations meant to deter illegal crossing and drug trafficking, the service announced Wednesday.

The USS Sampson, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, left its homeport in San Diego on Tuesday to replace the USS Charleston, a littoral combat ship, in supporting the border operations that President Donald Trump has made a top priority in his second

administration.

The Sampson will operate with a Coast Guard law enforcement detachment on board that officials have said brings specialized expertise in maritime interdiction to help address a range of challenges, from countering illegal activities to supporting humanitarian efforts and homeland security operations. The Charleston operated with a similar team on board during its tour, which lasted about two weeks.

The Navy has deployed ships — mostly destroyers — with the Coast Guard teams on board on

both coasts near the U.S. southern border since March as part of Trump’s build-up of military and law enforcement forces along the U.S.-Mexico boundary.

“Sampson brings robust multi-mission capabilities to the task of defending U.S. sovereignty and supporting homeland defense operations in coordination with U.S. NORTHCOM,” the Navy said in a news release.

The deployment comes as the Pentagon has added more troops to its border operations, where U.S. forces — mostly soldiers and Marines — have provided cus-

tombs and Border Protection officials with a range of support, including reconnaissance, construction, logistics and air-lift capabilities.

The Defense Department last month approved the deployment of an additional 1,115 active-duty forces to support border operations. In all, there are now more than 10,000 military troops — including active-duty soldiers and Marines and National Guard forces — stationed along the border to assist Border Patrol. Those troops include infantry forces with Stryker combat vehicles,

troops that fly drones and helicopters, logisticians and engineering forces. Top Army leaders on Thursday also said the National Guard was preparing to add some 20,000 Guard forces to operations to bolster the Department of Homeland Security. That department requested those forces last month to aid in Trump’s immigration crackdown efforts. Top Army officials told senators on Capitol Hill that decisions about what role the National Guard troops would play in those operations or what units they would come from had not yet been made.

MILITARY

Paratrooper honored 81 years after D-Day

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

SAINTE-MERE-EGLISE, France — Army Staff Sgt. William Owens was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross at a ceremony here Thursday for extraordinary heroism displayed during the Allied invasion of Normandy more than eight decades ago.

The Army presented its second-highest military decoration to Owens' family at La Fiere Bridge, the site of one of the most intense and critical battles fought by the 82nd Airborne Division on D-Day.

The ceremony came a day before the 81st anniversary of the invasion, which was crucial to the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.

"On that fateful day, at that fateful time, when the nation and other nations needed this position to hold — if it did not hold, the fate of D-Day would have been tremendously different — at that time he stepped up," U.S. Army Europe and Africa commander Gen. Christopher Donahue said at the ceremony.

Owens, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division's 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, descended into a drop zone just west of Sainte-Mere-Eglise in the early hours of June 6, 1944.

His unit was tasked with securing La Fiere Bridge, which spanned the Merderet River and was vital to blocking German reinforcements from reaching Utah



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Relatives of Army Staff Sgt. William Owens, from left, great-grandson Harrison Morales, daughter Susan Marrow and Morales' parents, Jennifer Naimo Morales and Tim Morales, listen at a ceremony in Sainte-Mere-Eglise, France, on June 5. Owens, a veteran of D-Day, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross at the ceremony.

Beach, clearing the way for American troops to advance inland.

Utah Beach was one of two beaches where American troops landed by sea on D-Day, the other being Omaha.

Serving as a squad leader of 1st platoon, Company A, Owens helped establish a defensive position at the site on D-Day.

The soldiers at the site suffered high casualties under relentless enemy fire and infantry assaults.

Owens continuously adjusted defensive lines and resupplied ammunition while managing three machine guns and two vital bazooka teams overwatching the bridge.

Among the dead was his company's commander. Owens stepped into the role after the death.

At that time, he had few men left and received the order to hold the position at all costs.

He's said to have calmed the



Owens

troops while continuing to man three machine guns.

The Germans eventually asked Owens for a truce.

Because of his actions, four tanks were destroyed, more

than 275 Germans were killed and La Fiere Bridge was held.

"We shouldn't allow today's optimism or today's relative calm, the beauty of this setting to deceive us," 82nd Airborne Division commander Maj. Gen. Pat Work said at Thursday's ceremony. "This was once the most dangerous place on the planet."

Work referred to Owens as "a sergeant who probably saved the battered 1st of the 505th Infantry from total annihilation."

Owens becomes the 18th recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for actions at La Fiere Bridge.

Besides Normandy, Owens participated in the invasion of Sicily and the landings at Salerno in Italy, before he arrived in France. After Normandy, he took part in Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands.

An Iowa native who lived in California after the war, he died unexpectedly in 1967 at the age of 54.

Owens' youngest daughter, Susan Marrow, was 11 when her fa-

ther died.

She knew he had a scar on his leg from the war but didn't know much else about his heroics in battle until officials advocating for his award upgrade contacted her in recent years.

"I see him totally differently now," Marrow said. "I really wished he had lived so I'd get to know the man as an adult rather than a child."

Harrison Morales, Owens' great-grandson, only learned about Owens when he was contacted by the same officials, who told him he had the blood of an American war hero in his veins.

Morales was adopted but speaks with his biological grandmother Kay Hutchings, Owens' first daughter from his first marriage.

She couldn't make the ceremony because of poor health, so Morales spoke in her place.

"Everything he did he did for somebody else," Morales told the crowd, relaying his grandmother's description.

Owens had already been awarded the Broze Star for his efforts at La Fiere Bridge.

Last spring, Congress approved the upgrade.

He also is a recipient of the Silver Star, the third-highest military combat decoration, for other services during World War II.

Thursday's ceremony was one many events held in Normandy ahead of the 81st anniversary of D-Day on Friday.

4 WWII vets share stories of service at D-Day gathering in DC

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Four World War II veterans joined by a small crowd gathered Friday near the World War II Memorial to recognize the 81st anniversary of D-Day.

"Today and every sixth of June, until the end of time, we should give thanks," author and historian Alex Kershaw said. "And we should vow to protect that greatest of treasures bought with the blood of so many heroes from the Allied nations."

More than 2 million Allied soldiers, sailors, pilots, medics and others from a dozen countries were involved in Operation Overlord, the codename for the Allied invasion of Normandy, France during World War II that began with the assault on June 6, 1944 — D-Day.

More than 225,000 Allied troops were killed, wounded, or declared missing during the invasion, including more than 9,000 who were lost or wounded in the opening hours of D-Day, said Jane Droppa, who is the chairwoman of the

nonprofit organization Friends of the National World War II Memorial. The operation lasted for nearly three months, stretching from storming the beaches on June 6 until the liberation of Paris in late August.

"Their legacy is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together with purpose and resolve," Droppa said. "Let us share their stories. Let us carry their values — freedom, justice and courage — into the future. Let us never forget."

Less than 1% of those who fought in World War II are alive today, Kershaw said.

Four veterans from the war attended the celebration. Each veteran's time of service was read during the ceremony and the crowd applauded for their efforts. Navy Secretary John Phelan attended the ceremony and took time to speak with each of the veterans before and after the event.

Anthony Grant, 105, was drafted into the Army in 1942 and served in a segregated unit during the war. Assigned to the 534th Quartermaster Battalion, his unit

landed in Normandy 10 days after D-Day to support front-line troops. As a logistics officer, Grant was part of the effort to help sustain Gen. George Patton's Third Army through France and the Battle of the Bulge.

Frank Cohn, another World War II veteran at the ceremony, was born in 1925 in Breslau, Germany — now Wroclaw, Poland. He came with his family to the United States in 1938, fleeing Nazi persecution.

Cohn was drafted into the Army and served in the Battle of the Bulge, the Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns, and met Russian forces at the Elbe River. He was later assigned as sergeant of the guard during the second Nuremberg trial. Cohn became a colonel and went on to serve for 35 years in the Army, including tours in Korea and Vietnam.

Harry Miller also was at the ceremony Friday. At 16, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge with the 740th Tank Battalion, attached to the 82nd Airborne. He went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam, retiring in 1966 as a senior master



ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

A military honor guard prepares to present the colors during a public ceremony Friday at the World War II Memorial in Washington, marking 81 years since Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy.

sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

Miller still spends hours at the memorial in Washington sharing stories of service and sacrifice with visitors from around the world. He spoke to the Navy secretary about visiting the Pentagon.

"We can sneak you in," Phelan joked. "Come see me at the Penta-

gon. We'd love to have you."

The fourth veteran to take part in Friday's ceremony was Dave Yoho. He joined the U.S. Merchant Marine in 1944 at 16. He was assigned to a T-2 tanker refueling Allied ships in combat zones across the South Pacific. The war ended in August 1945, just four days before Yoho's 17th birthday.

MILITARY

Smaller crowds, same reverence

More than two dozen US World War II vets join top officials at Normandy to mark 81st anniversary of D-Day

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER,

France — On the hallowed ground above Omaha Beach, more than two dozen American World War II veterans joined Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other top officials Friday to commemorate the 81st anniversary of D-Day, the Allied assault that helped turn the tide of World War II.

The gathering at the Normandy American Cemetery honored the more than 150,000 Allied troops who stormed the beaches and skies of France on June 6, 1944, launching the largest amphibious invasion in history and opening the way to liberate Nazi-occupied Europe.

The ceremony drew roughly 2,000 attendees, more than expected by the American Battle Monuments Commission but far fewer than the tens of thousands who came for the 80th anniversary last year, which featured a who's who of world leaders.

This year's gathering was more solemn and intimate, and no less reverent of the veterans who flew across the Atlantic Ocean to remember the fallen.

"During the war, our mission was clear: to defeat tyranny and restore peace," said Wally King, 101, a former first lieutenant who flew 75 missions over Europe with the 9th Air Force.

Facing the rows of graves, he added, "Their bravery and selflessness remind us of the price of freedom and the importance of defending it."

Among the high-profile attendees besides Hegseth were Gen. Christopher Cavoli, commander of U.S. European Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Gen. Christopher Donahue, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa; and Adm. Stuart Munsch, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa.



Visitors including 101st Airborne Division soldiers walk among the graves at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, following the D-Day ceremony on Friday.

During the ceremony, officials laid wreaths and held a moment of silence as a large American flag blew in the steady seaside wind.

In his remarks, Hegseth said the sacrifices made by U.S. and Allied troops on D-Day still carry pressing relevance today.

"History is not over, evil has not been eradicated from the globe, good men are still needed to stand up," Hegseth said. "We must ensure that our children and our grandchildren know what these men did."

American forces landed at Utah and Omaha beaches, where they faced fierce German resistance.

By nightfall, around 2,500 Americans were dead, among more than 4,400 Allied troops killed on the first day. Casualties continued to mount in the days that followed as forces fought their way inland.

At the Normandy American



Four U.S. Air Force C-130s fly in formation over the Normandy American Cemetery during the ceremony marking the 81st anniversary of the Normandy invasion in World War II.

Cemetery, nearly 9,400 white marble headstones stretch across a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, marking the final resting place of those killed during the Normandy campaign.

Among those paying respects was Samuel Meyer, a former aircraft armorer who loaded bombs and ammunition on P-38 fighter planes.

Meyer, who reached the rank of corporal, said it took decades for him to accept being called a hero.

"I'm 100 years old — although I look like I'm 80, that's what people tell me — and they always say, 'Sam, you're a hero.' But I've always told them I'm not," Meyer said. "Well, after 80 years, I finally give up. All right, I'm a hero."

In the days prior to the ceremony on Friday, U.S. service members participated in events across

the region. During downtime, they visited landing beaches and other historic sites, often reflecting on their units' lineage.

Pvt. 1st Class Gavin Smith, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy, said meeting World War II veterans was the highlight of the week.

"The stories they told me were inspiring," Smith said. "For me to follow in their footsteps is an absolute blessing."

That sentiment echoed across ranks. Adm. Christopher Grady, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Stars and Stripes on Friday that meeting with the veterans was humbling.

"To meet them and see them up close and personal ... I always feel that I don't want to let them down," Grady said.

In addition to honoring those



Petty Officer 3rd Class Pedro Peraza of the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa band salutes after playing taps at the conclusion of the D-Day ceremony.

who fought in World War II, D-Day anniversaries often highlight the NATO alliance forged in the aftermath of the war. This year's ceremony came amid growing uncertainty about that relationship.

Questions about America's long-term commitment to NATO have intensified during President Donald Trump's second term, driven by his calls for European allies to shoulder more of the security burden.

Tensions between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have further strained trans-Atlantic unity.

Still, Grady said, Friday's ceremony underscored the enduring strength of the alliance.

"In the various remarks you heard today, it wasn't just America or France but a litany of other countries that all came together in the defense of freedom," he said. "We can look back here as an example of how it works when everybody is together and why that still matters."

On the sidelines of Friday's ceremony, WWII veteran Harold Terens, 101, a former Morse code operator with the 8th Air Force, said the warm reception from the French people is one of his favorite parts of returning to Normandy.

He's been back several times since the war, and although his wife was a French professor at Hofstra University for 30 years, he joked that he never learned the language.

"If I didn't have the proper accent, she would give me hell," Terens said with a smile.

Terens, who has pledged to return for the 85th and 90th anniversaries, wasn't surprised that thousands of people turned out Friday, even though it isn't a milestone year.

"I feel it's going to be the same way after 181 years," he said. "I don't think these people will ever forget us, nor will we forget them."



World War II and Normandy invasion veteran Jake Larson is interviewed by students before the start of the ceremony.

MILITARY

Many units' museums on Army shutdown list

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN, Germany — Dozens of Army museums around the world dedicated to units, some among the most storied in the service, will disappear over the next three years as part of cost-cutting and efforts to align with Pentagon priorities.

The U.S. Army Center of Military History announced plans Wednesday to close or consolidate 29 of its 41 active-duty museums to direct more resources toward “readiness and lethality,” a statement on the center’s Facebook page said.

The official list of closures has not been released pending approval from Army headquarters, but center spokesman F. Lee Reynolds confirmed Thursday that it had leaked online.

Among the facilities proposed for shutdown are the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Museum in Vilseck, Germany.

“The problem is we’re not getting

additional money, so we have not been able to staff the museums the way we would like to and conduct the maintenance and rotate exhibits the way we would like,” Reynolds said. “We just don’t have the funding.”

The Army should decide on the proposal in the next week, Reynolds said.

The closures are expected to save \$114 million over 10 years through reductions to staffing and operating costs, Reynolds said. The center does not plan to fire any current employees but will offer staff positions at other locations. Some current openings will go unfilled.

The cost-cutting measures are being proposed as Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has repeatedly expressed the Pentagon’s intent to take steps toward making the military a more lethal fighting force.

On Friday, the mood was somber at the Vilseck unit museum, otherwise known as the Reed Museum and 2nd Regiment of Dragoons Heritage Center.

Curator Denise Wald tried to



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment Museum in Vilseck, Germany, is shown Friday. The regiment’s history from its formation in 1836 to present day is told through exhibits at the museum, which is among 29 on a closure list compiled by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

smile as she lovingly viewed exhibits stretching back from the unit’s formation in 1836 to the present.

“It’s very special, to not just the regiment but our history and our footprint here in Europe,” she said. “It’s a shame to lose it. Please come visit while you can.”

All of the proposed cuts are to museums located on U.S. military bases.

There will also be a pair of consolidations in addition to two already happening at Fort Cavazos in Texas and Fort Campbell in Kentucky, Reynolds said. Fort Jackson’s four

museums in South Carolina will be merged into one, as will three at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Reynolds said artifacts and exhibits from the shuttered sites could move to the 12 surviving museums and four training support facilities, including the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir, Va., which will not be affected by the cuts. Some items could be loaned out or put into the Army’s two storage facilities, Museum Support Center Alpha at the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama, which stores large items, and Museum Support Center Bravo at Fort Belvoir, which stores smaller items.

The plan to close the museums came from the Center of Military History, led by executive director and chief military historian Charles Bowery Jr., Reynolds said. The criteria used to determine which museums would get the ax were public access, number of visitors, maintenance requirements and relevance, Reynolds said. Closures are slated to start this summer and continue through September 2027, he added.

Tubman Home CEO urges the Pentagon to keep abolitionist’s name on Navy ship

By ROBERT HARDING

The (Auburn, N.Y.) Citizen

AUBURN, N.Y. — Karen Hill, president and CEO of the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, attended the event in 2023 when then-Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced a future ship would be named in honor of Tubman.

With the Department of Defense under President Donald Trump reportedly recommending the ship and others honoring civil rights leaders be renamed, Hill is hoping they will keep the abolitionist’s name on the vessel.

During the Biden administration, the U.S. Navy unveiled plans to name John Lewis-class oilers in honor of Tubman and other American icons, including Robert F. Kennedy — the father of Trump’s secretary of health and human services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — and Sojourner Truth. The oilers provide fuel for the Navy’s carrier strike groups.

Del Toro announced that a Navy oiler would bear Tubman’s name during a ceremony at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland. Tubman, he said, is “more than deserving” of the honor.

“(Tubman) was born into unimaginable circumstances, but she dedicated her life to facing great danger and adversity, becoming a ‘conductor of freedom,’ helping others escape slavery,” Del Toro said. “In addition, during the Civil War, Tubman was the first African American woman to serve formally in the



OMAR POWELL/U.S. Navy

Then-Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro named a John Lewis-class oiler after American abolitionist and social activist Harriet Tubman at a ceremony at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center in Church Creek, Md., on Sept. 17, 2023.

military. Her legacy deserves our nation’s continued recognition, and our fleet benefits from having her name emblazoned on the hull of one of our great ships.”

Although Tubman is best known for escaping from slavery and her efforts along the Underground Railroad, she is also the first woman to lead a military operation in U.S. history. She led the Combahee River Raid in South Carolina that freed 756 enslaved people during the Civil War.

Tubman’s role in the raid is the subject of a book, “Combee,” that recently won a Pulitzer Prize. The book’s author, Dr. Edda Fields-Black, visited Auburn for the Tub-

man pilgrimage in May.

While Hill acknowledged that the Trump administration has not made a final decision, she hopes they will keep Tubman’s name on the future ship. She cited the abolitionist’s role in the Combahee River Raid and the recognition of her military service. This year, she noted, Tubman was inducted into the U.S. Army Women’s Foundation Hall of Fame.

Regarding the Trump administration’s treatment of Tubman’s legacy, Hill urged them to “tell the truth.”

“There’s a hymn, ‘May the Work I’ve Done Speak For Me,’” Hill said. “Tubman’s work certainly speaks for her.”

Trans: Col. Fram says she felt compelled to speak up for others

FROM PAGE 1

tarily self-identify as transgender; National Guard and Reserve members have until July 7.

