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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Austin: DOD addressing document leak damage

BY DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In his first public remarks about the leak of sensitive military information online, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Tuesday that he's making every effort to assess the damage and minimize the impact on the war in Ukraine.

Austin made the comments during a joint news conference with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and their Philippine counterparts following the first 2+2 ministerial meeting between the two countries in several years.

Austin underscored the importance of getting to the bottom of how and why the documents were posted online. They purportedly contain information about Ukrainian troops and weapons during the conflict with Russia.

The first photographs of the documents were posted to Twitter and Telegram last week. Additional sensitive materials were found a couple days later.

"We will continue to work closely with our outstanding allies and partners, and nothing will ever stop us from keeping America secure," Austin said during a news conference following the ministerial meeting.

The Pentagon has said it's working to mitigate damage from the documents, but it hasn't said yet whether all the records posted online are authentic.

SEE AUSTIN ON PAGE 5



HEIDI LEVINE/For The Washington Post

A Ukrainian soldier stands in a trench in the eastern Donetsk region of Ukraine on Friday.

'We are testing them'

Ukrainian forces probe front lines for Russian weak spots ahead of expected attack

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE
AND SERHII KOROLCHUK
The Washington Post

DONETSK REGION, Ukraine — Even as they grapple with ammunition shortages and await materiel from Western backers, Ukrainian forces are testing Russian defenses for vulnerabilities ahead of a much-anticipated counteroffensive.

At one trench position just over

a kilometer from Russian lines, a Ukrainian corporal is working with a partner unit flying commercial drones to monitor Russian forces, identify weak points and plan strikes to destroy fortifications.

"We are testing them," he said, describing small operations aimed at identifying Russian fighting positions and measuring their response. "And of course,

RELATED

Ukraine probes video said to show soldier's beheading
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they are doing the same to us." Like others in this report, the corporal spoke on the condition he be

identified only by his rank and call sign, "Boxer," in keeping with Ukrainian military regulations.

Boxer said the small operations are preparing his unit for a full-scale attack as they wait for more ammunition and heavier equipment. "It's better not to allow [Russian troops] to dig themselves in so it will be easier for us

SEE UKRAINE ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Supermarkets to pay \$800K in overtime case

Associated Press

BOSTON — A Boston-area supermarket chain will pay \$800,000 to settle allegations it violated state labor laws by failing to pay workers overtime and weekend rates, the state attorney general's office said Tuesday.

The C-Mart stores, which specialize in Asian foods and are located in Boston's South End and Chinatown neighborhoods as well as in Quincy, were issued 15 citations in 2021 following an investigation by the attorney general's

Fair Labor Division.

In addition to not properly paying workers for overtime or for hours worked on Sundays, authorities concluded the stores failed to furnish accurate payroll records and failed to post required workplace notices.

"I am proud of the office's work to ensure that the workers harmed by C-Mart will get back the wages they are rightfully owed," Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell said in a statement.

The settlement was reached af-

ter C-Mart appealed the 2021 citations.

A lawyer for C-Mart said via email that the company cooperated with the investigation and that while it did not agree with the attorney general's methodology for calculating the amount due, it was pleased to reach a resolution without litigation.

"This matter arose due to book-keeping system issues and the unavailability of timecards, not to bad faith of anyone at C-Mart," attorney Matthew Morris said.

EXCHANGE RATES		
Military rates		
Euro costs (April 13)	\$1.07	
British pound (April 13)	\$1.21	
Japanese yen (April 13)	130.00	
South Korean won (April 13)	1,290.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3770	
Britain (Pound)	1.2459	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3465	
China (Yuan)	6.8790	
Denmark (Krone)	6.7882	
Egypt (Pound)	30.9004	
Euro	.9111	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8500	
Hungary (Forint)	341.24	
Israel (Shekel)	3.6696	
Japan (Yen)	133.18	
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3062	
Norway (Krone)	10.4489	
Philippines (Peso)	55.15	
Poland (Zloty)	4.25	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7511	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3284	
South Korea (Won)	1,323.63	
Switzerland (Franc)	.8967	
Thailand (Baht)	34.20	
Turkey (New Lira)	19.3205	
(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		8.00
Interest Rates Discount rate		5.50
Federal funds market rate		4.58
3-month bill		5.03
30-year bond		3.62

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MILITARY

China warns US, Philippines on Balikatan

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — China warned on Wednesday that a deepening security alliance between the United States and the Philippines should not harm its security and territorial interests and interfere in long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

When asked to comment on the combat exercises between American and Filipino forces that started

on Tuesday in the Philippines, the Chinese Embassy in Manila on Wednesday issued a statement by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, who said that such drills “should not target any third party and should be conducive to regional peace and stability.”

Wang did not say how China would respond if it concludes that the U.S.-Philippine security cooperation was hurting Beijing’s core

interests.