Fram is among roughly 1,000 troops who have come forward. Those who did not self-identify may now be flagged by commanders or medical staff during annual health checks or routine reviews.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has framed the ban as a return to traditional standards. “No more pronouns. No more dudes in dresses. We’re done with that s—,” he said last month during a special operations forces conference in Tampa, Fla. On X, he added, “No More Trans @ DoD.”

Fram said she came out in 2016 on the same day then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter lifted the military’s previous ban on open transgender service.

“I left for the gym to burn off the nervous energy, uncertain of how life might change,” she recalled on Instagram. “When I returned, one by one, my teammates came to my desk, shook my hand, and said versions of, ‘It’s an honor to serve with you.’”

Fram said she had a similar experience on Friday.

“There was a moment of silence before reality settled in,” she wrote of her final meeting with Joint Staff leaders. “Then, one-by-one, a room full of senior leaders, admirals and generals, walked over to me ... they offered those same words, now tinged with the sadness of past tense: ‘It’s been an

honor to serve with you.’”

The policy under which Fram is being removed is based on DOD Instruction 6130.03, which says gender dysphoria may result in “excessive time lost from duty for necessary treatment or hospitalizations.”

Pentagon data shows at least 4,240 service members across active duty, Guard and Reserve components have a gender dysphoria diagnosis, though officials acknowledge the number may be higher.

Fram said her position and experience compel her to speak up for others who fear retaliation.

“It is almost a duty and an obligation to speak on their behalf because it is my privilege to do so and to hopefully represent transgender service members well that do not have the privilege that comes along with the rank and the experience that I do,” she told Stars and Stripes.

Fram emphasized she was speaking in her personal capacity and not on behalf of the DOD or U.S. government.

“I look around at the transgender service members that I know, and I see some of the bravest, most incredible service members I have ever met or worked with,” she said. “If I don’t speak for them and they are unable to speak for themselves, who will speak for them?”

PACIFIC

Rand: US must harden bases against drones

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Air Force needs to do more to protect its Indo-Pacific bases, including from evolving threats such as drones, according to a California-based think tank.

The Rand Corp. report — Assessing Progress on Air Base Defense — was released Tuesday and highlights the growing vulnerability of U.S. military installations to low-cost, remote-controlled and autonomous drones, a tactic that has gained prominence in the war in Ukraine.

“It is at the lower end of the capability spectrum that threats may be evolving the most quickly,” the report warns. “Recent experiences in the Russia-Ukraine war are highlighting the threat of small remote control and autonomous drones to air bases, particularly to soft buildings and aircraft parked in the open.”

The report follows a recent Ukrainian drone strike that reportedly damaged or destroyed a portion of Russia’s long-range bomber fleet, raising alarms about the susceptibility of U.S. air assets to similar attacks.

“Russian air base defenders do not appear ready to protect their air bases against the small drones that are destroying their aircraft,” Rand’s report states without referencing the June 1 strike. “To avoid a similar fate on a much larger scale, the U.S. Air Force should conduct a serious cost benefit analysis of fielding its own active defense capabilities, ones that are tailored for air base de-

fense in Pacific and European threat environments.”

While major adversaries like China pose a high-end threat with ballistic and hypersonic weapons, Rand warns that even less capable adversaries could deploy large numbers of drones to autonomously seek and destroy soft targets such as aircraft, fuel depots and control towers.

“China has also demonstrated the use of drone swarms,” the report states.

“Its industrial capacity, experience in mass production of drones, and wide-ranging use of machine learning could quickly make it the preeminent producer and user of such systems.”

The report outlines a spectrum of potential threats to U.S. air bases, from hobbyist quadcopters to hypersonic boost-glide missiles.

While the Army leads efforts to counter unmanned aerial systems and has fielded some short-range air-defense systems, Rand emphasized that gaps remain, particularly against smaller drones.

Ongoing projects include the development of directed energy weapons such as lasers to target drones, but the report concludes that passive defense measures remain the most cost-effective option for improving air base resilience.

These measures include hardened shelters, camouflage, decoys, asset dispersal, redundant fuel supplies, runway repair capabilities and blast-resistant construction.

“A combination of both active and passive



JESSI STEGALL/U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. and Japanese service members work together to repair airfield damage during a Keen Sword drill at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, in October.

defense measures is understood to be critical for defending air bases during conflict,” the report states. However, “passive defenses, such as fuel bladders, runway repair, and aircraft shelters have generally been seen as the most cost-effective investment.”

The report recommends increased investment in both active and passive air base defense systems and urges the Defense Depart-

ment to prioritize passive infrastructure improvements.

It also encourages Pacific Air Forces to work with regional partners and allies to boost installation resilience.

“The potential air base resources in northern Australia could prove critical to resiliency efforts in a potential U.S. war with China,” the report states.

General says summer drills will sharpen US mobility in region

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Multiple logistics exercises this summer will test and enhance U.S. forces’ airlift and sealift capabilities across the Indo-Pacific, the head of U.S. Transportation Command said Friday.

“We’ll test the current logistics architecture and infrastructure, which provides sustained freedom of maneuver in the region and for the joint force,” Gen. Randall Reed told reporters during an online press conference.

The drills come at a time of heightened tensions, as China rapidly expands its military, constructs bases in disputed South China Sea territory and threatens to invade or blockade Taiwan.

Reed is on a multiweek tour that includes stops in Guam, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea. Photographs released by the Defense Department show him meeting with of-



JORDAN GARNER/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Transportation Command head Gen. Randall Reed, left, visits Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, earlier this month.

officials at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on Tuesday and in Manila on Thursday. His next stop is South Korea, he said.

While Reed did not reveal many specifics

about the upcoming drills, he confirmed one would be Mobility Guardian, a biennial exercise held in the Indo-Pacific for the first time in 2023.

That iteration involved forces from Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, France and Japan. Together, they moved 15,000 U.S. and international troops using 70 aircraft for resupply missions, aerial refueling, and medical evacuations across a 3,000-mile training area.

This year’s exercise series aims to demonstrate the ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy forces from the U.S. to spots throughout the Indo-Pacific, Reed said.

“These exercises will be very key to allow us to test tactics, techniques and procedures with allies and partners, and allow us to enhance our connectivity across various locations,” he said.

The U.S. military is committed to moderniz-

ing its sealift and airlift fleets, Reed said, adding that he’s been vocal about the need for more sealift capability.

“The fleet that we have is capable but aging, and quite simply, we need to get newer, more modern ships for the crews to operate,” he said. “We’re pushing to make sure that we can increase our capacity to move the personnel and equipment rapidly across this vast region.”

The summer drills will help Transportation Command evaluate its capabilities while deepening relationships with allies and partners, Reed said.

“Together, with continued support, we’ll retain the ability to respond to whatever, whenever we’re needed,” he said. “What we’re looking to do is to make sure that, simply, everyone can communicate with each other, that we can transport our goods, that we can sustain, and that we can reset at the end.”

Marine Corps Forces Korea gets new commander amid leadership shifts

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A former Marine Corps historian has taken charge of U.S. Marines in South Korea in one of several leadership changes taking place this month across the peninsula.

Maj. Gen. Valerie Jackson assumed command of Marine Corps Forces Korea from Maj. Gen. William Souza during a ceremony Thursday on Barker Field on Humphreys, home to U.S. Forces Korea, according to a command news release.

Jackson described the U.S.-South Korean alliance as “grounded in strength and under-

scored by our commitment to each other.”

“Together, our shared vision will undoubtedly yield remarkable achievements,” she said, according to the release.

Souza, who led Marine Forces Korea for two years, supervised large-scale amphibious training with South Korean marines and naval forces, including August’s 13-day Ssangyong exercise. The drills featured about 40 amphibious assault vehicles and 40 aircraft from both countries.

Souza is headed to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where he will become deputy commander of Marine Corps Training and Education Command, Marine Forces Korea



Jackson

spokeswoman Capt. Ana Chiu said by email Friday.

USFK’s commander, Army Gen. Xavier Brunson, presided over Thursday’s command change. He called Jackson “the right leader” to oversee the roughly 100 Marines stationed on the peninsula.

“This isn’t a steady state mission, it is a forward position of deterrence in the region that is always moving,” Brunson said, according to the release. “It demands leaders who can read the terrain, anticipate threats and never wait

for the ideal conditions to come about.”

In 2006, Jackson became the senior editor and field historian for the Marine Corps History Division, the agency tasked with preserving the Corps’ legacy, according to her service biography.

Also on Thursday, Cmdr. Lawrence Schaffter took over leadership of Chinhae Naval Base from Cmdr. James Dipasquale, who had led the small Navy base near Busan since 2023.

Air Force Col. William McKibban, commander of the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base, is scheduled to move to another command later this month, wing spokesman Maj. Kip Sumner said by phone Friday.

MILITARY

DOD investigates if staff asked to delete Signal chat

By TARA COPP
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's watchdog is looking into whether any of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's aides were asked to delete Signal messages that may have shared sensitive military information with a reporter, according to two people familiar with the investigation and documents reviewed by The Associated Press.

The inspector general's request focuses on how information about the March 15 airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen was shared on the messaging app.

This comes as Hegseth is scheduled to testify before Congress this week for the first time since his confirmation hearing. He is likely to face questions under oath not only about his handling of sensitive information but also the wider turmoil at the Pentagon following the departures of several senior aides and an internal investigation over information leaks.

Hegseth already has faced questions over the installation of an unsecured internet line in his office that bypassed the Pentagon's security protocols and revelations that he shared details about the military strikes in multiple Signal chats.

One of the chats included his wife and brother, while the other included President Donald Trump's top national security officials and inadvertently included The Atlantic's editor-in-chief, Jeffrey Goldberg.

Pentagon press secretary King-lesley Wilson had no comment Friday, citing the pending investigation. The inspector general's office would not discuss the details of the investigation but said that when the report is complete, their office will release unclassified portions of it to the public.

Besides finding out whether anyone was asked to delete Signal messages, the inspector general also is asking some past and current staffers who were with Hegseth on the day of the strikes who posted the information and who had access to his phone, according to the two people familiar with the investigation and the documents reviewed by the AP. The people were not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Democratic lawmakers and a small number of Republicans have said that the information Hegseth posted to the Signal chats

before the military jets had reached their targets could have put those pilots' lives at risk and that for any lower-ranking members of the military, it would have led to their firing.

Hegseth has said none of the information was classified. Multiple current and former military officials have said there is no way details with that specificity, especially before a strike took place, would have been OK to share on an unsecured device.

"I said repeatedly, nobody is texting war plans," Hegseth told Fox News Channel in April after reporting emerged about the chat that included his family members. "I look at war plans every day. What was shared over Signal then and now, however you characterize it, was informal, unclassified coordinations, for media coordinations and other things. That's what I've said from the beginning."

Trump has made clear that Hegseth continues to have his support, saying during a Memorial Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia that the defense secretary "went through a lot" but "he's doing really well."

Hegseth has limited his public engagements with the press since the Signal controversy. He has yet to hold a Pentagon press briefing, and his spokesman has briefed reporters there only once.

The inspector general is investigating Hegseth at the request of the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, and the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

Signal is a publicly available app that provides encrypted communications, but it can be hacked and is not approved for carrying classified information. On March 14, one day before the strikes against the Houthis, the Defense Department cautioned personnel about the vulnerability of the app.

Trump has said his administration targeted the Houthis over their "unrelenting campaign of piracy, violence and terrorism." He has noted the disruption Houthi attacks caused through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, key waterways for energy and cargo shipments between Asia and Europe through Egypt's Suez Canal.

The Houthis attacked more than 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two vessels and killing four sailors.



PHOTOS BY ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., gives a speech at a Capitol Hill rally with the Women in the Services Coalition on Thursday.

Female veterans defend women in armed forces, their place in history

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 20 female veterans gathered outside the U.S. Capitol on Thursday to express their concerns with how women in the armed forces are treated and their frustrations with efforts to erase them from military history.

"I'd rather not be here today. I thought this debate was over," said Olivia McQuail, who graduated from Army Ranger School in 2021.

The event was orchestrated in conjunction with the Women in the Services Coalition Initiative, or WiSCI, and lasted 45 minutes before veterans went inside to deliver several thousand letters to lawmakers' offices that stated women have earned their place in the services and women "make our military stronger," WiSCI founder Sue Fulton said.

The response from female veterans comes after a range of actions taken by President Donald Trump's administration in the first few months of his second term that have targeted programs and policies that promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

Trump signed an executive order on the first day back in office to terminate all diversity programs in the federal government. His administration also began to dismiss many top-ranking female officers from the military. Adm. Linda Fagan, the first woman to lead the Coast Guard, was the first to be fired.

Other women have been fired since Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth took over at the Pentagon in January including Adm. Lisa Franchetti, the former chief of naval operations, Vice Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, the U.S. military representative to the NATO Military Committee, and Air Force Lt. Gen. Jennifer Short, a former senior military assistant to the defense



Army veteran Olivia McQuail speaks at the rally.

secretary.

"These women weren't promoted through the ranks because of their gender," said Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., a former Air Force officer and a member of the House Armed Services Committee. "They were patriotic ... effective leaders who earned their positions through their merit and their experience and their unwavering commitment to service, just like their male counterparts."

Houlahan said women make up 18% of the military's active-duty force, along with 22% of the National Guard and Reserve.

In March, the Defense Department began to purge references to thousands of photos and posts marked as diversity, equity and inclusion content including Medal of Honor recipients, the Enola Gay aircraft that dropped an atomic bomb on Japan, and the first women to pass infantry training, The Associated Press reported at the time. The Air Force did restore videos of the Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs, to its basic training curriculum after being removed.

"We are all losers when we erase the history of women who serve," Houlahan said Thursday.

In March, Hegseth ordered the

military to make physical fitness standards for all combat jobs gender neutral.

"For far too long, we allowed standards to slip and different standards for men and women in combat arms [military occupational specialties]," Hegseth said in a video posted on X at the time. "That's not acceptable. We need to have the same standard, male or female, in our combat roles."

McQuail said there is "a kind of disinformation campaign circulating" that women want lower standards and lower standards are the only reason women have achieved certain milestones. She went to Ranger School five years after the first two women graduated.

"People always ask me, 'What was it like as a woman? Were you treated differently?' I can honestly say no," she said. "By that time, the groundwork had been laid. It wasn't a big deal."

McQuail said she does not want people in the military who aren't physically or tactically qualified because it is a danger to them and others.

"That's not what is happening. This rhetoric is a cancer that aims to divide us," she said. "I want to be very clear, that is a contrived narrative."

MILITARY

New Coast Guard icebreaker on maiden voyage

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT

Stars and Stripes

The Coast Guard's new commercial icebreaker is en route to the West Coast ahead of its August commissioning in Alaska, marking a milestone in the effort to rebuild U.S. defenses in the Arctic Region.

The Coast Guard Cutter *Storis*, formerly a commercial tow supply vessel, left last week from Pascagoula, Miss., setting sail on its maiden voyage, the service said Wednesday. The icebreaker's voyage means the Coast Guard is one step closer to boosting its depleted and aging polar fleet.

The *Storis*, which has already been painted in Coast Guard colors, is crewed by a hybrid civilian-Coast Guard team. The ship is led by Coast Guard Capt. Keith Ropella, former commander of the service's only heavy icebreaker.

"As the United States' third polar icebreaker, *Storis* will provide near-term operational presence and support national security as a bridging strategy until the full complement of [icebreakers are] delivered," the Coast Guard said.

The *Storis* is slated to begin patrolling Arctic waters in 2026 — a job the ship will do until the service catches up on its plan to build three new heavy icebreakers. The icebreakers, which will be the new Polar Security Cutter class, are six years behind schedule.

The *Storis*' maiden voyage



US Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Storis* moves from the Bollinger Mississippi Shipyard to the city fuel pier June 1. The *Storis* is the Coast Guard's first new polar icebreaker in 25 years, expanding U.S. operational presence in the Arctic Ocean.

comes about five months after President Donald Trump said the Coast Guard would buy 40 big icebreakers during his administration.

"In support of the president's intent to acquire at least 40 new icebreakers, the Coast Guard is working to replace, modernize and grow its aging fleet of icebreakers," the service said Wednesday.

The *Storis* is the first polar icebreaker that the Coast Guard has acquired in more than 25 years.

The service only has two other such icebreakers — the 48-year-old heavy icebreaker *Polar Star* and the 27-year-old medium icebreaker *Healy*.

Polar icebreakers, such as the *Polar Star*, are specifically designed to cut through ice in the Arctic, while the *Healy* was designed to serve as a research or support vessel in the region. The service said it needs at least eight polar icebreakers to meet the operational needs in the polar regions.

Aside from the *Polar Star*, *Healy* and *Storis*, the Coast Guard has 21 domestic icebreakers and 16 ice-capable buoy tenders.

Domestic icebreakers are smaller vessels designed to clear channels for commercial shipping during winter months in waterways such as the Great Lakes. Buoy tenders are capable of breaking up thin layers of ice.

There is an increased demand for Arctic security using icebreakers because climate change has opened new sea lanes in the re-

gion. Russia and China have in recent months operated joint naval exercises in the Bering Sea near Alaska.

The Coast Guard has reported Russia has 55 icebreakers, including seven heavy icebreakers capable of slicing through ice up to 2 meters in thickness. Some of the icebreakers are nuclear-powered, allowing them to operate without refueling.

China has declared itself a "near-Arctic" nation and has fast-tracked icebreaker construction. It has four icebreakers, with a fifth due to launch in 2025.

The government of President Xi Jinping has cut the construction time for new icebreakers to 30 months.

The Coast Guard is working to expedite its icebreaker acquisition process through its new Force Design 2028.

The initiative will work to reform how the Coast Guard buys new ships, with the intention of streamlining the purchase of vessels and new technology.

The *Storis* will temporarily stay in Seattle, where the *Polar Star* and the *Healy* are homeported. The *Storis* will eventually be homeported in Juneau, Alaska, but necessary shore infrastructure improvements must be completed first.

The *Storis*' condition and capabilities will be continually evaluated, the Coast Guard said.

Court-martialed, retired USAF general asks Trump for pardon

BY ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A retired Air Force general who was acquitted of sexual assault but found guilty of lesser charges during a court-martial last year has asked President Donald Trump for a pardon because his case is an example of "a woke-inspired, DEI-led campaign of lawfare."

Phillip Stewart, who retired last month one star below his previously held rank of major general, argued in his petition to the White House that the felony conviction "was a gross example of over-prosecution by the Air Force" and his professional career was sacrificed at the "altar of wokeness."

The Office of the Pardon Attorney confirmed Wednesday that Stewart's application was accepted for review, said Jeffrey Addicott, Stewart's attorney through the Warrior Defense Project at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. The defense project is a nonprofit that only takes on cases with clear indicators that an abuse of the military justice system is or has occurred.