In Washington, the U.S. and Philippine defense and foreign secretaries met on Tuesday to discuss the development of nine Philippine military camps, where American forces have been allowed to stay indefinitely under the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

“These sites will support combined training exercises and interoperability between our forces to

ensure that we’re even better prepared for future crises,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said. He added the U.S. was allocating more than \$100 million to build infrastructure at the sites.

China has strongly opposed that agreement, which would allow American forces to establish military staging grounds and surveillance outposts in the northern Philippines across the sea from the Taiwan Strait and in western Phi-

lippine provinces facing the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety on historical grounds. Washington disputes China’s claims.

This year’s Balikatan exercises are the largest since the two sides started joint military combat-readiness exercises in the early 1990s. They will run until April 28. About a dozen countries including Japan and India but not China were sending observers, organizers said.

Top Army official says service is addressing recruiting challenges

By DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army is looking to significantly expand its advertising and marketing campaigns and make other moves to find as many new soldiers as possible, as it aims for a lofty recruiting target this year and a foundation for the years to come, a top service official said Tuesday.

Like all branches of the U.S. armed forces, the Army has faced substantial recruiting challenges in recent years. Last year, it was about 15,000 new recruits shy of its goal of 60,000. This year, the Army’s goal is 65,000 new soldiers.

“It’s become a whole-of-Army approach,” Undersecretary of the Army Gabriel Camarillo said Tuesday during an interview at an Association of the United States Army event near Washington. “There is no part of the Army that isn’t actively engaged in confronting the recruiting challenge.”

Military recruiting has become more difficult in the modern age with an all-volunteer force for a variety of reasons, and the problem is high on the priority list for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Space Force.

The Army’s advertising efforts

have already been apparent on television. The service resurrected its “Be All You Can Be” slogan earlier this year, rebranded with a new logo, bought ad times during the NCAA basketball tournament and ran slick new commercials during the games.

Camarillo said on Tuesday those moves are just part of the Army’s plans to cultivate a relationship with young Americans.

“Really, every senior leader in the Army spends every single week working on this challenge,” he noted. “[There are] a lot of levers we are pulling.”

The Army, in fact, is going well beyond traditional marketing to reach new recruits. It’s recently launched a Future Soldier Prep Course to expand the candidate pool, it has a referral program that offers promotion points or a new ribbon and the service is offering incentives to new soldiers, such as their choice of station after they complete basic training.

“These are just a few of the levers we are pulling,” Camarillo said. “There are many, many more.”

Camarillo noted that the Army’s requested budget for fiscal 2024 — roughly \$185.5 billion — includes funding for all its recruit-

ing plans.

One goal that’s part of the recruiting plan, the undersecretary added, is fine-tuning the messaging to Generation Z — Americans born from the mid-1990s to the mid-2010s — and introducing them to “the new United States Army.”

“The broader issue is how do we connect with Generation Z?” Camarillo asked at the AUSA event Tuesday. “The influencers for Generation Z — parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, principals, guidance counselors — they understand the value of a career in the Army ... and we have to reintroduce that.”

“They want community. They want purpose. They want what they’re doing to matter,” Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said of Generation Z Americans during an event last November. “I think we really need to reintroduce the Army to the country, to young people, to their parents, to influencers.”

According to recent Pentagon data, only 23% of young Americans between 17 and 24 meet the academic and physical requirements to serve in the military. Another study showed that fewer than 10% of young Americans are



GREGORY WILLIAMS/U.S. Army

Undersecretary of the Army Gabriel Camarillo delivers an address during a U.S. Army National Signing Day event on Feb. 14 in New York.

even interested in a military career. The sagging data have led the Army, the biggest armed service, to take a much more targeted approach to recruiting. That means narrower focus and just being more surgical in how and where it spends resources.

Another avenue that the Army wants to follow, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said a few weeks ago, is finding recruits in families that don’t have a lot of military connections. More than 80% of recruits traditionally come from military families, he said.

“We really need to make it not a military family business — but an American family business,”

McConville said at the time.

The Army’s ramped-up advertising campaign took a bit of a hit last month when the ads’ star, Jonathan Majors, 33, was arrested in New York City and charged with assaulting a woman. The actor, who’s appeared in major Hollywood motion pictures such as “Creed III” and “Devotion,” has denied the charges — but the Army pulled his commercials pending the outcome of a police investigation. The service spun some new ads together — instead featuring Army leaders such as Wormuth and McConville — and ran them during the Final Four.

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South Korean defense officials mum on reports of ammo loans for US

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Seoul has agreed to lend Washington hundreds of thousands of artillery shells to shore up its inventory, South Korean media outlets said Wednesday in reports that government officials have declined to address.

South Korea’s Dong-A Ilbo newspaper said Seoul agreed in March to lend 500,000 155 mm artillery shells to the U.S. military. Yonhap News Agency, citing government and defense officials, reported the same day that the deal

involved at least 330,000 shells.

The Dong-A Ilbo report cited unnamed government sources who said officials from both countries had “struggled” to devise an agreement in which South Korea could help the U.S. support the war effort in Ukraine without violating South Korea’s policy of not exporting lethal aid.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol so far has donated humanitarian aid to Ukraine but has publicly declined to send arms directly to the embattled nation at war with Russia since February 2022. Seoul’s trade policies say ex-

ports must be “used for a peaceful purpose” that do not “affect international peace, safety maintenance, and national security.”

Government spokespeople in Seoul were close-lipped about the media reports.

A Ministry of National Defense spokesman declined to comment and said by phone that the U.S. and South Korea were still discussing “measures to support the protection and freedom of Ukraine.”

A spokesman for the Defense Acquisition Program Administration, South Korea’s defense research and procurement agency,

also declined to comment.

The New York Times first reported last week that what appeared to be classified U.S. military documents were posted on social media platforms. A Times review of the documents revealed senior South Korean officials discussed sending artillery shells to Poland, Ukraine’s ally, to placate the U.S. request for support.

The U.S. previously made a deal to purchase 100,000 artillery rounds from South Korea, unnamed U.S. officials told The Wall Street Journal for a Nov. 10 report. Discussions to resupply Washing-

ton’s ammunition stockpile were still ongoing, the Ministry of National Defense said at the time.

The U.S. has supplied Ukraine with more than 1 million 155 mm artillery shells, 160 howitzers and 38 High Mobility Artillery Rocket systems, according to a Department of Defense factsheet from February.

That commitment has led military leaders to express concern for the U.S.’s ammunition stockpile.

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PACIFIC

Regular unleaded gasoline back at pumps in Yokota

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Gassing up at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo got a little cheaper Wednesday when an on-base filling station brought back regular unleaded fuel.

Fussa Express, one of two gas stations at Yokota, started selling 87 octane fuel for 3.54 a gallon on Wednesday morning.

In recent years the only gasoline option for motorists at the base had been premium 93 octane gas, which is still available at Yokota's East Side Express at \$4.34 a gallon.

"This is a great quality of life enhancement for service members and their families," Air Force Col. Jason Beck, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Pacific Region commander, said in a statement Wednesday.

The exchange also sells regular gasoline at other U.S. military bases in Japan, including Camp Zama in Kanagawa prefecture, the headquarters of U.S. Army Japan, about 25 miles from Yokota.

Gasoline prices on U.S. military bases in Japan have soared in recent years.

Premium grade gas hit \$5.31 a gallon at Yokota last month, prompting some military motorists to head off base, where regular gasoline, subsidized by the Japanese government, was selling for 159 yen a liter, or \$4.71 a gallon.

Regular was still selling for 159 yen a liter at a service station just outside Yokota's main gate on Wednesday.

The change to regular will help the Fussa Express compete with off-base retailers, said Ray Morris, a customer account specialist for Defense Logistics Agency

Energy Japan, ahead of a ceremony marking the change at the gas station.

Demand will likely be high once the Yokota community hears about the cheaper gas, he said.

Regular was sold at Yokota until about four years ago when the base pumps converted to premium, Morris said.

AAFES wanted to bring the cheaper product back last year; however, it took time to find a vendor who could deliver to the base, he said.

One of the first to gas up on regular at Yokota was Air Force spouse Sarah Minor. The mother of four paid \$45 to fill up her Honda Stepwagon with 12.7 gallons.

"It used to cost \$80 to fill up," she said.

The change will make a big difference for airmen, Col. Andrew Roddan, commander of Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing, said at the changeover. Most U.S. personnel stationed in Japan don't drive new cars, he said, and the change will "put money back in our airmen and families' pockets."

Fueling an engine designed for premium fuel with regular gas will not harm it, if it's done occasionally, but regular gasoline may cause engine knock that speeds up engine wear and tear over time, according to an Aug. 5, 2021, article on The Drive website.

The exchange sets overseas pump prices based on the U.S. Department of Energy's weekly average for each grade of gasoline in the continental United States, plus the unique, incremental costs the exchange incurs in each overseas market, according to AAFES' statement.

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AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Joshua DeMotts takes aim at a disc-golf basket on the Par 3 course at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on April 6.

Flying discs now are par for course on Yokota fairways

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Aficionados of the flying disc are scoring points on a new course at the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo.

Yokota's disc golf course incorporates the essentials of golf with the popularity of flying discs. It shares the fairways at the base's Par 3 course without interfering with the swings of conventional golfers.

The nine-hole disc golf course opened in January with \$5,000 worth of new equipment, Toshi Nakamura, manager of the Yokota Golf Center, told Stars and Stripes during a recent tour of the course.

Instead of using skinny clubs to hit small white balls into holes in the ground, disc golf players toss molded plastic discs into metal baskets suspended from upright poles. The sport was once commonly called Frisbee golf, but the makers of Frisbee, a trademarked brand name, are only one among several disc manufacturers.

Yokota owes its course in part to Air Force Maj. Marshall Gries, a

host nation support officer at USFJ. The avid disc golfer helped Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff set up the course so that it takes advantage of the Par 3 fairways without impacting regular golfers, he said, before a casual round on Thursday.