Stewart, a career fighter pilot who served in Afghanistan, plead-



Stewart

ed guilty last year at Joint Base San Antonio to adultery and pursuing an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate.

A military jury convicted him of conduct unbecoming of an officer for inviting the female officer to spend the night in his hotel room and dereliction of duty for flying within 12 hours of drinking alcoholic beverages.

Jurors found him not guilty of sexually assaulting the woman who served on his staff.

Military judge Col. Matthew Stoffel sentenced Stewart to a reprimand, restriction for two months to Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and to forfeit \$10,000 of pay for six months.

The Air Force declined to comment Thursday on Stewart's request for a presidential pardon because the application is pending.

Stewart's attorneys have always maintained he did not assault the woman and the charges to which

he was found guilty did not warrant a court-martial. They could instead be handled in administrative punishment.

The officer who presided over a 2023 preliminary hearing to determine whether there was enough evidence to bring Stewart to a court-martial made the same recommendation, said Addicott, a retired Army lawyer.

Yet, Lt. Gen. Brian Robinson, the commander of Air Education and Training Command and Stewart's boss at the time, decided to go forward with the court-martial. The decision came 10 days before a new law took effect that moved that decision to prosecute from the commander to the Office of Special Trial Counsel.

"Due to the government's mishandling of my case, I have federal convictions for essentially what are either misdemeanors or not even crimes at all in the civilian world," Stewart wrote in his pardon application.

Stewart, who commanded the 19th Air Force at the time of the accusations against him, also wrote in the application that he attempted to plead guilty to all misdemeanor-level charges but was

denied by prosecutors because they were using the lesser charges to bolster the sexual assault charge.

In sending this case to court-martial, the Air Force "engaged in a gross abuse of authority," Addicott said. "At the very inception of the case against Gen. Stewart, it was abundantly clear that the facts and circumstances associated with allegations of sexual assault were spurious.

"While the Warrior Defense Project concurs with the view that the military justice system is a solid tool that overwhelmingly produces justice, there are individual cases that 'fall through the crack' and need to be corrected."

In his pardon application, Stewart also refers to "The War on Warriors," a book written by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth before he took office. Hegseth, then a commentator for Fox News, wrote about a legal assault that he believed was being waged against military members in the name of diversity, equity and inclusion, known commonly as DEI.

"The government knew the allegations against me were false but proceeded with the case

against me anyway to score political points and position themselves for promotion and advancement," Stewart wrote.

Stewart also said being charged with sexual assault now means that he is criminally titled in all background checks run on him.

Titling is a process used by criminal investigators to name a suspect in a formal investigation. However, military investigators are known to enter suspects' names into the FBI database early in investigations, leaving many service members and veterans who were never convicted of crimes with criminal records. There is a case pending in federal court on the practice.

Only one other general has faced a court-martial in the Air Force.

Maj. Gen. William Cooley was convicted of abusive sexual contact in a court-martial in 2022 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. He was sentenced to a reprimand and a forfeiture of nearly \$55,000.

Even with a pardon, Stewart said he would continue to carry the reprimand he received for adultery.

MILITARY

Plan is pitching in to patch up Fort Cavazos

Staff shortages force soldiers to help as cuts reduce maintenance, support services

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A federal employee buyout program has left Fort Cavazos without enough maintenance workers, forcing base leaders to stop all non-urgent repairs on facilities and use soldiers to fill gaps in fire prevention and the hunting and fishing office.

The cuts to base personnel were the product of the Defense Department's efforts to reduce staff through resignations and early retirements among civilian personnel and a hiring freeze that blocks replacing them, said Brian Dosa, a retired Army colonel and director of the base's Directorate of Public Works. The public works department at the base has lost about 15% of its staff.

"It's been significant because we were already a bit short-handed," Dosa said. "A really unfortunate thing about the way this transpired was we didn't have any control over the people that we lost."

The Pentagon has offered two rounds of deferred resignation to certain civilian staff, which allows them to leave their job and continue to get paid through September. It is a way to realign the workforce and strategically restructure it, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in March. There are more than 900,000 civilians throughout DOD, and as of March, about 21,000 had taken the resignation offer during the first round. However, the Pentagon aimed to purge about 60,000 workers.

Officials did not respond to a request for an updated count on how many employees took the offer in the second round. The Army did not respond to questions about the impact of the resignations and how it could affect troop readiness.



SAMANTHA HARMS/U.S. Army

Jeremiah Partyke, maintenance mechanic for the Directorate of Public Works at Fort Cavazos, Texas, writes up the paperwork in 2023 for repairs being done by maintenance worker helper Nicole Stegall.

The military only funds about 90% of its facility maintenance needs, according to a 2022 report from the Government Accountability Office. In fiscal 2020, the Pentagon had a maintenance backlog valued at about \$137 billion.

"Installation officials stated that deferred maintenance leads to the premature failure of facility systems and often leads to more costly repairs, and that maintenance is most often delayed for lower-priority facilities such as living quarters and child care facilities," according to the report.

Home to roughly 38,000 soldiers and more than 14,000 family members, Fort Cavazos is one of the largest posts in the Army. It's home to a corps-level headquarters, an armored division, a training division

and testing command. Overall, it supports more than 500,000 people, the base said.

In a year, the public works department at the base receives about 50,000 work orders for maintenance, Dosa said. About 33% fall into the non-emergency category that will be deferred, he said.

"We don't see any relief in the immediate future. We are told that there will be an opportunity for us to rebalance, which is really, really needed, so that I could cross-level a bit and get us so that we're better able to support soldiers, units and families here," Dosa said.

The ability to rehire would also help, he said.

In the meantime, Dosa said he worked with Lt. Gen. Kevin Admiral, III Corps and Fort Cavazos com-

mander, to make difficult decisions to reduce the workload of existing employees. Admiral agreed soldiers could step into some jobs to fill the gaps.

"We will keep showing up for the mission and for our people," Admiral said in a statement. "This isn't just about personnel numbers. It's about trust. It's about the way we lead through change."

Public Works oversees all maintenance of facilities at Fort Cavazos, as well as roads, range operations, outdoor recreation such as hunting and fishing, utilities and even some programs to assist in housing military families. Nearly all are affected by the reductions in staff, Dosa said.

Public Works dissolved a team dedicated to just barracks repairs and ended two housing-related pro-

grams — one that put families into temporary housing while waiting for on-post housing and another that partnered with off-post landlords to vet safe, affordable rentals for military families. The base will defer all routine maintenance requests that do not threaten life, health or safety, and soldiers will begin chipping in with clearing brush in firebreaks, helping with hunting and fishing operations and keeping the training ranges at full operations.

From the soldiers' perspective, they might begin to see more light-bulbs burned out, more broken toilets and more downed tree limbs, Dosa said.

"We understand priorities, and we're going to do everything we can to address, in my world, the most critical," Dosa said. "We've tried to message and ask people to be patient with us, particularly with air conditioning."

With summer approaching, temperatures in central Texas routinely top 100 degrees. Dosa is down to 60 HVAC technicians when he should have 80. Other areas hit hard are staff who repair traffic signals, those who maintain fire-alarm systems and people licensed to operate heavy machinery, who are often sent out to repair tank trails and ranges.

Robert Evans, an Army veteran who now runs Hots and Cots, an app where soldiers can rate their barracks and dining facilities, said he is worried this deferment of maintenance requests will cause soldiers to lose faith in the system.

"We're just getting caught in a circle. Soldiers aren't going to submit issues because they're not getting addressed. Leadership is going to say we didn't know there are issues because [soldiers] are not reporting them," he said.

Bill would tighten rules for military flights near DC airport

By LORI ARATANI
The Washington Post

Frustrated by a lack of safety improvements since 67 people died Jan. 29 in the midair collision of an Army helicopter and a passenger jet near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Democratic lawmakers are attempting to require that federal officials do a better job of managing dangers.

Senate Democrats introduced a bill that would limit instances in which helicopters, including those operated by the military, are allowed to switch off devices that make them easier to track. It also would require the Pentagon to share more details about safety incidents with the Federal Aviation Administration, including close calls between military and passenger

flights.

Under the current system, the Army does not typically share details from its Aviation Safety Management Information System with the FAA except through Freedom of Information Act requests, a process that can take months or even years to navigate.

Another provision in the bill would require a review of the airspace around Reagan focused on how helicopter, drone and military flights affect passenger flights. The FAA declined to comment. The Defense Department did not comment directly on provisions in the legislation.

Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, said

Congress should move more quickly to address concerns identified by federal investigators and the families of those killed in the collision. In the months that followed fatal crashes of two Boeing 737 Max jets, she recalled, she was part of a bipartisan effort to strengthen the FAA's regulatory oversight of the company.

"Maybe it's other priorities at the moment. I'm not sure, but people haven't been ready to move ahead. And the families have been getting anxious that these accidents are becoming lost in people's minds," she told *The Washington Post*. "But it's time to get off the bench."

The investigation into the Jan. 29 collision is ongoing, but preliminary findings by the National Transportation Safety Board identified multi-

ple system failures. For example, the Army helicopter had switched off safety technology known as ADS-B Out, which would have given air traffic controllers additional information about the aircraft's position in the sky. Federal investigators also found that the FAA had failed to act on reports of more than 15,000 near misses involving aircraft in the corridor.

In the days after the collision, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy temporarily restricted helicopter operations around Reagan, restrictions that were made permanent following after NTSB recommendations.

Still, several high-profile incidents have continued to stoke concerns. Last month, air traffic controllers ordered two passenger jets

to abort landings at Reagan to avoid an Army Black Hawk helicopter.

Some lawmakers have taken steps to close gaps identified by federal investigators involved in the Jan. 29 crash probe. In May, Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., introduced a bill that would require aircraft operating in high-volume airspace to use technology that broadcasts their position and allows them to "see" other aircraft. The Democrats' bill includes a similar provision.

The regional American Airlines jet in the Jan. 29 crash was on final approach to Reagan from Wichita, in Moran's home state. Moran is scheduled to hold a meeting on Wednesday with representatives from the NTSB, the Army and the FAA focused on recent near misses in the airspace around Reagan.

EUROPE

Russia waits on Ukraine on exchange of bodies

Associated Press

Russian officials said Sunday that Moscow is still awaiting official confirmation from Ukraine that a planned exchange of 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action will take place, reiterating allegations that Kyiv had postponed the swap.

On the front line in the war, Russia said that it had pushed into Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region.

Russian state media quoted Lt. Gen. Alexander Zorin, a representative of the Russian negotiating group, as saying that Russia delivered the first batch of 1,212 bodies of Ukrainian soldiers to the exchange site at the border and is waiting for confirmation from Ukraine, but that there were "signals" that the process of transferring the bodies would be postponed until next week.

Citing Zorin on her Telegram channel, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova asked whether it was Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's "personal decision not to take the bodies of the Ukrainians" or whether "someone from NATO prohibited it."

Ukrainian authorities said plans agreed upon during direct talks in

Istanbul last Monday were proceeding accordingly, despite what Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, called Russian attempts to "unilaterally dictate the parameters of the exchange process."

"We are carefully adhering to the agreements reached in Istanbul. Who, when and how to exchange should not be someone's sole decision. Careful preparation is ongoing. Pressure and manipulation are unacceptable here," he said in a statement on Telegram on Sunday.

"The start of repatriation activities based on the results of the negotiations in Istanbul is scheduled for next week, as authorized persons were informed about on Tuesday," the statement said. "Everything is moving according to plan, despite the enemy's dirty information game."

Russia and Ukraine each accused the other on Saturday of endangering plans to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action, which was agreed upon during the talks in Istanbul, which otherwise made no progress toward ending the war.

Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin, led the Russian delegation. Medin-



ANATOLI LYSIANSKY/AP

Fire and smoke rise from the site where a Russian missile struck a residential area in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Saturday.

sky said that Kyiv called a last-minute halt to an imminent swap. In a Telegram post on Saturday, he said that refrigerated trucks carrying more than 1,200 bodies of Ukrainian troops from Russia had already reached the agreed exchange site at the border when the news came.

According to the main Ukrainian authority dealing with such swaps,

no date had been set for repatriating the bodies. In a statement on Saturday, the agency also accused Russia of submitting lists of prisoners of war for repatriation that didn't correspond to agreements reached on Monday.

It wasn't immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting claims.

In other developments, Russia's

Defense Ministry said Sunday that its forces had reached the western edge of the Donetsk region, one of the four provinces Russia illegally annexed in 2022, and that troops were "developing the offensive" in the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region. This would be the first time Russian troops had pushed into the region in the more than 3-year-old war.

Ukraine didn't immediately respond to the claim, and The Associated Press couldn't immediately verify it.

Russia's advance would mark a significant setback for Ukraine's already stretched forces as peace talks remain stalled and Russian troops have made incremental gains elsewhere.

Elsewhere, one person was killed and another seriously wounded in Russian aerial strikes on the eastern Ukrainian Kharkiv region. These strikes came after Russian attacks targeted the regional capital, also called Kharkiv, on Saturday.

Five people were wounded Sunday in a Ukrainian drone attack on a parking lot in Russia's Belgorod region, according to regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov.

Merz: Trump seems open to dialogue, committed to NATO

Associated Press

BERLIN—German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Friday, a day after meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House, that he encountered a U.S. administration open to discussion and returned confident that Washington remains committed to NATO.

Merz described his Oval Office meeting and extended lunch with Trump as constructive but also candid, noting that the two leaders expressed different views on Ukraine.

"Yesterday, in the meeting at the Oval Office, I expressed a distinctly different position on the topic of Ukraine than the one Trump had taken, and not only was there no objection, but we discussed it in detail again over lunch," Merz said in Berlin after his return.

Thursday's White House meeting marked the first time the two sat down in person. Merz, who became chancellor in May, avoided the kind of confrontations in the Oval Office that have tripped up other world leaders, including Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa.

The two leaders opened with pleasantries. Merz presented Trump with a gold-framed birth certificate of the president's grandfather, Friedrich Trump, who emigrated from Kallstadt, Germany. Trump called Merz a "very good man to deal with."

The American administration, Merz said, is open to discussion, listens, and is willing to accept differing opinions.

Merz added that dialogue should go both ways: "Let's stop talking about Donald Trump with a raised finger and wrinkled nose. You have to talk with him, not about him."

He said he also met with senators on Capitol Hill, urging them to recognize the scale of Russian rearmament.

"Please take a look at how far Russia's armament is going, what they are currently doing there; you ob-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump, right, meets Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz at the White House, on Thursday. Merz said the two leaders expressed different views on Ukraine.

viously have no idea what's happening," he said he told them. "In short, you can talk to them, but you must not let yourself be intimidated. I don't have that inclination anyway."

Merz, who speaks English fluently, stressed the need for trans-Atlantic trust and said he reminded Trump that allies matter.

"Whether we like it or not, we will remain dependent on the United States of America for a long time," he said. "But you also need partners in the world, and the Europeans, especially the Germans, are the best-suited partners."

"This is the difference between authoritarian systems and democracies: authoritarian systems have subordinates. Democracies have partners — and we want to be those partners in Europe and with America."

He reiterated that the U.S. remains committed to NATO, particularly as Germany and others boost their defense spending. Trump has in the past suggested that the U.S. might abandon its commitments to the alliance if member countries don't meet defense spending targets.

"I have absolutely no doubt that the American government is committed to NATO, especially now that we've all said we're doing more," Merz said.

Trump says US will keep troop presence in Germany

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump said last week that he wants to keep American forces in Germany, where questions have been raised for months about the future of the tens of thousands of service members stationed at numerous U.S. bases the country hosts.

When asked Thursday whether he intends to maintain the U.S. troop presence on the key NATO ally's territory, Trump replied: "The answer is yes."

"We have a lot of them, about 45,000," he said. "It's a lot of troops. It's a city."

Trump's comments came during a White House meeting with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and coincide with a push by Berlin to meet Trump's demands for more defense spending.

Trump said he and Merz would discuss the status of U.S. forces in the country. His favorable characterization of Germany during Merz's visit contrasts with the harder line he took toward Berlin during his first term.

At that time, Germany bore the brunt of Trump's criticisms about NATO allies' paltry defense spending. And the previously inadequate German military budgets were one reason Trump sought to pull 12,000 troops out of the country at the end of his tenure.

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 changed the German government's thinking on defense needs, however, as Merz's predecessor, Olaf Scholz, declared it a "turning point."

Amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Germany gradually began to rebuild its military capabilities and has committed to raising its defense spending to 5% of gross domestic product, in line with Trump's demands to fellow NATO members.

On Thursday, Trump said Germany is dedicating "quite a bit more money" to its military now.

Trump's reassurances came in the context of a global force posture review by the Pentagon that could have implications for how U.S. personnel are deployed worldwide.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has called on European allies to shoulder more of the security burden on the Continent so the U.S. can dedicate more attention and forces to countering China in the Pacific region.

That could mean reductions to the roughly 80,000 troops that now operate across Europe, although the Pentagon has said there are no immediate plans for reductions.

While it's not clear whether some of the U.S. forces in Germany could be reduced, Trump's comments suggest a total withdrawal is likely off the table for now.

NATION

New disputes emerge before US-China talks

By **KEN MORITSUGU**
Associated Press

U.S.-China trade talks in London this week are expected to take up a series of fresh disputes that have buffeted relations, threatening a fragile truce over tariffs.

Both sides agreed in Geneva last month to a 90-day suspension of most of the 100%-plus tariffs they had imposed on each other in an escalating trade war that had sparked fears of recession.

Since then, the U.S. and China have exchanged angry words over advanced semiconductors that power artificial intelligence, "rare earths" that are vital to carmakers and other industries, and visas for

Chinese students at American universities.

President Donald Trump spoke at length with Chinese leader Xi Jinping by phone last Thursday in an attempt to put relations back on track. Trump announced on social media the next day that trade talks would be held on Monday in London.

The latest frictions began just a day after the May 12 announcement of the Geneva agreement to "pause" tariffs for 90 days.

The U.S. Commerce Department issued guidance saying the use of Ascend AI chips from Huawei, a leading Chinese tech company, could violate U.S. export

controls. That's because the chips were likely developed with American technology despite restrictions on its export to China, the guidance said.

The Chinese government wasn't pleased. One of its biggest beefs in recent years has been over U.S. moves to limit the access of Chinese companies to technology, and in particular to equipment and processes needed to produce the most advanced semiconductors.

"The Chinese side urges the U.S. side to immediately correct its erroneous practices," a Commerce Ministry spokesperson said.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ho-

ward Lutnick wasn't in Geneva but will join the talks in London. Analysts say that suggests at least a willingness on the U.S. side to hear out China's concerns on export controls.

One area where China holds the upper hand is in the mining and processing of rare earths. They are crucial for not only autos but also a range of other products from robots to military equipment.