His playing partner, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Joshua DeMotts, a former Stars and Stripes journalist, is now the senior enlistee officer for American Forces Network at Yokota.

DeMotts tossed discs back home in Montana and started playing disc golf in the 1990s. He said he's scheduled to compete in May in the Japan Open in Sakai City.

Disc golf is a little more relaxed than regular golf when it comes to dress code, but DeMotts was wearing a pair of Syncrasy shoes with reinforced toes designed for the sport. He and Gries carry their discs in special backpacks.

Players typically use three types of discs — driver, mid-range and putter.

During their round, Gries and DeMotts demonstrated a variety

of throws, from the traditional backhand, to the forehand and the "thumber."

A hole-in-one isn't as rare in disc golf as regular golf.

"There are usually holes-in-one in every tournament," Gries said.

There are courses on military bases all over the world, said DeMotts, who has also played at the Air Force's Tama Hills Recreation Area and at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

Between 10 and 15 players have been using Yokota's disc golf course since it opened, Nakamura said. They've been getting on fine with the regular golfers, who often let the faster disc throwers play through. The only issue reported was a group of younger disc throwers who forgot to rake a bunker, Nakamura said.

The green fees for disc golf are the same as for regular golf — \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for lower ranks and \$2 for juniors. The pro shop has three sets of discs to rent for \$2, he said.

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Drug dealer who used military postal system on Okinawa loses appeal

By MATTHEW M. BURKE AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — A Japanese appeals court has upheld the drug-smuggling conviction of a ringleader who funneled cocaine and cannabis into Japan through the U.S. military postal system on Okinawa.

A three-judge panel from the Fukuoka High Court on Tuesday dismissed claims by Satoshi Kominami, 30, that he did not know the seized packages held narcot-

ics. He has 14 days to appeal to the Japan Supreme Court.

Kominami, who is unemployed and has no fixed address, was sentenced Sept. 30 in Naha District Court to 13 years in prison and fined about \$35,000 for organizing the importation of approximately 5 pounds of cocaine, a half-gallon of cannabis liquid and nearly 4 ounces of dried cannabis flower.

Mislabeling customs forms was "done to avoid inspections," Presiding Judge Yutaka Taniguchi said in court on Tuesday. "It is

easy to conclude that the defendant, who oversaw and controlled all these shipments, was aware of the illegal drugs."

Kominami, whom police mistakenly referred to as "Ken" after his sentencing last year, was arrested in October 2021 after U.S. military authorities alerted Japanese police to suspected drug-smuggling. In all, 10 people were arrested in connection with the alleged ring.

Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak to the

media on condition of anonymity.

The investigation snared one Marine and a Marine Corps civilian employee who were sentenced to prison in separate cases in Naha in late 2021 and early 2022.

At Kominami's sentencing, Naha District Court Judge Hironobu Ono said evidence showed Kominami led the ring and gave instructions to unnamed senders in the United States and the receivers on Okinawa, the Okinawa Times reported Oct. 4.

In court Tuesday, Taniguchi detailed the evidence against Kominami, including his instructions to the drug recipients, the mislabeling of customs forms, large payments for the shipments and that he tried to cancel a shipment to Cpl. Nicholas Garner, who had trouble collecting it.

He also kept some of the drugs in a locked safe.

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MILITARY

USAF eyes quickly moving teams from Europe to Pacific

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The Air Force is moving a small expeditionary team from Europe to a vast logistics exercise this summer in the Western Pacific region, in a demonstration of flexibility that comes months after the service’s general in charge of mobility warned of potential conflict with China in the near future.

This is the first time that Mobility Guardian, which will include thousands of U.S. service members and others from partner nations, will be held outside the United States since the biennial exercise’s inception in 2017.

The 1,800 airmen will practice moving personnel and gear in conflict scenarios, as well as air-lifts, air refueling and medical evacuations.

In a conflict or humanitarian disaster, small teams of aerial porters, aircraft maintainers and others would join contingency response forces, airmen who are first on the ground to open airfields.

Mobility Guardian is part of a larger effort to transform air mobility operations from a network of stationary hubs to small, agile units that can “lift and shift” at a moment’s notice, Maj. Gen. John Klein, commander of the Air

Force Expeditionary Center, said during a recent interview.

“We want to speed that whole thing up” to allow contingency forces to “then go forward to another location and open” up another airfield, Klein said.

The Air Force’s mobility wings have trained together in the past. But this is the first time a team “will swing to the other side of the world to support mobility operations,” said Col. Dan Cooley, commander of the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing at Ramstein.

It shows the command “is not restricted by lines on a map,” he said, adding that the task is not as simple as “getting on and off a plane.”

“We cannot expect the permissive environment we operate in today to be as permissive in a future conflict,” Cooley said.

The 521st has nine squadrons that support U.S. and coalition forces from 19 locations around Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Its main hub is at Ramstein.

In the past two years, it has played a big role in evacuating Afghan refugees and providing logistical support for NATO following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.

The operations were “a little bit more ad hoc in that we would just send folks to respond to a re-



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Maj. Gen. John Klein, left, commander of the Air Force Expeditionary Center, visits with airmen of the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in February.

quest,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jeremiah Grisham, the command chief of the wing.

He cited the recent supply of aid to Turkey after earthquakes in the south-central part of the country killed tens of thousands of people.

About 25 mobility airmen from Ramstein and Spangdahlem air bases jumped on a C-130 to help airmen in Turkey with the initial influx in the days after the first major quake Feb. 6, Grisham said.

But while the Europe-based logistics airmen have kept busy on the Continent, the Middle East and in Africa, the Indo-Pacific region remains the Pentagon’s long-term overseas priority.

China this week sent dozens of military aircraft, an aircraft carrier and other ships close to Taiwan’s east coast in a show of force after Taiwanese President Tsai

Ing-wen’s visit to the U.S.

China has claimed the democratic, self-governing island as its own, and has used military might to reinforce islands throughout the region that also are claimed by some U.S. partners and allies.

In January, a memo to airmen from the head of Air Mobility Command, Gen. Mike Minihan, predicted fighting with China in 2025.

“I hope I am wrong,” Minihan said in the memo, which received plaudits from some on Capitol Hill who urged taking China’s military moves more seriously.

The Pentagon said the memo did not represent its view, however, while other lawmakers cautioned against framing conflict with China as inevitable.

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Austin: Some documents may have classified intelligence info

FROM PAGE 1

A spokesperson said this week that some appear to be “altered” and some appear to contain classified information.

Philippines Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said during the news conference that the leak does nothing to harm U.S.-Philippines relations.

“I really don’t want to jump to any speculation or jump to any conclusions at this stage,” Manalo said. “We have full confidence in the investigation.”

“Just let me say that we are confident of the strength of our relationship and our growing partnership,” he added.

During the ministerial meeting, the leaders said the U.S. and Philippines agreed to new steps to bolster mutual defense, expand intelligence sharing and carry out joint sails in the South China Sea.

They also discussed interoperability involving four new U.S. military sites in the Philippines that were announced in recent weeks.

Two are just across the sea from Taiwan, which is a sore spot for China because it considers the island a breakaway territory.

“We all reaffirmed today that our mutual defense treaty remains the bedrock of our cooperation,” Austin said, emphasizing that the pact would apply to any attack on U.S. or Philippine forces in the South China Sea.

The meeting came as the U.S. and Philippines kicked off their largest military exercises in three decades.

The Balikatan exercises will involve more than 12,000 American troops and almost 5,500 Filipino troops, and include live-fire missile launches, urban and aviation operations, boat-sinking and counterterrorism drills and humanitarian assistance, officials said.

Balikatan, which means “shoulder to shoulder” in Tagalog, will run until April 28. About a dozen countries including Japan and India but not China were sending observers, organizers said.

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Stand-down at Navy base for mental health awareness

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

U.S. troops deployed to Bahrain are taking part in a two-day stand-down as the Navy seeks to increase awareness of and access to mental health services at the strategic Middle East command.

The event, which started Wednesday, includes information booths and presentations by mental health professionals and command leaders, among them Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet.

The involvement of Cooper and other leaders is vital in communicating the importance of mental health and demonstrating that the well-being of personnel is a priority for the command, said Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for NAVCENT/U.S. 5th Fleet.

The stand-down helps inform them and their families about expanded mental health resources

and services at the base under a two-year pilot program established in February 2022.

“The new options under this pilot program enacted last year have reduced the number of patients who would have been evacuated to the U.S. for treatment by 40%, which enables more personnel to remain on duty here in Bahrain and with their family members that are with them,” Hawkins said.

Those services include an improved waterfront resiliency center offering military family life counseling and workshops, among other resources, the Navy said in a June 14, 2022, statement.

Additionally, the Navy has removed some barriers to services. For example, people no longer need a primary care doctor’s referral to seek help at a walk-in clinic, and service members and dependents can stay in Bahrain to receive inpatient therapy through on off-base provider.

On average, 5th Fleet coordinates inpatient mental health support for about 100 service members or family members each year, he noted.

It is not just the responsibility of mental health professionals to provide the support, Hawkins said.

“It is a command, it is a leadership function to take care of our people,” he said.

Naval Support Activity Bahrain is home to NAVCENT/U.S. 5th Fleet and a Coast Guard unit. It has nearly 8,000 troops stationed at the base and throughout the fleet’s area of responsibility, including about 6,000 active-duty and reserve service members, he said.

Introduction of the pilot program followed a Navy push to address mental health treatment needs as the service continues to grapple with concerns about the number of suicides among sailors. In 2022, 70 active-duty sailors

died by suicide.

There were 59 and 65 suicide deaths of active-duty sailors in 2021 and 2020, respectively, according to data on the Navy’s website.

In 2018, the Bahrain base saw the suicide of Vice Adm. Scott Stearney, who was serving as commander of NAVCENT/U.S. 5th Fleet.