The Chinese government started requiring producers to obtain a license to export seven rare earth elements in April. Resulting shortages sent automakers worldwide into a tizzy. As stockpiles ran down, some worried they would

have to halt production.

Trump, without mentioning rare earths specifically, took to social media to attack China.

"The bad news is that China, perhaps not surprisingly to some, HAS TOTALLY VIOLATED ITS AGREEMENT WITH US," Trump posted on May 30.

The Chinese government indicated Saturday that it is addressing the concerns, which have come from European companies as well. A Commerce Ministry statement said it had granted some approvals and "will continue to strengthen the approval of applications that comply with regulations."

Ride: Threats from Musk rattle NASA, the Pentagon

FROM PAGE 1

dozen people in industry and government who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about internal deliberations.

One NASA official said that watching the feud between Trump and Musk play out on social media Thursday at first was "entertaining." But once Musk called for decommissioning Dragon, "it turned really terrifying."

There was a similar reaction in the Pentagon, where a person said staff officers "looked at each other and said, 'oh, it's not funny anymore.' There was a realization that we're not watching TV. This is a real issue."

Musk's behavior has worried NASA officials before. In 2018, NASA ordered an investigation into SpaceX's safety culture after Musk appeared to take a small hit of marijuana on the Joe Rogan podcast. But his sudden threat on social media to cut off NASA's access to the orbiting space station, which has cost NASA some \$100 billion over its lifespan, "crossed a line," one former space agency official said. "When you realize that he's willing to shut everything down just on an impulse, that kind of behavior and the dependence on him is dangerous. ... I can tell you there is deep concern within NASA."

The rift between Musk and Trump was also fueled by the White House's withdrawal of Jared Isaacman's nomination to be NASA administrator. Isaacman had flown to space twice with SpaceX and was seen as closely aligned with Musk.

SpaceX did not respond to a request for comment.

Since Thursday's exchange, at least three commercial space companies, RocketLab, Stoke

Space and Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin, have been contacted by government officials about the status of their rockets and when they might be available for government missions, according to four people familiar with the inquiries. (Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

Officials at Sierra Space, which is developing a Dream Chaser spaceplane that could deliver cargo to the space station, were in a meeting with NASA officials on Thursday as the Trump-Musk feud was getting underway.

"Sierra Space stands ready to ensure uninterrupted support for the International Space Station," Fatih Ozmen, the company's CEO, said in a statement to The Post. He added that "NASA mentioned to us that they want diversity and do not want to rely on a single provider." Dream Chaser "is in final testing and integration at Kennedy Space Center," Ozmen said. "We are working closely with NASA leadership to fly the vehicle later this year."

The company is also working on a variant of Dream Chaser to carry astronauts, he said, "which NASA is studying."

Musk's declaration also rattled staffers on Capitol Hill. A key congressional committee asked about the status of Boeing's Starliner space capsule vehicle, according to a person with knowledge of the inquiry. NASA intends to use Starliner to fly crews to the space station along with SpaceX's Dragon capsule. The spacecraft is years behind schedule, however, and during its first human spaceflight mission to the ISS last summer, it ran into so many problems that NASA decided it was unsafe to return to the crew with Boeing.

But with Musk threatening to end Dragon, the congressional aide wanted to know when Starlin-



ERIC GAY/AP

SpaceX's mega rocket Starship launches for a test flight from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, in January.

er would be ready to fly again. In recent months, NASA has said little about the status of Starliner. But in response to reporters' questions, the agency issued a statement late Friday saying that it is planning for a Starliner flight to the space station "in early 2026, pending system certification and resolution of Starliner's technical issues." NASA is still evaluating whether the capsule would fly with astronauts on board or with cargo only.

Even though he later recanted, Musk's threat to curtail NASA's use of Dragon could be damaging to a company that has been one of the government's most trusted partners, said Todd Harrison, a defense analyst at the American Enterprise Institute.

"It's almost like an embargo of the space station," he said. "Musk was saying he is going to cut NASA off from its own laboratory in space."

Harrison said the threat was reminiscent of Musk's refusal to activate the Starlink Internet system so that Ukraine could carry out an attack on Russian forces in

2022. That decision also prompted an outcry that the nation's defenses should not be in the hands of a single person or company.

Given that SpaceX has experience operating its Starlink Internet satellite constellation, it had been considered to be a natural choice for Trump's proposed Golden Dome missile defense shield, which would rely on swarms of satellites in orbit.

But Musk's threat was so impulsive that it will undoubtedly rattle defense officials, Harrison said, who would not look favorably on the "idea that the nation's missile defenses could be held hostage to the twittering whims of Elon Musk."

For NASA's astronauts, Musk's social media post "got very personal" because it could impact their ability to fly, said Garrett Reisman, a former NASA astronaut who previously worked at SpaceX. "We shouldn't overreact to a fit of pique on social media. But when your hopes and dreams are tied up in this, you can't help but think, 'Oh my goodness am I going to fly in space?'"

The Pentagon has recently made an effort to broaden the military and space industrial base, allowing for competition to drive down cost and increase innovation. The Space Force last year released a strategy that said the service would seek to avoid "overreliance on any single provider or solution."

To allow more companies to vie for lucrative space contracts, the Pentagon recently created two "lanes" of launch competitions. Lane 1 allows new entrants to bid on individual contracts to launch satellites that are smaller and not as vital; Lane 2 would be reserved for more powerful and proven rockets that would hoist satellites that cannot risk failure.

SpaceX, however, has continued to dominate those missions. Its Falcon 9 rocket launches at an unprecedented cadence, while those of its competitors, including the United Launch Alliance's Vulcan, Blue Origin's New Glenn and RocketLab's Neutron, are still largely unproven. New Glenn has launched just once; Vulcan twice; Neutron not at all.

NATION

National Guard deploys to LA to quell immigration protests

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — National Guard troops began arriving in Los Angeles early Sunday on orders from President Donald Trump in response to clashes in recent days between federal immigration authorities and protesters seeking to block them from carrying out deportations.

Members of California's National Guard were seen staging at the federal complex in downtown Los Angeles that includes the Metropolitan Detention Center, one of several sites that have drawn confrontations involving hundreds of people in the last two days.

Trump has said he is deploying 2,000 California National Guard troops to Los Angeles to quell the protests, which he called "a form of rebellion."

The move came over the objec-

tions of Gov. Gavin Newsom, marking the first time in decades that a state's national guard was activated without a request from its governor, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

Early Sunday, the deployment was limited to a small area in downtown Los Angeles, with the rest of the city of 4 million people largely unaffected.

Their arrival follows two days of relatively small protests that began Friday in downtown Los Angeles before spreading on Saturday to Paramount, a heavily Latino city south of the city, and neighboring Compton.

As federal agents staged near a Home Depot in Paramount, demonstrators sought to block Border Patrol vehicles, with some hurling rocks and chunks of cement. In response, federal agents in riot gear

unleashed tear gas, flash-bang explosives and pepper balls.

Tensions were high after a series of sweeps by immigration authorities the previous day, as the week-long tally of immigrant arrests in the city climbed past 100. A prominent union leader was arrested while protesting and accused of impeding law enforcement.

Newsom called Trump on Friday night and they spoke for about 40 minutes, according to the governor's office. It was not clear if they spoke Saturday or Sunday.

On Sunday morning, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said the National Guard would "keep peace and allow people to be able to protest but also to keep law and order."

The troops included members of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, according to a social media



JAE C. HONG/AP

Protesters gather at the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons after federal immigration authorities conducted an operation on Friday in Los Angeles.

post from the Department of Defense that showed dozens of National Guard members with long guns and an armored vehicle.

In a signal of the administration's aggressive approach, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth also threatened to deploy active-duty Marines "if violence continues" in the region.

Newsom, a Democrat, described Trump's decision to call in the Na-

tional Guard as a "provocative show of force" that would only escalate tensions, adding that Hegseth's threat to deploy Marines on American soil was "deranged behavior."

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said the order by Trump reflected "a president moving this country rapidly into authoritarianism" and "usurping the powers of the United States Congress."

Kilmar Abrego Garcia is back in US, charged with human smuggling

Associated Press

To hear the Trump administration tell it, Kilmar Abrego Garcia smuggled thousands of people across the country who were living in the U.S. illegally, including members of the violent MS-13 gang, long before his mistaken deportation to El Salvador. In allegations made public nearly three months after his removal, U.S. officials say Abrego Garcia abused the women he transported, while a co-conspirator alleged

he participated in a gang-related killing in his native El Salvador.

Abrego Garcia's wife and lawyers offer a much different story. They say the now 29-year-old had as a teenager fled local gangs that terrorized his family in El Salvador for a life in Maryland. He found work in construction, got married and was raising three children with disabilities before he was mistakenly deported in March.

The fight became a political

flashpoint in the administration's stepped-up immigration enforcement. Now it returns to the U.S. court system, where Abrego Garcia appeared Friday after being returned from El Salvador. He faces new charges related to a large human smuggling operation and is in federal custody in Tennessee.

Speaking to NBC's Kristen Welken in a phone interview Saturday President Donald Trump said it was not his decision to

bring Abrego Garcia back. "The Department of Justice decided to do it that way, and that's fine," he said. "There are two ways you could have done it, and they decided to do it that way." Trump said it should "be a very easy case."

In announcing Abrego Garcia's return Attorney General Pam Bondi called him "a smuggler of humans and children and women" in announcing the unsealing of a grand jury indictment. His

lawyers say a jury won't believe the "preposterous" allegations.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who visited Abrego Garcia in El Salvador, said his return to the U.S. was long overdue.

"As I have repeatedly said, this is not about the man, it's about his constitutional rights — and the rights of all," the Maryland Democrat said in a statement. "The Administration will now have to make its case in the court of law, as it should have all along."

STARS AND STRIPES

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market




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WORLD

Al-Qaida leader threatens Trump and others

BY JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—The leader of al-Qaida's Yemen branch has threatened both U.S. President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip in his first video message since taking over the group last year.

The half-hour video message by Saad bin Atef al-Awlaki, which spread online early Saturday via supporters of al-Qaida in the Ara-

bian Peninsula, also included calls for lone-wolf militants to assassinate leaders in Egypt, Jordan and the Gulf Arab states over the war, which has decimated Gaza.

The video of al-Awlaki's speech showed images of Trump and Musk, as well as U.S. Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. It also included images of logos of Musk's businesses, including the electric carmaker Tesla.

"There are no red lines after what

happened and is happening to our people in Gaza," al-Awlaki said. "Reciprocity is legitimate."

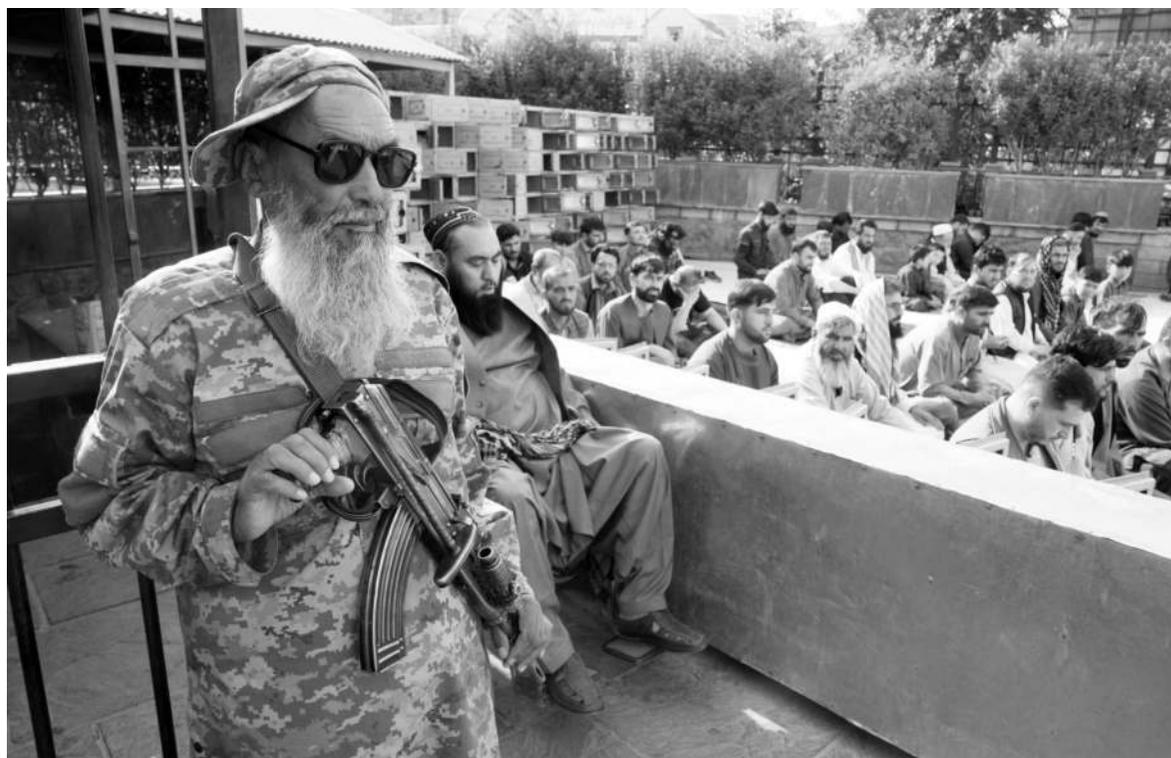
Though believed to be weakened in recent years due to infighting and suspected U.S. drone strikes killing its leaders, the group known by the acronym AQAP had been considered the most dangerous branch of al-Qaida still operating after the 2011 killing by U.S. Navy SEALs of founder Osama bin Laden, who masterminded the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

In 2022, a U.S. drone strike in Afghanistan killed bin Laden's successor, Ayman al-Zawahri, who also helped plot 9/11. The Sept. 11 attacks then began decades of war by the U.S. in Afghanistan and Iraq, and fomented the rise of the Islamic State group.

Al-Awlaki already has a \$6 million U.S. bounty on his head, as Washington says al-Awlaki "has publicly called for attacks against the United States and its allies." He replaced AQAP leader Khalid al-

Batarfi, whose death was announced by the group in 2024.

AQAP seizing onto the Israel-Hamas war follows the efforts of Yemen's Houthis rebels to do the same. The Iranian-backed group has launched missile attacks on Israel and targeted commercial vessels moving through the Red Sea corridor, as well as American warships. The U.S. Navy has described their campaign against the Houthis as the most intense combat it has faced since World War II.



EBRAHIM NOROOZI/AP

Afghan Muslims perform Eid al-Adha prayer while a Taliban fighter stands guard in the Shah-Do Shamshira Mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday.

The top Taliban leader decries Trump's travel ban on Afghans

Associated Press

The top Taliban leader on Saturday slammed President Donald Trump's travel ban on Afghans, calling the United States an oppressor, as Afghanistan's rulers seek greater engagement with the international community.

The comments from Hibatullah Akhundzada marked the first public reaction from the Taliban since the Trump administration last week moved to bar citizens from 12 countries, including Afghanistan, from entering the U.S.

Trump's executive order largely applies to Afghans hoping to resettle in the U.S. permanently, as well as those hoping to go to America temporarily, including for university studies.

Since returning to power in Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures, banned women from public places and education for women and girls beyond the sixth grade. And though they have so far failed to gain recognition as the country's official government, the Taliban have dip-

lomatic relations with several countries, including China and Russia.

Akhundzada released his message on the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha, also known as the "Feast of Sacrifice," from the southern city of Kandahar, where he has set up base but is rarely seen in public.

In a 45-minute audio recording shared by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on X, Akhundzada denounced the Trump administration for imposing "restrictions on people."

North Korea says its capsized destroyer is righted, under repair

BY KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Friday it had righted a capsized destroyer and moored it at a pier in the northeastern port of Chongjin as it continues to repair the new warship leader Kim Jong Un has described as a significant asset for his nuclear-armed military.

The report by North Korean state media aligned with South Korean military assessments and recent commercial satellite images.

North Korea's official Central News Agency said experts will closely examine the ship's hull before beginning the next phase of restoration, which will take place at a dry dock at the neighboring port of Rajin and is expected to last seven to 10 days.

Satellite images taken Thursday by Planet Labs PBC analyzed by The Associated Press showed the stricken destroyer upright and floating. It wasn't immediately clear from the image just how much damage had been done to the vessel, which had been in the water for days after the failed launch. However, the ship did not appear to be noticeably listing, meaning Pyongyang is likely able to send it onward to the other port to inspect the vessel's electronics.

Jo Chun Ryong, a senior official from the ruling Workers' Party, told the agency that the "perfect restoration of the destroyer will be completed without fail" before a major party congress in late June, a deadline set

by Kim.

Outside experts say it remains unclear how severely the 5,000-ton-class destroyer was damaged during a botched launching ceremony in late May, which triggered a furious response from Kim, who called the failure a "criminal act caused by absolute carelessness, irresponsibility, and unscientific empiricism."

North Korean law enforcement authorities have detained at least four officials over the incident, including the vice director of the Workers' Party's munitions industry department, according to state media. The North's main military committee said those responsible would be held accountable for their "unpardonable criminal act."

Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters Thursday that the South's military assesses that the North Koreans righted the ship early last week and are likely conducting drainage operations while examining the damage.

"The nature and duration of the repair process will vary, depending on internal repairs, additional work or whether the incident affected the keel," Lee said, referring to the ship's structural backbone. "This could also affect how the ship is used going forward."

The damaged warship was North Korea's second known destroyer and seen as a crucial asset toward Kim's goal of modernizing its naval forces.

Chinese ship runs aground off Philippines-occupied island in South China Sea

Associated Press

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines — A Chinese ship ran aground in stormy weather in shallow waters off a Philippines-occupied island in the disputed South China Sea, prompting Filipino forces to go on alert, Philippine

military officials said Sunday.

When Filipino forces assessed that the Chinese fishing vessel appeared to have run aground in the shallows east of Thitu Island on Saturday because of bad weather, Philippine military and coast guard personnel deployed to pro-

vide help but later saw that the ship had been extricated, regional navy spokesperson Ellaine Rose Collado said.

No other details were immediately available, including if there were injuries among the crewmembers or if the ship was dam-

aged, Collado said.

Confrontations have spiked between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and navy ships in the disputed waters in recent years.

"The alertness of our troops is always there," Col. Xerxes Trinidad of the Armed Forces of the Philip-

pines told reporters. But when they saw that a probable accident had happened, "we tried to provide assistance as professionals" in accordance with international law on helping distressed vessels at sea.

"We're always following international law," Trinidad said.

FACES

Q&A

Renée the risk-taker

‘Hamilton’ alum Goldsberry releases 1st solo album, ‘Who I Really Am’

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

Renée Elise Goldsberry is most inspired by artists bold enough to take a career leap, even when there's no guarantee of a safe landing.

Over the years, Goldsberry spent her celebrated career surrounded by fearless risk-takers. Now, the Tony and Grammy winner, best known for her breakout role in the Broadway musical “Hamilton,” is taking a bold move of her own. She's stepping into the spotlight as a solo artist: Her debut album, “Who I Really Am,” was released June 6.

“I'm surrounded by friends that do really crazy, brave, I could fail miserably things,” said Goldsberry, whose role as Angelica Schuyler in Hamilton won her a Tony in 2016 for best featured actress in a musical. In that same year, she earned a Grammy for best musical theater album.

With “Who I Really Am,” Goldsberry is carving her own musical path. The album is a 13-track project filled with soul, funk, blues and gospel vibes featuring a reimagined version of her iconic “Hamilton” song “Satisfied,” which was originally penned by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

In a recent interview, Goldsberry talks to The Associated Press about finding her identity through the album and aspirations for an EGOT, a term for the rare person who's won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Associated Press: You wrote 11 songs on the album. While creating this project, what did you discover more about yourself?

Goldsberry: I need to give myself license to be more than one thing. I think that's always been the case with recorded music for me. I've been writing since I was a kid. The challenge for me has always been feeling like you have to be extremely specific about a box when you're a recording artist. It has to all sound like one mood, one vibe. I had to give myself permission to not try to fit into a box that exists, or even a box that's specific. I gave myself license to express myself in all the ways it naturally comes out.

You started the album process in 2020. What were your initial thoughts on re-recording “Satisfied”?

Somebody said to me, “You could probably get a record deal and do an album if you re-record “Satisfied.” I said, “Absolutely

no.” I'm absolutely not doing that. It already exists. It's perfect. The show is perfect.

What shifted your thinking?

In the process of recording all the music, we rented a studio in Nashville. It's where Dolly Parton recorded “Jolene.” It felt like all this history was there. We had all these great musicians there. We booked the studio for a week or two and we finished early, and they were going to let everybody go home. And I was like, “We might as well record this version of ‘Satisfied’ that I do in my concert, because we're sitting here.” And these cats are amazing. ... They started playing, and our minds exploded. The control booth. Our brains exploded. It was so good. Then I started singing it. I said to us, “This belongs.”

Your “Girls5Eva” [television show] co-star Sara Bareilles wrote the song “Smiling.” How was it reuniting with her?

I think she is one of the greatest singer-songwriters that has ever existed and might ever exist. I had the privilege of being in a concert with her. I opened for her at the Hollywood Bowl a couple of months ago. She was doing something new. I love artists and I'm one of them in this moment. But I love artists that do new things that



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Renée Elise Goldsberry, shown May 21, has released a solo album, “Who I Really Am,” 13 tracks of soul, funk, blues and gospel vibes.

might not work, bravely. She had orchestrated all of her music. She had a huge symphony orchestrated show. All the music that she had written.

You're halfway to EGOT status. Is that something you feel like it's achievable?

I'm not going to lie, I've thought of different ways I could slip in the back door, you know what I mean? Like, I have a documentary called

“Satisfied” (which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival last year) about the journey in my life when I was part of the original company of “Hamilton” and also trying to raise my young family. We were like, “What original song can we put in this movie to contend for slipping in the Oscar category?” ... It's possible. But I'm less interested in the results of a journey than the journey itself.

Shaq, Iverson team up to revive Reebok in ‘Power Moves’ doc

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

Shaquille O'Neal and Allen Iverson once clashed on the court in the 2001 NBA Finals, but now the basketball legends are joining forces to revive the Reebok brand they helped make iconic.

In the Netflix docuseries “Power Moves,” which premiered last week, the Hall of Famers swap jerseys for executive titles, with O'Neal stepping in as president of Reebok Basketball while Iverson takes on the role as vice president. The six-episode series offers a behind-the-scenes look at their mission to spark a cultural resurgence for the classic sneaker company.

O'Neal, standing 7-foot-1, sees himself as a voice for today's big men. But when it comes to reaching the quick, gritty guards of this generation, he knows there's no better ambassador than the 6-foot Iverson, whose '90s signature shoes are still a staple in sneakerhead circles.

“I didn't build Reebok all by myself,” said O'Neal, who won three NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers and another with the Miami Heat. He signed with Reebok in 1992 and made the brand popular with his first signature shoe, called the Shaq Attaq.

Iverson's signature shoes, The Question and The Answer, were some of the top sell-



AP

Professional basketball players Shaquille O'Neal, left, and Allen Iverson watch NBA All-Star events in Denver in 2005.

ers in the industry. He signed a lifetime endorsement and marketing contract with Reebok in 2001.

“I needed A.I. to be vice president because if you're a guard, you want to see a legendary guard,” O'Neal said. “I wanted to do a show that's not scripted. Not polished. I wanted it to be real work.”

Iverson called helping revitalize Reebok a “full circle moment” while working alongside O'Neal, who he calls “big bro.”

“I get the honor of doing this with (Shaq), having a relationship with him,” said Iverson, the former Philadelphia 76ers guard, who was an 11-time All-Star.



NETFLIX/AP

O'Neal, left, and Iverson are teaming up for the Netflix documentary series “Power Moves with Shaquille O'Neal.”

Reebok, founded in 1895, became a household name in the early 1990s, thanks to Boston Celtics guard Dee Brown and his iconic Pump sneakers. The brand took off from there, inking major deals with O'Neal and Iverson, partnering with the NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB, and even stepping into hip-hop with signature lines for Jay-Z and 50 Cent's G-Unit.

But Reebok's cultural momentum began to fade after Nike doubled down on star power with Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. Adidas bought the company for \$3.8 billion in 2006, aiming to better compete with Nike on a global scale.

Instead, Reebok struggled to find its footing, gradually losing its identity in both sports and style.

“Now it's time for us to get Reebok back to prominence,” said O'Neal, who played a key role in Reebok's acquisition in 2021 by Authentic Brands Group, where he is a shareholder.

“Power Moves” dives into Reebok's strategy for staying relevant, including signing rising stars like WNBA phenom Angel Reese to the brand's first name, image and likeness (NIL) deal. The series also shows how O'Neal leans on a surprising source for insight into today's athletes.

Shaq was initially set on creating high-top sneakers, until a visit to a massive Amateur Athletic Union tournament — with nearly 70 courts — sparked a shift. Shaq's son, Shaqreef, pulled his dad aside and explained that low tops are the go-to for this generation.

Iverson believes he and Shaq can help Reebok bounce back by paying forward the same support and opportunity the brand once gave them.

“We're going to show our love to the brand that showed us love,” he said. “We're putting our efforts into what they did in my life. Reebok took care of my family, my friends, me. It was a power move. We're here to bring it back.”

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OPINION

Putin is an open book US leaders refuse to read

BY GEORGE F. WILL

The Washington Post

Recently, 20,000 people were evacuated from the center of the German city of Cologne because of a timely reminder from the past: three unexploded bombs dropped on the pulverized city during World War II. A thousand miles to the east, reverberations from explosions in Ukraine are part of Europe's present. And of its foreseeable future, in part because of past misjudgments.

Consider 1994. That was three years after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. And five years after U.S. political scientist Francis Fukuyama's influential essay argued that humanity's ideological evolution had culminated in "the end of history": the exhaustion of all social systems hitherto considered plausible alternatives to open, liberal societies.

In 1994, Ukraine surrendered the Soviet-era nuclear weapons it possessed, receiving in exchange U.S., British, French, Russian and Chinese security guarantees. Twenty years later, Russia seized Crimea. And began supporting insurrections aimed at dismembering Ukraine.

Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs from 2020 to 2024, writing in *Foreign Affairs*, says, "The stark reality is that neither Russia nor Ukraine has much of an incentive to stop the fighting." What Vladimir Putin calls "the root causes of the conflict" are really one cause: Ukraine's existence as a sovereign nation.

Although there is no excuse for it, there is a reason for the failure of U.S. leaders to understand Putin. He is an open book who has been reading himself to the world since long before he published his 2021 essay "On the His-

torical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians." This farrago of ethnic mysticisms and history seen through a pseudo-theological lens is Putin's "Mein Kampf." His resentments and revenge aspirations are all there. But are largely ignored or disbelieved by the West's statesmen and publics who complacently believe that the end of history meant the end of toxic nonsense such as this:

Putin believes Russia is a "civilization-state" with cultural-cum-religious significance, rights and responsibilities that justify the erasure of other nations. Which is why the *Economist* correctly says that for Putin "war has become an ideology."

What Johns Hopkins University's Hal Brands describes as Putin's "quasi-genocidal barbarities" are committed in the name of a totalizing, uncompromisable objective: the political and cultural extinction of Ukraine. Russia has kidnapped, for the purpose of "Russification," uncountable thousands of Ukrainian children. Their return is, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says, Kyiv's "number one" priority in negotiations. Try explaining *that* to Steve Witkoff.

This real estate developer, Donald Trump's designated war-ender, says he and Putin have developed a "friendship." Witkoff echoes Jimmy Carter's Secretary of State Cyrus Vance saying that Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev shares similar "dreams and aspirations." Witkoff wonders, "Why would [Russia] want to absorb Ukraine?" Putin explained in his 2021 essay, which shows that peace is impossible.

In 1991, Crimea, like the rest of Ukraine, voted for independence. In 2018, the first Trump administration's Crimea Declaration said "the United States reaffirms as policy its refusal to recognize the Kremlin's claims of

sovereignty over territory seized by force in contravention of international law." Trump's State Department said this would be U.S. policy "until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored." In 2022, then-Sen. Marco Rubio sponsored a bill that would have forbidden U.S. acknowledgment of Russian sovereignty over seized Ukrainian territory. Recently, however, the elastic Trump breezily said Crimea was "lost years ago."

The end of history has not yet reached Europe. Writing in *Foreign Affairs*, Theodore Bunzel and Elina Ribakova recall a prophecy from Jean Monnet, a founder of the European Union: "Europe will be forged in crises, and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises." Unintended beneficial consequences of Putin's catastrophic blunder in Ukraine include NATO's enlargement (Finland and Sweden), revitalization of the U.S. defense industrial base and renewed seriousness about Europe's self-defense.

In a 1951 letter to a friend, an American contemporary of Monnet said that the challenge then was "how to inspire Europe to produce for itself those armed forces that, in the long run, must provide the only means by which Europe can be defended." So wrote someone with firsthand experience of European dangers, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Today, Dalibor Rohac of the American Enterprise Institute writes: "The good news is that we know for a fact, based on the experience of the past three years, that even a relatively small and poor country such as Ukraine—never mind the top-shelf militaries of Poland or Finland—can stop Russia in its tracks, with what has been modest U.S. and international support." This reality has escaped the notice of "realists" who think Ukraine is flimsy.

Abrego García twists might make Trump shout

BY JASON WILLOCK

The Washington Post

What a climbdown by White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller. In April, the Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that the Trump administration needed to "facilitate" the release of a man, Kilmar Abrego García, from a prison in El Salvador because it had sent him there in violation of an immigration judge's order.

The next week in the Oval Office on live television, Miller taunted the Supreme Court, gleefully distorting what it had held. A district judge, he claimed, had told the Trump administration "to kidnap a citizen of El Salvador and fly him back here," but the Supreme Court ruled "9-0 in our favor."

For weeks afterward, Miller breathed fire on social media while the administration stonewalled in court. But on Friday, Abrego García showed up in Tennessee. The Trump administration apparently decided to "kidnap" him after all to suit its changing political needs.

The White House's compliance with the law is good news for the country if not necessarily for Abrego García, who came to the United States illegally in the early 2010s. On the day of his return, the Justice Department unsealed an indictment charging Abrego García with felonies for his alleged role in an "illegal alien smuggling operation" from 2016-25. Prosecutors say he drove migrants on "more than 100 trips between Texas to Maryland and other states."

The media can't resist turning certain subjects into saints, and reporters have labored to portray Abrego García as sympathetic. But this story was never about a particular migrant's character. At stake is whether the executive branch can send people from U.S. soil to foreign prisons and hold them there even when courts say it is illegal. For a while, it looked like the answer might be "yes." Now it's at least less clear.

Miller, the front man for the White House's political assault on judges, sent two posts on X furiously denying that Abrego García's return — which Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said would never happen — is a retreat for the administration. Abrego García is "here because new evidence has resulted in a massive criminal indictment," Miller insists. "He will be tried, jailed and then deported again to El Salvador."

Maybe so. But to convict Abrego García in the U.S., the executive branch has to prove he committed crimes—a nontrivial step it did not take before having him incarcerated abroad. And now that he's back under the jurisdiction of U.S. courts, the administration will have trouble illegally deporting him a second time.

In short, the Trump administration was using extralegal methods to punish Abrego García. Now it seems prepared to use legal methods. That is a major change. The administration could have tried to lawfully deport him in the first place. But Miller has insisted on a cowboy approach to immigration enforcement, and this standoff was the result. It didn't help President Donald Trump politically. A

YouGov poll in late April showed that Americans who held an opinion on the matter wanted the administration to facilitate Abrego García's release by a more than two-to-one margin, even as damaging information about him emerged. The White House might have concluded that the frisson of defiance wasn't worth the political drag ahead. Hence the retreat, made more palatable by the criminal charges against Abrego García.

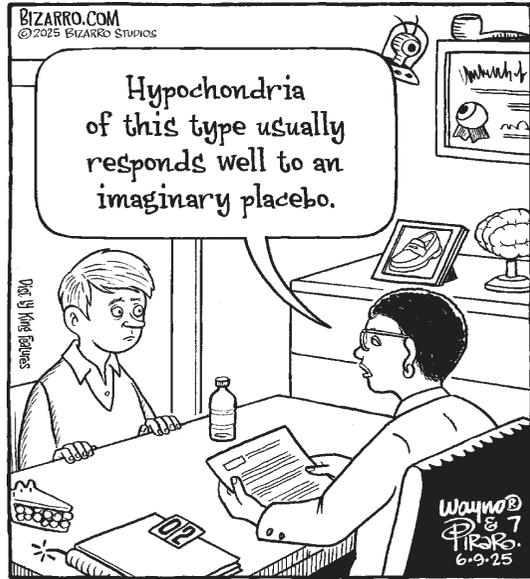
If the Justice Department can convict Abrego García, that will be a political win against liberals who tried to make the case a referendum on an innocent "Maryland father." But whatever the outcome, the main winner from the White House's decision to yield to the law is the judiciary.

Especially vindicated is Chief Justice John Roberts' measured approach to the Trump administration. The court's "facilitate" ruling in April was a unanimous nudge. It stopped short of demanding Abrego García's release on any specific timeline because that might interfere with the president's foreign affairs powers in dealing with El Salvador.

But the court took note of the administration's appalling behavior in this case, citing it twice in a ruling against the Trump administration in a different immigration decision. Miller's willfulness might have made him look tough to the GOP base, but it ended up hemming in the administration politically and legally. Perhaps the president has taken note.

Jason Willock is a Washington Post columnist focusing on law, politics and foreign policy.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares from 1 to 57.

ACROSS

- 1 Peru's capital
5 Chignon
8 Two of a kind
12 Part of Q.E.D.
13 "I — Rock"
14 Skin breakout
15 Latin 101 word
16 Plastic wallet item
18 Table linen fabric
20 Tolerates
21 Mafia boss
23 Count start
24 Solid, as abs
28 Portent
31 Buddy
32 Mojito needs
34 Hot temper
35 Charged bits
37 Ship-building place
39 Former Saturn SUV
41 Baja boy
42 Verdi works
45 "To life!"
49 Cutting edge
51 Hotel chain
52 Busy as —
53 Romance
54 Radiator sound
55 "Charlie's Angels" actress

- 56 Eggy quaff
57 Aware of

- 26 Met
27 Marine, informally
29 Blunder
30 Actor Beatty
33 Harmonization
36 Swelled suddenly
38 Pirate song chant
40 Vichy water
42 Track shape
43 Former
10 Concerning sunscreen additive
11 Cincinnati team
17 "The Wire" ailer
19 Satirist Mort
22 Financial guru Suze
24 Slugger's stat
25 Granada gold
50 Kanga's kid

DOWN

- 1 Pencil filler
2 "— la Douce"
3 Sir's partner
4 Assault
5 Lumbago
6 Ms. Thurman
7 Houston acronym
8 "Serpico" star
9 College life
11 Cincinnati team
17 "The Wire" ailer
19 Satirist Mort
22 Financial guru Suze
24 Slugger's stat
25 Granada gold

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Answer grid for the previous crossword puzzle with words like COPED, STABLE, MARINE, PAIRED, etc.

6-9

CRYPTOQUIP

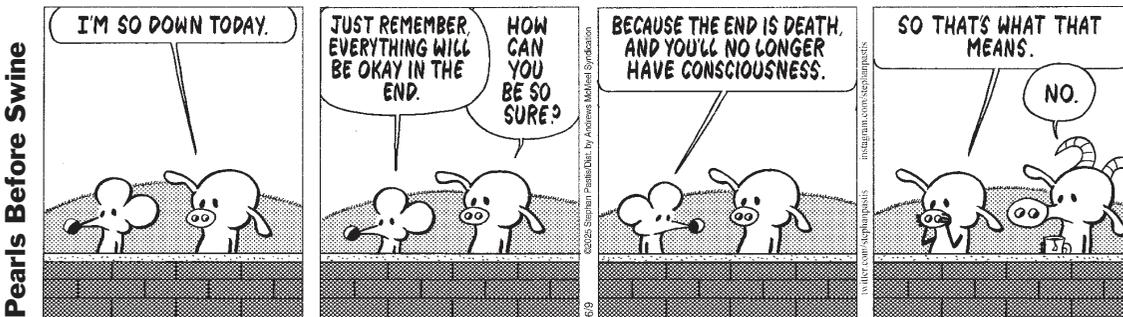
GANATYSFAC GIQHIZAY IJ
QPWZFYAN ZIWKZ MUI MIYLAC
PGPWK GSLAZ PW S TSLAZUIH:
ZFAHUAW JYIZFAY.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I KNOW I BREWED SOME CAFFEINATED DRINKS, BUT I CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE. THEY'RE ABSENT TEAS.