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EUROPE

Ukraine investigates beheading video

**BY SAMYA KULLAB
AND HANNA ARHIRIOVA**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine launched an investigation Wednesday into a gruesome video circulating on social media that purportedly shows the beheading of a Ukrainian soldier.

The video spread quickly online and sparked outrage from Ukrainian officials. The Kremlin called the footage “horrible” but said it needed to be verified.

The Associated Press was not able to verify the authenticity of the video or the circumstances of where and when it was shot.

Meanwhile, a Russian defense

official claimed that fighters from Russia’s paramilitary Wagner group have seized three districts of Bakhmut, the embattled city that for months has been the focus of Moscow’s grinding campaign in the east.

The video circulating online appears to show a man in green fatigues wearing a yellow armband, typically donned by Ukrainian fighters. He is heard screeching before another man in camouflage uses a knife to decapitate him.

A third man holds up a flak jacket apparently belonging to the man being beheaded. All three men speak in Russian.

Since Russia’s forces invaded Ukraine more than a year ago, they have committed widespread abuses and alleged war crimes, according to the United Nations, rights groups and reporting by The Associated Press. Ukraine has repeatedly accused Russia of targeting apartment buildings in its strikes, and images of hundreds of civilians lying dead in the streets and in mass graves in Bucha after Russian forces withdrew have horrified the world.

Ukrainian troops have also been accused of abuses, and last year Kyiv said it would investigate video footage circulated online that Moscow alleged showed

Ukrainian forces killing Russian troops who may have been trying to surrender.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the violence in the latest video would not be forgotten — and that Russian forces would be held responsible for such acts.

“Everyone must react, every leader. Do not expect that it will be forgotten, that time will pass,” he said in a video posted to his official Telegram channel.

In it, he used strong language to describe Russian soldiers, including calling them “beasts.”

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that it’s necessary to

thoroughly check the “horrible” video — including verifying that it’s real.

“In the world of fakes we live in the authenticity of the footage must be checked,” he said in a conference call with reporters.

Ukraine’s state security service launched an investigation the video, according to a statement from Vasyl Maliuk, the head of the agency, known as the SBU.

Posters in some pro-Kremlin Russian Telegram channels, while not confirming the authenticity of the video, did not dispute it. Some sought to justify it by saying that Russian troops have become hardened by combat.

Ukraine: Forces trying to prepare for Russian attack

FROM PAGE 1

to push them out,” he said.

The expected spring offensive has been framed as Ukraine’s make-or-break opportunity this year to recapture territory held by Russian forces, which totals about one-fifth of the country. But the operation has been delayed by weather, slow equipment deliveries and ammunition scarcities, fueling fears of a stalemate.

Further complicating the planned counterattack is the leak of dozens of U.S. military and intelligence documents, including many details about the condition of Ukraine’s military and its capabilities, including weaknesses in air defenses, that could force commanders to alter plans.

If Kyiv is unable to retake significant territory and the country’s Western backers flag, many Ukrainian people worry they will be forced into negotiations with Russia from an unfavorable position.

The corporal in the Donetsk region has held the same trench position for over six months. “We got to know their voices,” he said of the Russian soldiers just over a kilometer away. “At night, we hear a lot of drunken screaming, mostly curse words.”

Stationed outside the town of Bakhmut, another commander described carrying out similar operations to test Russian defenses.

“We’ve seen newly mobilized [Russian] troops brought in just for digging, and they are reinforcing their positions very well,” said the 24-year-old captain with the call sign Metis who oversees the planning of operations and reconnaissance for his unit. “They are reinforcing with whatever they can find: wood, even trash.”

During one recent operation,

drones were first used to identify mine fields on the Russian side before two small teams were sent in. “The results were much better than we planned; some of the soldiers shot back, but many abandoned their positions and weapons,” Metis said. The teams were able to push back a first line of Russian troops, but the Ukrainians did not advance and attempt to hold the position.

“Morale is low,” he said, explaining the desertions, “but that doesn’t mean all the Russian troops will perform like this. Their commanders are capable, but it looks like they can’t control their forces.”

He admitted that the success of the testing operations doesn’t mean his unit is ready for the full offensive. It is still waiting for more heavy equipment, armored vehicles to move large numbers of troops forward and more training.

When the unit first received an advanced antitank weapon system, troops trained themselves with the system manual and YouTube tutorials, he said.

“What I’m most concerned about are the anti-personnel mines. We can’t see them with our drones,” he said. During one operation, he said, they found the small explosives scattered all over a Russian defensive position. “There were even mines inside the trenches they were living in.”

Western aid played a critical role in helping Ukrainian forces push back Russian troops from the northeastern Kharkiv region and parts of Kherson in the south last year. Since then, however, the battle slowed to a protracted grind, and it is unclear whether the additional support will be enough to break the stalemate. In some parts of occupied Ukraine,



HEIDI LEVINE / For The Washington Post

Ukrainian forces during a training session with Soviet-era tanks in the Zaporizhzhia region last week.

Russia has now dug in with heavily fortified defenses.