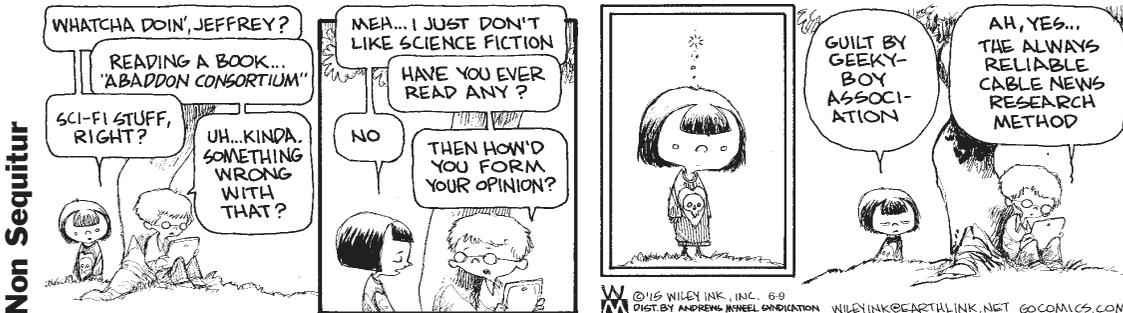
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals G



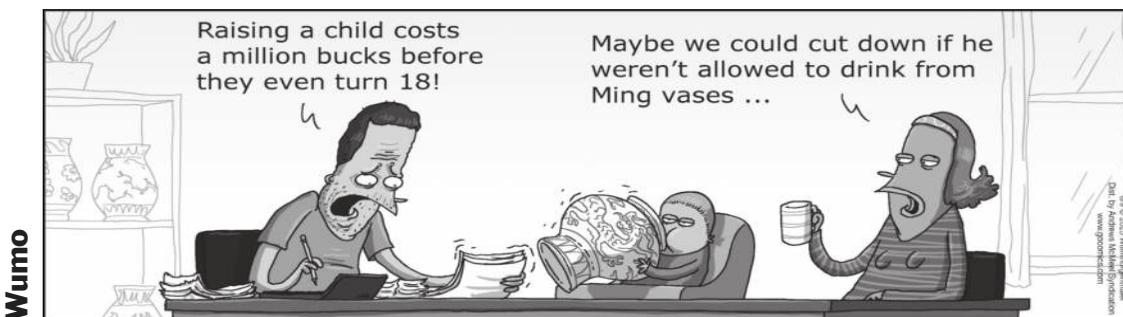
Frazz



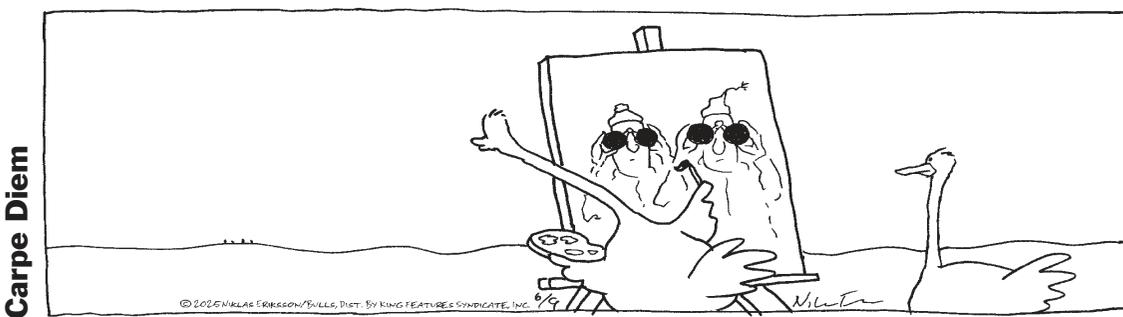
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Wumbo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Inmate convicted of killing other for being Black, gay

WI GREEN BAY — A Wisconsin man doing time for trying to kill his mother was convicted of strangling his cellmate to death.

A jury found Jackson Vogel, 25, guilty of first-degree intentional homicide in connection with the death of 19-year-old Micah Laureano at the Green Bay Correctional Institution last year, WLUK-TV reported. Vogel told investigators he killed Laureano because Laureano was Black and gay.

He is already serving a 20-year prison term handed down in 2018 for repeatedly stabbing his mother, strangling her and attempting to snap her neck, according to an appellate opinion upholding that conviction.

A guard found Laureano's body hanging from the top bunk of the cell he shared with Vogel on Aug. 27, according to a criminal complaint. Laureano's hands and feet were tied together with orange material.

Vogel, who is white, told the guard that he killed Laureano because Laureano was Black and gay, the complaint said.

Salvage crew bound for cargo ship that's on fire

AK JUNEAU — A salvage team is expected to arrive early this week at the scene of a cargo ship that was carrying about 3,000 vehicles to Mexico when it caught fire in waters off Alaska's Aleutian island chain.

A tug carrying salvage specialists and special equipment was expected to arrive at the location of the Morning Midas around Monday, the ship's management company, London-based Zodiac Maritime, said. The crew will assess the ship's condition, and a separate tug with firefighting and ocean towage capabilities is being arranged, the company said in its statement.

The Coast Guard has said it received a distress alert around 3:15 p.m. Tuesday about a fire aboard the Morning Midas, which was roughly 300 miles southwest of Adak Island. The ship was carrying about 70 fully electric and about 680 hybrid vehicles, the Coast Guard said.

All 22 Morning Midas crew members were uninjured.

Sheriff arrested as part of gambling investigation

FL KISSIMMEE — A sheriff in central Florida was arrested on charges of racketeering and conspiracy as part of what state authorities described as a probe into a massive gambling operation.

Osceola County Sheriff Marcos Lopez was arrested on second-degree felonies and taken to the jail in nearby Lake County, Fla. Osceola County is south of Orlando, and



JENNY KANE/AP

Boats in the sky

Lucy Trout, from Olympia, Wash., watches as an abandoned ship is transported to shore on Wednesday, in Olympia, Wash. The Washington Department of Natural Resources hauled abandoned boats off an uninhabited island in the southernmost reaches of Puget Sound, where the vessels had come to rest after drifting with the currents, and flew them to the mainland to be deconstructed later.

part of the county is home to Walt Disney World.

Lopez took campaign contributions and personal payments as well as protected the gambling operation, according to a statement put out by Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier.

"As law enforcement, we are held to higher standards of integrity and character than other professions," Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Mark Glass said in a statement. "This case revealed that Lopez violated the trust and integrity expected of him as the duly elected sheriff of Osceola County."

Mugger charged with stomping on cop's head

NY NEW YORK — A Bronx mugger who brutally assaulted an off-duty NYPD officer and robbed him of his gun, then fled to Virginia disguised with a woman's wig, was brought back to New York and charged with attempted murder

of a police officer, officials said.

Wayne Lucas, 23, is also facing attempted robbery, attempted aggravated assault of a police officer, and weapons possession charges for the May 24 attack against police Officer Chowdhury Nafees, officials said.

Nafees, 27, was coming home from work and was wearing a jacket over his NYPD uniform when Lucas and Taveon Hargrove, also 23, attacked the cop at knifepoint near St. Peters and Tratman avenues in Westchester Square around 4:15 a.m., cops said.

Crane collapses, killing 2 at construction site

FL MERRITT ISLAND — Two people died after a giant crane collapsed at the construction site for a new central Florida hospital, officials said.

The collapse occurred Wednesday at the site of the new Cape Canaveral Hospital in Merritt Island, which is on the Atlantic coast about 60 miles east of Orlando.

Two people were transported to a nearby hospital, where they later died, Brevard County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Tod Goodyear said. Officials didn't immediately identify the victims.

The area had been hit by rain and strong winds, but the exact cause of the collapse was under investigation.

Judge weighs request to unseal MLK Jr. records

DC WASHINGTON — A federal judge is weighing a request from the Trump administration to unseal records of the FBI's surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr. — files that the civil rights leader's relatives want to keep under wraps in the national archives.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon in Washington, D.C., said during a hearing last week that he wants to see an inventory of the records before deciding whether the government can review them for possible release to the public.

"This is delicate stuff," Leon said. "We're going to go slowly. Little steps."

Justice Department attorneys have asked Leon to end a sealing order for the records nearly two years ahead of its expiration date. A department attorney said the administration is only interested in releasing files related to King's assassination.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King led, is opposed to unsealing any of the records for privacy reasons. The organization's lawyers said King's relatives also want to keep the files under seal.

Judge blocks law allowing immigrants in-state tuition

TX AUSTIN — A federal judge on Wednesday blocked a Texas law that for decades has given college students without legal residency access to reduced in-state tuition, swiftly ruling in favor of the latest effort by the Trump administration to crack down on immigration.

The order came just hours after the Justice Department sued to block the tuition policy, which was the first of its kind in the U.S. when it began in Texas in 2001. Instead of fighting a lawsuit brought against Texas, state Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton quickly told the court that his office supported it, paving the way for U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor to issue the injunction.

The result was a court abruptly blocking a Texas law that some conservatives have sought to repeal for years.

The judge's ruling said that the Texas law as applied to someone "not lawfully present in the United States (is) unconstitutional and invalid."

The order only applies to Texas, but it could prompt conservatives to challenge similar laws in two dozen states.

Amazon plans to invest \$10B in new campus

NC HAMLET — Amazon plans to invest \$10 billion toward building a campus in North Carolina to expand its cloud computing and artificial intelligence infrastructure, bringing a massive shot in the arm to a region where many textile and apparel jobs dried up a generation ago.

Amazon said that its investment in rural Richmond County should create at least 500 jobs and support thousands more through construction and data center supply chain providers, according to statements from the company and Gov. Josh Stein's office. Stein called the investment one of the largest in state history.

The Richmond County site is expected to employ engineers, network and security specialists and other technical roles, the company said.

SCOREBOARD/MLB

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

ATHLETICS — Sent 1B Nick Kurtz to Stockton (CAL) on a rehab assignment.
BOSTON RED SOX — Optioned RHP Cooper Criswell to Worcester (IL). Recalled RHP Josh Winckowski from Worcester. Selected the contract of RHP Robert Stock from Worcester.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with OF Cooper Hummel on a minor league contract.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Optioned RHP Jonathan Bowlan to Omaha (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Trevor Richards from Omaha (IL).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with OF Ben Gamel on a minor league contract.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Sent RHP Michael Tonkin to St. Paul (IL) on a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Reinstated RHP Trent Thornton from the 15-day IL. Designated RHP Casey Lawrence for assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Trevor Gott on a minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Sent 2B Michael Stefanic outright to Buffalo (IL).

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Selected the contract of C Aramis Garcia and RHP Cristian Mena from Reno (PCL). Placed RHP Cristian Mena on the 15-day IL. Transferred RHP Corbin Burnes from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Recalled RHP Christian Montes De Oro from Reno.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Designated RHP Craig Kimbrel for assignment. Recalled LHP Austin Cox from Gwinnett (IL). Claimed RHP Jose Ruiz off waivers from Philadelphia.

CINCINNATI REDS — Recalled LHP Joe La Sorsa from Louisville (IL).

COLORADO ROCKIES — Placed OF Mickey Moniak on the bereavement list. Recalled OF Sean Bouchard from Albuquerque (PCL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated RHPs Michael Kopech and Kirby Yates from the 15-day IL. Designated RHP Chris Stratton for assignment. Placed RHP Tony Gonsolin on the 15-day IL. Sent RHP Emmet Sheehan to Oklahoma City (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

MIAMI MARLINS — Recalled RHP Connor Gillispie from Jacksonville (IL). Optioned RHP George Soriano to Jacksonville.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Placed 1B Bryce Harper on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 6. Optioned RHP Alan Rangel to Lehigh Valley (IL). Recalled RHP Daniel Robert from Lehigh Valley. Selected the contract of 3B Otto Kemp from Lehigh Valley.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Designated LHP Joey Wentz for assignment. Placed 1B Eddy Rodriguez on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Isaac Mattson from Indianapolis (IL). Selected the contract of C Brett Sullivan from Indianapolis.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Reinstated 2B Mason McCoy from the 10-day IL and optioned him to El Paso (PCL).

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Sent C Sam Huff outright to Sacramento (PCL).

HOCKEY National Hockey League

EDMONTON OILERS — Signed F Viljami Marjala to a two-year, entry-level contract.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	8	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	5	3	.625	3
Indiana	4	4	.500	4
Washington	3	6	.333	5½
Chicago	2	5	.286	5½
Connecticut	2	6	.250	6

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	8	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	6	4	.600	3
Las Vegas	4	3	.571	3½
Seattle	5	4	.556	3½
Golden State	3	5	.375	5
Los Angeles	3	6	.333	5½
Dallas	1	8	.111	7½

Thursday's games

New York 86, Washington 78
 Phoenix 86, Golden State 77

Friday's games

Connecticut 84, Atlanta 76
 Los Angeles 93, Dallas 79

Saturday's games

Golden State 95, Las Vegas 68
 Indiana 79, Chicago 52
 Seattle 89, Phoenix 77

Sunday's games

Connecticut at Washington
 Minnesota at Dallas

Monday's game

Golden State at Los Angeles

Tuesday's games

Indiana at Atlanta
 Chicago at New York

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Division I Super Regionals

Best of Three x-if necessary Louisville Louisville 1, Miami 1

Friday: Louisville 8, Miami 1
Saturday: Miami 9, Louisville 6
Sunday: Louisville vs. Miami

Corvallis Oregon St. 1, Florida St. 1

Friday: Oregon St. 5, Florida St. 4, 10 innings
Saturday: Florida St. 3, Oregon St. 1
Sunday: Oregon St. vs. Florida St.

Chapel Hill North Carolina 1, Arizona 1

Friday: North Carolina 18, Arizona 2
Saturday: Arizona 10, North Carolina 8
Sunday: North Carolina vs. Arizona

Auburn Coastal Carolina 2, Auburn 0

Friday: Coastal Carolina 7, Auburn 6, 10 innings
Saturday: Coastal Carolina 4, Auburn 1

Los Angeles UCLA 1, UTSA 0

Saturday: UCLA 5, UTSA 2
Sunday: UCLA vs. UTSA
x-Monday: UTSA vs. UCLA

Durham Duke 1, Murray St. 0

Saturday: Duke 7, Murray St. 4
Sunday: Duke vs. Murray St.
x-Monday: Duke vs. Murray St.

Baton Rouge LSU 1, West Virginia 0

Saturday: LSU 16, West Virginia 9
Sunday: LSU vs. West Virginia,
x-Monday: LSU vs. West Virginia

Fayetteville Arkansas 1, Tennessee 0

Saturday: Arkansas 4, Tennessee 3
Sunday: Arkansas vs. Tennessee
x-Monday: Arkansas vs. Tennessee

GOLF

RBC Canadian Open

**Saturday
At Alton, Ontario
Purse: \$9.8 million
Yardage: 7,389; Par: 70
Third Round**

Ryan Fox	66-66-64—196-14
Matteo Manassero	67-65-64—196-14
Lee Hodges	67-67-63—197-13
Matthew McCarty	66-67-64—197-13
Kevin Yu	65-69-63—197-13
Mackenzie Hughes	68-66-64—198-12
Jake Knapp	63-69-66—198-12
Andrew Putnam	68-62-68—198-12
Byeong Hun An	70-64-65—199-11
Cameron Champ	62-66-71—199-11
Cristobal Del Solar	61-71-67—199-11
Rico Hoey	66-69-64—199-11
Victor Perez	66-65-68—199-11
David Skinnis	67-67-65—199-11
Cameron Young	68-66-65—199-11
Sam Burns	66-66-68—200-10
Adam Hadwin	67-68-65—200-10
Shane Lowry	64-68-68—200-10
Taylor Pendrith	65-68-67—200-10
Kevin Roy	68-68-64—200-10
Antoine Rozner	68-68-64—200-10
Alex Smalley	65-72-63—200-10
Nick Taylor	66-65-69—200-10
Danny Willett	65-68-67—200-10
Ludvig Aberg	68-68-65—201 -9
Thomas Detry	66-70-65—201 -9
Richard T. Lee	67-64-70—201 -9
John Pak	67-66-68—201 -9
Corey Connors	70-66-66—202 -8
Peter Malnati	68-66-68—202 -8
Keith Mitchell	68-66-68—202 -8
Taylor Montgomery	68-69-65—202 -8
Trey Mullinax	64-70-68—202 -8
Thorbjorn Olesen	61-70-71—202 -8
Ben Silverman	68-69-65—202 -8

Shoprite LPGA Classic

**Saturday
At Galloway, N.J.
Purse: \$1.8M
Yardage: 6,197; Par: 71
Second Round**

Ilhee Lee	63-68—131-11
Ayaka Furue	66-66—132-10
Jennifer Kupcho	68-64—132-10
Mao Saigo	67-65—132-10
Elizabeth Szokol	63-69—132-10
Robyn Choi	68-66—134 -8
Wei-Ling Hsu	66-68—134 -8
Chisato Iwai	68-66—134 -8
Jeongeun Lee5	68-66—134 -8
Lee-Anne Pace	67-67—134 -8
Miyu Yamashita	68-66—134 -8

AUTO RACING

DQS Solutions & Staffing 250

NASCAR Craftsman Trucks Saturday At Michigan International Speedway Brooklyn, Mich.

**Lap length: 2.00 miles
Start position in parentheses**

- (17) Stewart Friesen, Toyota, 139 laps, 40 points
- (14) Grant Enfinger, Chevrolet, 139, 35
- (1) Luke Fenhaus, Ford, 139, 39
- (9) Ben Rhodes, Ford, 139, 33
- (24) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, 139, 32
- (3) Matt Crafton, Ford, 139, 31
- (4) Jake Garcia, Ford, 139, 30
- (31) Chandler Smith, Ford, 139, 31
- (12) Andres Perez De Lara, Chevrolet, 139, 29
- (18) Layne Riggs, Ford, 139, 29
- (2) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 139, 0
- (20) Giovanni Ruggiero, Toyota, 139, 29
- (15) Dawson Sutton, Chevrolet, 139, 24
- (25) Frankie Muniz, Ford, 139, 23
- (6) Ty Majeski, Ford, 139, 37
- (29) Spencer Boyd, Chevrolet, 139, 21
- (23) Tanner Gray, Toyota, 139, 23
- (7) Corey Heim, Toyota, 139, 39
- (8) Connor Mosack, Chevrolet, 138, 32
- (5) Jack Wood, Chevrolet, 136, 17
- (16) Kaden Honeycutt, Chevrolet, 136, 30
- (27) Toni Breidinger, Toyota, accident, 134, 15
- (22) Matt Mills, Chevrolet, accident, 132, 14
- (10) Tyler Ankrum, Chevrolet, 130, 18
- (21) Josh Reaume, Ford, 129, 12
- (26) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, dvp, 128, 0
- (11) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, accident, 126, 10
- (19) Lawless Alan, Toyota, accident, 126, 9
- (32) Morgen Baird, Ford, accident, 83, 8
- (28) Nathan Byrd, Chevrolet, accident, 83, 7
- (13) Rajah Caruth, Chevrolet, accident, 77, 6
- (30) Norm Benning, Chevrolet, engine, 3, 5

Race statistics

Average speed of race winner: 112.792 mph.