“Of course I’m worried, the longer we wait,” said a Ukrainian lieutenant colonel commanding a tank battalion in the Zaporizhzhia region, who goes by the call sign “Thunder.” Russian forces are “fortifying themselves more and more each day,” Thunder said.

Heavily mined front lines are expected to be a particularly difficult obstacle to navigate, he said. “There are mines on both sides of the front. We planted a lot of mines, and so did the Russian side.”

Despite their defensive posture, Ukrainian forces continue to take losses. The fight for Bakhmut has stretched into the longest and deadliest battle of the war, with steep casualties on each side.

At a recent mass funeral for Ukrainian soldiers in Dnipro, 14 coffins draped with the national flag were blessed by Orthodox priests before being buried.

“Eternal glory for the heroes, eternal glory to all those who gave their lives for the freedom of Ukraine,” one of the priests said dur-

ing the service.

Vlad, a 26-year-old soldier, was killed when mortar rounds hit his position outside Bakhmut while he was digging a trench. His family asked that he be identified only by his first name because of security concerns.

“We were thrown into battle the first day after I joined,” said Vitalii, who served with Vlad and laid flowers on his grave. “I didn’t even know what unit I was in, it was so chaotic. Vlad was the first person I saw; I just followed him to know where to go.”

The two became close over nearly a year of fighting side by side. Vitalii said he was shocked when he heard how Vlad was killed. When the shelling began, Vlad didn’t run for cover like the others. “He must have been tired because I know he knew how to protect himself.”

“I know we have to fight this war, but I also know war isn’t the answer,” Vitalii said. “It’s just stupid.”

“Right now, I just feel exhausted,” he said, “and I remember Vlad saying he felt the same.”

Russia OKs electronic drafting bill

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The upper house of Russia’s parliament on Wednesday swiftly approved a bill that would allow authorities to issue electronic summonses to draftees and reservists amid the fighting in Ukraine.

The Federation Council’s vote was the last step needed before the bill goes to President Vladimir Putin, who is expected to quickly sign it into law.

Lawmakers in Russia’s lower house, the State Duma, passed the measure on Tuesday. The legislation was put on fast track as the Russian military is preparing for an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive, which Ukraine and its Western allies say could start within weeks.

Russia’s current military service rules require the in-person delivery of notices to conscripts and reservists who are called up for duty. In the past, many Russians avoided the draft in the past by staying away from their address of record. The proposed bill would close that loophole.

Under the new bill, the notices issued by local military conscription offices will continue to be sent by mail but they would be considered valid from the moment they are put on a state portal for electronic services.

Recipients who fail to show up would be prohibited from leaving Russia, have their drivers’ licenses suspended and be barred from selling their apartments and other assets.

Kremlin critics and rights activists denounced the new legislation as a step toward a “digital prison camp” that gives unprecedented powers to the military conscription offices.

MILITARY

Lawmakers blast Walter Reed religious services change

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers are demanding answers from the Defense Department over the recent ousting of a longtime Roman Catholic religious services provider at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland that they argue has left patients with insufficient pastoral care.

The hospital terminated a nearly 20-year contract with Holy Name College Friary on March 31 and issued a “cease and desist” order to the community of Franciscan Catholic priests and brothers shortly before Holy Week, according to the Archdiocese for the Mil-

itary Services.

A group of 11 Republican lawmakers, led by Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida, and Rep. Mike Gallagher, of Wisconsin, blasted the decision in a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. They are asking the Pentagon to explain why a for-profit, secular company received a contract to replace Holy Name College Friary in providing Catholic pastoral care.

“We have made promises to our service members and veterans that if they take care of us, we will take care of them. This extends to not just providing quality health care at our nation’s military medical facilities, but by also providing the ability to freely practice their

religion to those under the care at these facilities,” the lawmakers wrote. “The DOD’s actions to deny Catholic Pastoral Care from service members and veterans at Walter Reed goes against the morals, way of life, and rights that make up the fabric of our great nation.”

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, a diocese established by Pope John Paul II in 1985, has called the termination of the Franciscans’ contract a violation of the constitutional right to free exercise of religion. The Archdiocese said the secular defense contracting firm tasked with taking over for Holy Name College Friary cannot provide Catholic priests and is

incapable of carrying out the required work.

“This is a classic case where the adage ‘if it is not broken, do not fix it’ applies,” said Archbishop Timothy Broglio in a statement. “I fear that giving a contract to the lowest bidder overlooked the fact that the bidder cannot provide the necessary service. I earnestly hope that this disdain for the sick will be remedied at once and their First Amendment rights will be respected.”

One Catholic Army chaplain performed liturgies during Holy Week at Walter Reed and remains assigned to the hospital, but he is in the process of separating from the military, according to the Archdio-

cese.

Republican lawmakers said pastoral care requires more than just one active-duty priest and argued patients would be deprived of certain practices that can only be carried out by an ordained Catholic priest, including celebrating Holy Mass and hearing confessions.