Time of race: 2 hours, 27 minutes, 53 seconds

Margin of victory: .111 seconds

Caution flags: 9 for 47 laps

Lead changes: 20 among 11 drivers

Lap leaders: L.Fenhaus 0-1; C.Hocevar 2-5; C.Mosack 6; C.Hocevar 7-29; C.Heim 30-40; C.Hocevar 41-49; C.Heim 50-67; K.Honeycutt 68; C.Hocevar 69-81; K.Honeycutt 82; C.Hocevar 83-86; G.Enfinger 87-110; R.Chastain 111; G.Enfinger 112-113; R.Chastain 114; C.Hocevar 115-117; G.Ruggiero 118-119; T.Gray 120; C.LaJoie 121-132; G.Enfinger 133-137; S.Friesen 138-139

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): C.Hocevar, 6 times for 56 laps; G.Enfinger, 3 times for 31 laps; C.Heim, 2 times for 29 laps; C.LaJoie, 1 time for 12 laps; S.Friesen, 1 time for 2 laps; G.Ruggiero, 1 time for 2 laps; K.Honeycutt, 2 times for 2 laps; R.Chastain, 2 times for 2 laps; L.Fenhaus, 1 time for 1 lap; T.Gray, 1 time for 1 lap; C.Mosack, 1 time for 1 lap
Wins: C.Heim, 4; C.Smith, 2; D.Hemric, 1; T.Ankrum, 1; S.Friesen, 1; R.Caruth, 1
Top 16 in points: 1. C.Heim, 605; 2. C.Smith, 472; 3. D.Hemric, 454; 4. G.Enfinger, 441; 5. T.Ankrum, 424; 6. L.Riggs, 424; 7. K.Honeycutt, 408; 8. T.Majeski, 393; 9. J.Garcia, 389; 10. S.Friesen, 347; 11. B.Rhodes, 338; 12. G.Ruggiero, 337; 13. R.Caruth, 336; 14. T.Gray, 297; 15. M.Crafton, 281; 16. J.Wood, 249

AP SPORTLIGHT

June 9

1914 — Honus Wagner of the Pittsburgh Pirates becomes the first player in modern baseball to get 3,000 career hits.

1973 — Secretariat, ridden by Ron Turcotte, wins the Belmont Stakes in record time to capture the Triple Crown. Secretariat sets a world record on the 1½-mile course with 2:24, and a record for largest margin of victory in the Belmont, 31 lengths.

1979 — Coastal, ridden by Ruben Hernandez, spoils Spectacular Bid's attempt at the Triple Crown with a 3¼-length victory over Golden Act. Spectacular Bid finishes third.

1990 — Monica Seles holds off four set points in the first set tiebreaker and goes on to become the youngest winner of the French Open, beating two-time champion Steffi Graf 7-6 (8-6), 6-4. Seles is 16 years, six months.

2007 — Rags to Riches, a filly ridden by John Velazquez, outduels Curlin in a breathtaking stretch run and won the Belmont Stakes, becoming the first of her sex to take the final leg of the Triple Crown in more than a century.

2008 — Ken Griffey Jr. becomes the sixth player sixth player in baseball history to reach 600 homers with a drive off Mark Hendrickson in the first inning of the Cincinnati Reds' 9-4 victory over the Florida Marlins.

2013 — Rafael Nadal becomes the first man to win eight titles at the same Grand Slam tournament after beating fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the French Open final, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.
2018 — Justify becomes the 13th Triple Crown winner by winning the Belmont Stakes with Mike Smith aboard.

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	10	3	4	34	32	18
Cincinnati	9	5	3	30	25	24
Inter Miami CF	8	3	5	29	36	27
Nashville	8	4	5	29	30	21
Columbus	7	3	7	28	27	24
New York	8	6	3	27	28	19
Orlando City	7	4	6	27	31	22
Charlotte FC	8	8	1	25	28	27
Chicago	7	5	4	25	35	29
NYC FC	7	6	4	25	20	20
New England	6	4	5	23	19	14
D.C. United	4	8	6	18	17	36
Atlanta	4	8	5	17	21	30
Toronto FC	3	10	4	13	18	24
CF Montréal	1	11	5	8	12	32

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	9	1	5	32	27	12
San Diego FC	9	5	3	30	29	18
Minn. United	8	3	6	30	26	16
Portland	7	4	5	26	25	22
Seattle	7	5	5	26	25	22
LA FC	6	4	5	23	27	22
Austin FC	6	7	5	23	13	20
San Jose	6	7	4	22	34	28
Colorado	6	7	4	22	18	24
Houston	5	7	5	20	22	25
FC Dallas	4	6	6	18	18	26
Sporting KC	4	8	4	16	25	28
Real Salt Lake	4	10	3	15	16	25
St Louis City	3	8	5	14	13	21
LA Galaxy	1	12	4	7	15	36

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

Saturday's games

Chicago 7, D.C. United 1
 Austin FC 2, Colorado 0

Sunday's games

St Louis City at Portland
 Seattle at Vancouver
 Sporting Kansas City at Los Angeles FC

Thursday, June 12

Atlanta at New York City FC

Friday, June 13

Toronto FC at Los Angeles FC
 San Jose at Portland

Saturday, June 14

LA Galaxy at St Louis City
 Vancouver at Columbus
 Cincinnati at New England
 Charlotte FC at Philadelphia
 New York at Austin FC
 Nashville at Chicago
 CF Montréal at Houston
 FC Dallas at Sporting Kansas City
 San Diego FC at Minnesota
 Orlando City at Colorado
 D.C. United at Real Salt Lake

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	9	2	0	27	24	8
Orlando	7	3	1	22	19	8
San Diego	6	3	2	20	22	14
Washington	6	3	1	19	18	16
Seattle	5	4	2	17	11	10
Louisville	5	4	2	17	15	18
Portland	4	3	4	16	16	12
Bay FC	4	4	3	15	13	14
Angel City	4	4				

MLB

ROUNDUP

Arenado, Cardinals walk off Dodgers

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Nolan Arenado delivered a pinch-hit RBI double in the ninth inning and the St. Louis Cardinals stifled the Los Angeles Dodgers' offense for a second straight game in a 2-1 victory on Saturday.

Nolan Gorman led off the ninth with a ground-rule double before being replaced with a pinch runner. After Pedro Pages reached on an error by pitcher Ben Casparius (4-1), the Dodgers vacated left field to play with five infielders, and Arenado's lazy fly ball landed just inside the foul line and bounced into the stands for another ground-rule double.

The Dodgers, who lead the majors in scoring, home runs and batting average, were held scoreless for the first 17 innings of the series, but managed to tie it when Shohei Ohtani scored on a wild pitch by Ryan Helsley (3-0) in the top of the ninth.

It was the second straight blown save for Helsley.

Masyn Winn scored on Alec Burleson's infield single to put St. Louis ahead 1-0 in the eighth.

Erick Fedde walked four and struck out two in 5½ scoreless innings, giving up four singles. He allowed the first two batters to reach in the sixth before striking out Andy Pages. Steven Matz retired the next two batters to end that threat.

Dodgers starter Yoshinobu Yamamoto struck out nine in six scoreless innings, allowing four singles and two walks.

Cubs 6, Tigers 1: Chicago hit five home runs, including two by Seiya Suzuki, in a win over Detroit.

The Cubs, playing before a sold-out crowd of 41,334 in Detroit that appeared to be at least one-third Chicago fans, also got home runs from Michael Busch, Pete Crow-Armstrong and Matt Shaw.

Jameson Taillon (6-3) allowed one run on three hits and a walk in seven innings. He is 4-0 with a 1.68 ERA in his past four starts.

Reds 4, Diamondbacks 3, (10), 1st; Reds 13, Diamondbacks 1, 2nd: Gavin Lux hit a grand slam, Christian Encarnacion-Strand homered for the second straight game and host Cincinnati routed Arizona after completing a suspended game with a victory in 10 innings.

TJ Friedl and Elly De La Cruz drew walks off Arizona starter Ryne Nelson, and Encarnacion-Strand hit his fourth homer for a 3-0 lead. Will Benson walked and took third on Tyler Stephenson's double before scoring on Spencer Steer's single. Jake Fraley drove in a run with a forceout for a 5-0 first-inning lead.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The Cardinals' Nolan Arenado celebrates with teammates after pinch-hitting in the ninth inning and connecting on a walk-off double to defeat the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday in St. Louis.

Blue Jays 5, Twins 4: George Springer hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning and visiting Toronto beat Minnesota.

Springer went deep against Twins reliever Griffin Jax (1-4), who allowed a leadoff double to Addison Barger one at-bat earlier. Springer's 10th homer of the season made it 4-3 just as a light rain started falling at Target Field.

Giants 3, Braves 2: Matt Chapman hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning and host San Francisco beat Atlanta for its fourth straight win.

Heliot Ramos singled with one out against Braves reliever Pierce Johnson (1-3). After Wilmer Flores popped out, Chapman homered to left for his 12th of the season.

Pirates 2, Phillies 1: Henry Davis hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the bottom of the seventh inning to lift Pittsburgh to a home victory over Philadelphia after the slumping Phillies placed star first baseman Bryce Harper on the injured list before the game with right wrist inflammation.

Davis hit his fourth home run of the season and second in as many games to left-center off Ranger Suarez (4-1) on a first-pitch changeup to snap a 1-1 tie. The Pirates won for the third time in four games and can sweep the three-game series on Sunday.

Rangers 5, Nationals 0: Jacob deGrom allowed two hits in seven shutout innings and Marcus Semien drove in three runs to lead visiting Texas to a victory over Washington that snapped a four-game skid.

DeGrom (6-2) threw 81 pitches

and struck out eight while lowering his ERA to 2.12. Luke Jackson and Chris Martin each pitched a scoreless inning to close it out.

White Sox 4, Royals 1: Tim Lincecum hit a two-run homer, Adrian Houser pitched six strong innings and host Chicago beat Kansas City.

Chase Meidroth also went deep for the White Sox, who have won three straight for the second time this season.

Astros 5, Guardians 3, (10): Jake Meyers scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch, Isaac Paredes drove in an insurance run and visiting Houston defeated Cleveland in 10 innings.

Yainer Diaz had a two-run homer in the sixth as the Astros won for the fifth time in six games.

Marlins 11, Rays 10, (10): Jesús Sánchez had a three-run homer and a two-run double, and Heriberto Hernandez singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning as visiting Miami outlasted Christopher Morel and Tampa Bay to snap a five-game losing streak.

Morel went 3-for-3 with two home runs, a double and four RBIs for the Rays, who had a four-game win streak halted.

Red Sox 10, Yankees 7: Trevor Story had five RBIs, Garrett Crochet struck out Aaron Judge three times and visiting Boston beat New York to even their weekend series at one game apiece.

Story hit a three-run double for 5-3 lead in a five-run third against Ryan Yarbrough (3-1) and, after the Yankees closed to 10-7, added a two-run single in the ninth off Ian Hamilton.

Brewers 4, Padres 3: Caleb

Durbin hit a walk-off homer leading off the ninth inning as host Milwaukee rebounded after squandering a late lead to beat San Diego.

After a two-run, two-out double by Luis Arraez tied it in the top of the ninth, Durbin ended it by sending the first pitch from David Morgan (0-1) over the wall in left-center field.

It was the rookie third baseman's second career homer—and first since April 21.

Angels 8, Mariners 6: Jo Adell homered twice, Chris Taylor also went deep and host Los Angeles rallied from four runs down and beat Seattle.

Cal Raleigh homered twice—giving him a major league-leading 26—and drove in four runs for the Mariners, who have lost five straight and 12 of their last 17 games.

Mets 8, Rockies 1: Ronny Mauricio hit his first homer of the season, a 456-foot shot into the second deck, Francisco Lindor had three hits and two stolen bases, and visiting New York rolled past Colorado.

Jeff McNeil and Jared Young also homered and Brandon Nimmo and Luis Torrens each drove in two runs in a matchup of teams with the National League's best and worst records.

Orioles 7, Athletics 4: Colton Cowser hit a tiebreaking 455-foot home run in the sixth inning and visiting Baltimore held on to beat the Athletics.

Ramón Laureano also homered and had three hits and three RBIs to help the Orioles get their seventh win in eight games.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	39	24	.619	—
Toronto	35	29	.547	4½
Tampa Bay	34	30	.531	5½
Boston	31	35	.470	9½
Baltimore	26	37	.413	13
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	42	24	.636	—
Minnesota	34	30	.531	7
Cleveland	33	30	.524	7½
Kansas City	33	32	.508	8½
Chicago	22	43	.338	19½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	36	28	.563	—
Seattle	32	31	.508	3½
Los Angeles	30	33	.476	5½
Texas	30	35	.462	6½
Athletics	25	41	.379	12

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	41	24	.631	—
Philadelphia	37	27	.578	3½
Washington	30	34	.469	10½
Atlanta	27	36	.429	13
Miami	24	38	.387	15½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	40	24	.625	—
St. Louis	36	28	.563	4
Milwaukee	35	30	.538	5½
Cincinnati	32	33	.492	8½
Pittsburgh	25	40	.385	15½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	38	27	.585	—
San Diego	36	27	.571	1
San Francisco	37	28	.569	1
Arizona	31	33	.484	6½
Colorado	12	52	.188	25½

Saturday's games

Chicago Cubs 6, Detroit 1
 Toronto 5, Minnesota 4
 Texas 5, Washington 0
 Chicago White Sox 4, Kansas City 1
 Houston 5, Cleveland 3, 10 innings
 Miami 11, Tampa Bay 10, 10 innings
 Boston 10, N.Y. Yankees 7
 L.A. Angels 8, Seattle 6
 Baltimore 7, Athletics 4
 St. Louis 2, L.A. Dodgers 1
 Cincinnati 4, Arizona 3, 10 innings, 1st game
 Cincinnati 13, Arizona 1, 2nd game
 Pittsburgh 2, Philadelphia 1
 San Francisco 3, Atlanta 2
 Milwaukee 4, San Diego 3
 N.Y. Mets 8, Colorado 1

Sunday's games

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

Monday's games

Cincinnati (Miley 0-0) at Cleveland (Ortiz 3-6)
 Tampa Bay (Baz 5-3) at Boston (Bello 2-1)
 Toronto (Berríos 2-2) at St. Louis (Palante 4-3)
 Athletics (Springs 5-4) at L.A. Angels (Kikuchi 1-5)
 Seattle (Hancock 2-2) at Arizona (Kelly 6-2)
 Miami (Alcantara 2-7) at Pittsburgh (Burrows 1-1)
 Chicago Cubs (Boyd 5-3) at Philadelphia (TBD)
 Atlanta (Sale 3-4) at Milwaukee (Civale 1-1)
 L.A. Dodgers (May 3-4) at San Diego (Pivetta 6-2)

Tuesday's games

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

NBA FINALS/SOCCER

For Canadian friends, series is all business

BY TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The NBA Finals. East vs. West. Indiana vs. Oklahoma City. Canada vs. ... Canada?

It sure seemed like it at times in Game 1 of the series, anyway — and odds are, there will be more of those moments throughout the rest of this matchup between the Pacers and Thunder.

There are four Canadians in the series, and two of them — NBA MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander for the Thunder and Andrew Nembhard for the Pacers — went head-to-head plenty in Game 1.

Gilgeous-Alexander scored 38 points; Nembhard scored eight of his 14 in the fourth and was on the floor for the entirety of Indiana's 32-16 run that ended the game and turned a 15-point deficit into a one-point win.

"He's a competitor. He's a winner," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "Plays the game the right way on both ends of the floor. Really good player. Yeah, he's a winner for sure. No doubt."

They have been playing alongside each other since they were kids and were teammates on Canada's national team at the Paris Olympics in 2024.

"I think playing in the finals is a crazy experience," Nembhard



NATE BILLINGS/AP

Indiana Pacers guard Andrew Nembhard (2) controls the ball against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort (5) during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA Finals, Thursday, in Oklahoma City.

said Saturday. "Walking onto the court was something you live for.

The crowd was amazing. The noise was the most I ever felt in a

game. It kind of all just came together. The nerves settled in, and it was a fun game."

He and Gilgeous-Alexander saw plenty of each other on both ends of the floor in Game 1, plus weren't afraid to mix it up with a little extra push here or choice words there. Nothing over the line, but enough to remind the other that it's all business right now.

"Nothing more than two guys wanting to win," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "No malicious intent behind it, just wanting to win."

Oklahoma City's Lu Dort and Indiana's Benedict Mathurin are the other two Canadians in the finals.

The four Canadian players combined for 72 points in Game 1; that's the most ever in any finals game by players from any individual country other than the U.S.

That smashed the previous mark for points from Canadians in a finals game; it was 34, all from Jamal Murray, for Denver in Game 3 against Miami in 2023.

"It's amazing for our country," Nembhard said.

It's not just Gilgeous-Alexander who has long-time familiarity with Nembhard. Thunder forward Chet Holmgren played with Nembhard at Gonzaga as well.

"Obviously, he's my guy, great

Scoreboard

NBA Finals Indiana 1, Oklahoma City 0

Best-of-seven; x-if necessary

Thursday: Indiana 111, Oklahoma City 110

Sunday: at Oklahoma City
Wednesday: at Indiana, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Thursday CET, 10:30 a.m. Thursday JKT

Friday: at Indiana, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Saturday CET, 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

x-Monday, June 16: at Oklahoma City

x-Thursday, June 19: at Indiana

x-Sunday, June 22: at Oklahoma City

dude," Holmgren said. "I have a lot of compliments for him as a basketball player and a person. But we're playing against him right now, so I'm going to hold on to all those."

Pacers coach Rick Carlisle knows the Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Nembhard matchup might be viewed by some as a game within the game. He said Nembhard "loves the challenge" of matching wits with Gilgeous-Alexander.

"I mean, you don't stop players today," Carlisle said. "You try to make it hard. He played with Shai on the Olympic team and so they have familiarity. They are both from Canada and they both have played a lot with and against each other over the years. But this is the ultimate challenge, a guy like him who is the MVP."

Pochettino stays hopeful even as US loses third in row

Associated Press

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — A third straight loss didn't prevent Mauricio Pochettino from thinking big.

"We need to believe. We need to compete like today and for sure we're going to have the possibility to win the World Cup," the U.S. coach said after the Americans lost their third straight game, wasting an early lead in a 2-1 defeat to Turkey in a friendly on Saturday.

Jack McGlynn scored 59 seconds in for the U.S., which was missing many regulars as Pochettino revamped his roster following a dismal performance at the CONCACAF Nations League final four in March.

Turkey took advantage of a sloppy defense as Arda Güler and Kerem Aktürkolu scored in a 2-minute, 20-second span midway through the first half.

While the U.S. had 60% possession and outshot Turkey 13-11, the Americans dropped to 5-4 under Pochettino, who took over after first-round elimination at last year's Copa America led the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Gregg Berhalter.

They have lost three straight for the second time in a year.

"Today, who is going to tell me,

oh, we showed lack of, we showed lack of — lack of what today?" said Pochettino, a 53-year-old from Argentina who coached Tottenham, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea.

"The team showed what (it) needed to show. ... Playing in this way, they are going to win most of the games."

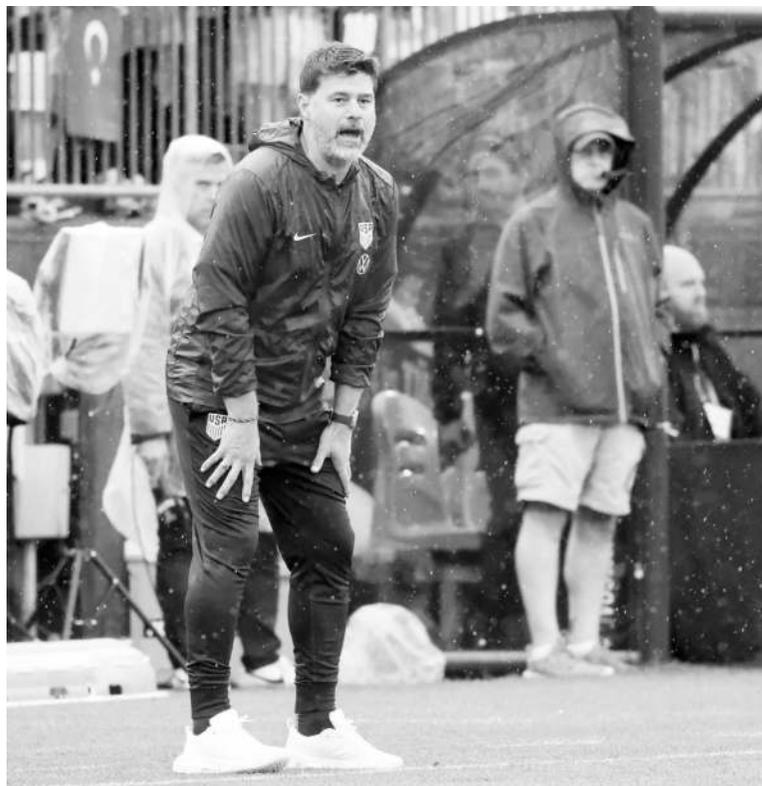
Coaching a nation that hasn't reached the World Cup semifinals since 1930 or the quarterfinals since 2022, Pochettino changed eight starters from the Nations League loss to Canada in March.

He kept only left back Max Arfsten, winger Diego Luna and forward Patrick Agyemang.

"Some guys that are coming in — and they're not thinking twice about taking someone on. It's not playing safe. It's like, let's take risks and try to go after this thing," said midfielder Tyler Adams, who entered at the start of the second half. "I think having fresh faces, guys that aren't fearless, young guys, that's going to help us."

With a year to go before co-hosting the World Cup, the U.S. plays Switzerland on Tuesday at Nashville, Tennessee, in another friendly, then opens the CONCACAF Gold Cup against Trinidad and Tobago on June 15.

"I am really sad because I think this group of players are working



MARY SCHWALM/AP

US head coach Mauricio Pochettino during the first half of an international game against Turkey, Saturday, in East Hartford, Conn.

so hard and I think we deserve (a) better result today," Pochettino said.

"I think we performed well. I think we're brave enough. I think the attitude was: Go and press,

match in every single aspect a team like Turkey that is one of the best teams in the last year in Europe."

Defender Alex Freeman, a 20-year-old son of former NFL All-

Pro receiver Antonio Freeman, started in his U.S. debut.

Matt Freese, a starter at Major League Soccer's New York City, made his debut in goal.

Matt Turner, the usual starter since 2022, didn't play for Crystal Palace after March 1.

Midfielder Quinn Sullivan and defender Nathan Harriel made debuts as 65th-minute substitutes.

McGlynn scored when he ran onto a pass from Malik Tilman, took several touches, cut inside and curled a left-footed shot from just outside the penalty area inside the far post for his second goal in five international appearances.

It was the earliest U.S. goal since Shaq Moore scored 20 seconds in against Canada during the 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Turkey tied it in the 24th minute when Freese tapped the ball to Johnny Cardoso, whose pass ricocheted off a leg and past Freese for Güler's fifth international goal.

Then in the 27th, Miles Robinson tried to clear Ouz Aydın's shot and the ball went to Aktürkolu, who one-timed a bouncing shot past Freese for his 12th international goal and sixth in eight games.

"Of the goals that we concede, that created a big mess on the team," Pochettino said.

FRENCH OPEN

Sabalenka rues another missed chance

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

PARIS — While Coco Gauff was taking selfies on Court Philippe-Chatrier to celebrate her triumph on the Parisian clay, her opponent on the other side of the umpire's chair was filled with anger and sadness.

As Roland-Garros officials prepared the court for the trophy ceremony, Aryna Sabalenka sat with her gaze lost in the distance before she took a towel and covered her face. And when it finally came time to speak, Sabalenka was silent for a long moment, as if on the verge of tears.

The assessment of her own performance, when Sabalenka finally took the microphone to address the Roland-Garros crowd, was ruthless.

"Honestly guys, this one hurts so much," she said. "To show such terrible tennis in the final does really hurt."

The top-ranked Sabalenka won the first set as her high-risk approach brought dividends initially. But once Gauff found her stride, the Belarusian's errors became more and more frequent and she lost the match between the world's two highest-ranked players 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4.

Sabalenka hit 37 winners but finished the match with a staggering 70 unforced errors — compared to Gauff's 30. Sabalenka al-



THIBAUT CAMUS / AP

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus sits after losing the final match of the French Open at the Roland-Garros against the United States' Coco Gauff in Paris on Saturday.

so dropped her serve nine times.

"I think I was overemotional," she said. "I didn't really handle myself quite well mentally, I would say. So basically that's it. I was just making unforced errors. I think she won the match not be-

cause she played incredible; just because I made all of those mistakes from — like, if you look from the outside, kind of like from easy balls."

The disappointment was even greater given that Sabalenka has

worked hard to adapt her game to the slow surface over the years, and after she ended Iga Swiatek's 26-match unbeaten streak at the French Open in the semifinals.

"You've been playing against a lot of tough opponents, Olympic

champion, Iga, and then you go out, and you play really bad," she said during her post-match interview. "It was honestly the worst tennis I've played in the last, I don't know how many months."

Sabalenka also complained about the weather conditions. The retractable roof over the center court remained open during the final, and Sabalenka was visibly annoyed by bursts of wind sweeping across the court.

"Conditions were terrible," the three-time major champion said. "When she would hit the ball, at some point the wind would just let the ball fly like crazy, and you know, I was late every time."

This was the second major final Sabalenka lost to Gauff, after the 2023 U.S. Open, where she also won the first set. Sabalenka had won their most recent meeting on clay this year in Madrid and thought she had the weapons to beat the American on the biggest stage.

"It's another tough Grand Slam final against Coco," Sabalenka said. "Another terrible performance from me against Coco in the final. I have to step back, look at this from a perspective, and try to finally learn the lesson, because I cannot go out there every time against her in Grand Slam finals and play such terrible tennis and give those wins, not easily, but emotionally."

Past: Gauff becomes first American player to win since 2015

FROM PAGE 24

The second-ranked Gauff made fewer mistakes and kept her emotions in check to get the better of Sabalenka again at major final, having come from a set down to beat the Belarusian in the 2023 U.S. Open final.

Gauff raised the winners' trophy aloft, then kissed it several times. She held her hand over her heart when the U.S. national anthem played.

"This one is heavy," Gauff said. "It feels great to lift it."

Gauff is the first American woman to win at Roland-Garros since Serena Williams in 2015.

It was the first No. 1 vs. No. 2 final in Paris since 2013, when Williams defeated Maria Sharapova, and just the second in the last 30 years.

After Sabalenka sent a backhand wide on Gauff's second match point, Gauff fell onto her back, covering her face with both hands as she started to sob, then got up and held her hand over her mouth. She continued to sob as she patted the clay with her left hand.

Gauff greeted Sabalenka at the net with a warm hug and thanking the umpire, Gauff screamed out

with joy and relief, then got to her knees and crouched forward, continuing to cry as she savored the win.

She hugged later film director Spike Lee and celebrated with her entourage in her box before thanking the fans.

"You guys were cheering for me so hard," Gauff said. "I don't know what I did to deserve so much love from the French crowd."

One thing Gauff could not manage — yet — was a victory speech in French.

"I completely tanked on that," she said, adding that she will try in the future. "I don't think I could do a whole speech but maybe a good something to say to the French crowd."

Sabalenka praised Gauff for being a "fighter" and said she deserved the win, but added that the windy conditions made for an error-strewn contest.

"This will hurt so much," Sabalenka said. "Coco, congrats, in the tough conditions you were a better player than me."

Both players were sloppy in the first set, conceding 21 break-point chances and making 48 unforced errors between them, with Saba-



LINDSEY WASSON/AP

The United States' Coco Gauff celebrates after winning the final match of the French Open against Aryna Sabalenka in Paris on Saturday.

lenka making 32 yet still winning the set. She made 70 altogether in the match, compared to 30 overall for Gauff.

Sabalenka was often frustrated, remonstrating and shouting at herself and frequently turning around to look at her team with an

exasperated look on her face. She put her head on her hands a couple of times, and at one point raised her shoulders as if to say "What's going on?"

Gauff said she paid no attention, knowing full well that Sabalenka could find her best game at any moment.

The first set looked like it was heading Gauff's way when she led 3-0 in the tiebreaker, but Sabalenka steadied herself and clinched it with a forehand volley at the net.

Gauff leveled the match with a smash at the net. But Sabalenka stuck to her high-risk approach in the deciding set.

One superb rally in the third game drew loud cheers.

After an intense exchange of drop shots, Gauff hit a lob that Sabalenka chased down before attempting a shot between her legs — only for Gauff to intercept it at the net.

It was a rare highlight on a day when swirling wind troubled both players with the roof open.

"It was tough to plant your feet, the ball was moving so much," Gauff said. "It was not a day for great tennis, honestly."

STANLEY CUP FINAL/MMA



DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Florida Panthers' Sam Bennett, middle, collides with Oilers goalie Stuart Skinner as Mattias Ekholm watches during the first period in Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Final in Edmonton on Friday.

Panthers, Oilers relish days off before shift to Florida

BY ALANIS THAMES
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — After Brad Marchand scored the winning goal in Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Final, he and Florida Panthers teammate Sam Bennett were asked how they kept their bodies going during another long and intense matchup against the Edmonton Oilers.

"I think (Marchand) grabbed a Blizzard... I think it was Oreo today," Bennett quipped, referring to a viral moment during the Eastern Conference finals when Marchand joked that he enjoyed a chocolate chip cookie dough treat from Dairy Queen between periods — which was later revealed as a spoonful of honey.

"Nice plug," Marchand responded with a chuckle. "I like that."

They were joking, of course, but there was a point in Friday night's double-overtime game that Marchand spent time between periods pedaling on an exercise bike to stay loose — as players from both teams shuffled their tired bodies on and off the ice for hours.

The first two games of the Stanley Cup Final went to overtime, only the sixth time in NHL history that's happened and the first since 2014. Game 1 went on until Leon Draisaitl's power-play goal 19:29 into the extra period. Marchand put Game 2 to an end with a breakaway goal 8:07 into the second overtime.

With the series tied 1-1, both teams will embark on a cross-continent trip from Canada to Florida, enjoying an extra day's rest between games to recover after an intense start to their championship series. Game 3 is Monday night in Sunrise, Fla.

NHL scoreboard

Finals

Best-of-seven; x-if necessary
Edmonton 1, Florida 1

Edmonton 4, Florida 3, OT
Florida 5, Edmonton 4
Monday: at Florida, AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.
Tuesday CET, 10 a.m. Tuesday JKT
Thursday: at Florida, AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.
Friday CET, 10 a.m. Friday JKT
Saturday, June 14: at Edmonton, AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Sunday CET, 10 a.m. Sunday JKT
x-Tuesday, June 17: at Florida
x-Friday, June 20: at Edmonton

"Obviously a long game, a lot of back and forth," said Panthers defenseman Seth Jones, who led Florida in ice time at 34 minutes, 35 seconds Friday.

Jones, who is averaging a team-high 25:45 on the ice in the postseason, played more than 30 minutes in both of the first two games of the series. He scored in the first period Friday — his fourth goal of the post-season — and assisted on Dmitry Kulikov's goal in the second.

"We came here for a split and got it," Jones added, "and just going to recover now."

Panthers coach Paul Maurice said heading back to Florida with the series tied — instead of being down 0-2 — does make a minor mental difference, but one of his team's strengths is its tunnel vision approach.

"It's mathematically significant," Maurice said. "I'd like to think that we'd be dragging here today, this morning, if we had lost that game having had the lead for so long. But I think we're really good at cutting it off."

"It's the same morning this morning at the meal room as it was two

days ago (after the Game 1 loss). It's just on to the next day. We understand how to leave our days — the good ones and the bad ones — in the past and handle the day we have right now."

The Oilers are moving forward in the series with an equally short memory after missed chances in Game 2.

Corey Perry, whose goal with 17.8 seconds left in the third period forced overtime, said the back-and-forth nature of the series was to be expected from the two teams, but there's no use in getting hung up on "what-ifs."

"What's it going to do?" Perry said. "It's not going to do anything for you now. Get on the plane tomorrow and get some rest and be ready for Game 3."

Few players have spent more time on the ice in the series than Connor McDavid. The Edmonton star played 31:12 in Game 1, and just over 35 minutes in Game 2 — more than anyone else in the game. That's nearly 10 minutes more than his postseason average of 24:22.

McDavid's impact was certainly felt Friday. He had three assists, including one in which he zipped through Florida's penalty kill to set up Draisaitl's power play goal in the first.

Draisaitl noted after the game that there's only one player in the world that can make such a highlight-reel play, but stressed the importance of using the two days off to recalibrate.

"At this time of year, you've got to move on," he said, "There's not time thinking about it too long. Obviously it stings right now, but we have to move on."

Harrison, Dvalishvili celebrate as 135-lb. champs at UFC 316

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Kayla Harrison had just added UFC gold to her championship fight collection — and hugged it out with President Donald Trump — and still clutched the title belt when she bumped into Merab Dvalishvili backstage.

Dvalishvili was on cloud nine — well, make it 13 to match his winning streak — after he successfully defended his 135-pound championship with a dominant performance in the main event of UFC 316.

Two bantamweight champions. One big party.

"Congratulations, champ! Let me raise your hand," Dvalishvili told Harrison. "We are the champions!"

Dvalishvili then issued a quick pointer to Harrison — more used to wearing Olympic gold around her neck — on how to hold the belt for a photo opp.

She best enjoy her time atop the division while she can — Harrison's presumed next challenger is Amanda Nunes, stepping out of retirement and into the cage for a chance to get her belt back.

Dvalishvili retained his 135-pound championship when he tapped out Sean O'Malley in the third round and Harrison made 135-pound champion Julianna Peña quit with five seconds left in the second round in front of a crowd that included Trump and retired heavyweight great Mike Tyson on Saturday night at the Prudential Center.

Dvalishvili, a 34-year-old from the country of Georgia, won the belt in a convincing — though not aesthetically pleasing — unanimous decision last year over O'Malley. O'Malley realized after the loss to truly be at his best — as a fighter, as a family man — he needed to make difficult lifestyle sacrifices to round himself into peak form.

The 30-year-old contender quit smoking marijuana among other habits and also ditched his trademark dyed hair. No more cornu-

pia of colors that turned his locks into rainbows or cotton candy tops.

New look, same result.

Dvalishvili — who had to duck a small railing collapse on his walk out that almost had fans spill onto the floor — ran his record to 20-4 and sat on top of the cage and bellowed toward the 17,343 fans in the start of an exuberant celebration of his 13th straight MMA victory, tied for fourth-longest in UFC history.

"I'm on top of the world!" he said inside the cage.

That made the bantamweight champs 1-for-2 on the night.

Harrison, who said she struggled so hard with cutting weight to 135 pounds she feared how she would make it in one piece ahead of the weigh in, continued to move up the list in a short time as one of the great female fighters in MMA history.

She's used to major victories in the spotlight.

No U.S. judoka — man or woman — had ever won an Olympic gold medal before Harrison beat Britain's Gemma Gibbons to win the women's 78-kilogram division at the 2012 London Olympics. She won gold again four years later at the Rio de Janeiro Games and made her MMA debut in 2018.

The 34-year-old Harrison was a two-time \$1 million prize champion in the Professional Fighters League lightweight championship division before she moved on to UFC last year. She won her first two UFC bouts and her record — now a sparkling 19-1 in MMA overall — coupled with her fame made her an instant contender for a title shot.

She needed just three UFC fights to become a champion.

Harrison dropped to her knees in a teary celebration. She then called out Nunes, who retired in 2023 but said ahead of the fight she would return to the cage to fight the winner.

"I definitely want to fight Amanda. She's the greatest of all time," Harrison said. "I want to be the greatest of all time."



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Kayla Harrison, right, exchanges punches with Julianna Peña during the second round of a women's bantamweight bout at the UFC 316 mixed martial arts fight Sunday in Newark, N.J.

SPORTS



Keeping the faith

US coach Pochettino still optimistic despite losing streak » Soccer, Page 21

FRENCH OPEN



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Coco Gauff of the United States plays a shot against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus during their final match of the French Open at the Roland-Garros stadium in Paris on Saturday.

Putting past behind her

Gauff handles bad memories, top-ranked Sabalenka for first title

By JEROME PUGMIRE
AND SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

PARIS — Drawing on the painful memory of her defeat three years ago in the French Open final gave Coco Gauff just the motivation she needed to win the clay-court major for the first time.

The 21-year-old American defeated top-

ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday for her second Grand Slam title, two years after winning the U.S. Open.

“I think (the U.S. Open victory) was more emotional, but this one was harder,” said Gauff, who managed to handle the elements and the momentum swings better than Sabalenka. “I knew it was going to be about will power and mental (strength).”

The victory put to rest the bad memories of her 2022 French Open final loss to Iga Swiatek when, as an 18-year-old, Gauff felt overwhelmed even before stepping onto Court Philippe-Chatrier.

“It was a tough time, I was doubting myself,” Gauff recalled. “I was crying before the match, and so nervous, literally couldn’t breathe and stuff.”

Gauff said the lopsided loss rocked her confidence to such an extent that she was left “in a dark place” and feared she was not cut out for winning major titles.

“I thought if I can’t handle this, how am I going to handle it again?” she said.

She handled it just fine Saturday.

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Arenado’s walk-off pinch hit lifts Cardinals » MLB, Page 20