Walter Reed did not respond to a request for comment but told Fox News in a statement on Sunday that the pastoral care contract is under review to ensure it “adequately supports the religious needs of our patients and beneficiaries.”

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NATION

2nd lawmaker could be returned to Tenn. House

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Commissioners in Memphis are scheduled to decide Wednesday whether to return Justin Pearson, a Black Democrat, to the Republican-led Tennessee House after he and a Black colleague were kicked out of the Legislature following their support of gun control protesters.

The Shelby County Board of Commissioners set a vote to determine whether Pearson will be sent back to the Legislature in Nashville.

Republicans banished Pearson and Rep. Justin Jones last week over their role in a gun control protest on the House floor in the aftermath of a deadly school shooting in Nashville that left three children and three adults dead.

The Nashville Metropolitan Council took only a few minutes Monday to unanimously restore Jones to office. He was quickly reinstated to his House seat.

The House's vote to remove Pearson and Jones but keep white Rep. Gloria Johnson drew accusations of racism. Johnson survived by one vote. Republican leadership denied that race was a factor, however.

Ahead of the vote, Pearson planned to lead a march from the National Civil Rights Museum to the county commission's office in downtown Memphis.

The expulsions last Thursday propelled the ousted lawmakers into the national spotlight. In the span of a few days, the two had raised thousands of campaign dollars, and the Tennessee Democratic Party had received a new jolt of support from across the U.S.

The appointments are on an interim basis. Special elections for the seats will take place in the coming months. Jones and Pearson have said they plan to run in the special election.

Political tensions rose when Pearson, Johnson and Jones



GEORGE WALKER IV/AP

State Rep. Justin Jones, D-Nashville, left, and expelled Rep. Justin Pearson, D-Memphis, raise their hands just before Jones takes the oath of office outside the state Capitol on Monday, in Nashville, Tenn.

joined with hundreds of demonstrators who packed the Capitol last month to call for passage of gun control measures.

As protesters filled galleries, the lawmakers approached the front of the House chamber with a

bullhorn and participated in a chant. The scene unfolded days after the shooting at the Covenant School, a private Christian school.

Support for Pearson has come from around the country, including Memphis. During a Monday

rally in support of Tyre Nichols, who died in January after he was beaten by police during an arrest, backers of Pearson said the commission was "on the clock."

"You've got one job — to reinstate Justin Pearson," activist LJ Abraham said.

Pearson grew up in the same House district he was chosen to represent after longtime state Rep. Barbara Cooper, a Black Democrat, died in office. It winds along the neighborhoods, forests and wetlands of south Memphis, through the city's downtown area and into north Shelby County.

Before he was elected, Pearson helped lead a successful campaign against a planned oil pipeline that would have run through neighborhoods and wetlands, and near wells that pump water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer, which provides drinking water to 1 million people. He gained a quick reputation as a skilled community activist and gifted public speaker.

Video shows Louisville police under fire from shooter

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Police body camera video released Tuesday showed the chaotic moments when police arrived at the scene of a mass shooting at a bank in downtown Louisville, as the shooter they couldn't see from the street rained bullets down on them.

The videos, taken from two wounded officers' lapels, offer a rare perspective of police officers responding to a massacre that killed five and injured eight others Monday. One, a rookie officer, was shot in the head within minutes of arriving at the scene, as his partner was grazed by a bullet and sought cover while still trying to take down the shooter.

Louisville Metro Police Department Deputy Chief Paul Humphrey walked reporters through edited footage and still photos at a new conference Tuesday and praised the responding officers for their heroism.

They received the call of a shooting at Old National Bank at 8:38 a.m., and the two officers arrived three minutes later, according to a chronology provided by police. They hadn't even gotten out of the patrol car when the gunman began firing on them.

"Back up, back up, back up," one officer shouted as gunshots thundered in the background.

One still image from surveillance video showed the 25-year-old shooter, who worked at the bank, holding a rifle, wearing jeans, a blue button-down shirt and sneakers, surrounded by broken glass inside the building. He had already shot numerous people inside, and police said he set up an ambush position to attack officers as they arrived. The front doors



LOUISVILLE (Ky.) METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

In this screen grab taken from the body cam video of Louisville Metro Police Department Officer Nickolas Wilt, fellow Officer Cory Galloway approaches an active shooting situation, with Wilt following behind him, at Old National Bank, in Louisville, Ky., on Monday. Both officers were injured in the incident.

were glass, elevated from the sidewalk, and because of the reflection, the officers could not see the shooter inside, Humphrey said. But he could see them.

Officer Cory Galloway retrieved a rifle from the trunk of the patrol car.

"Cover for me," he said, and they reported to dispatch that there had been shots fired.

Galloway was training rookie Officer Nickolas Wilt, who had graduated from the police academy just 10 days earlier. The videos showed them walking up the stairs toward the front door when the gunman fired a barrage of bullets.

Wilt was shot in the head, though that was not captured on video. Galloway was grazed in the shoulder, police said. His body camera

showed that he fell and then took cover behind a concrete planter at the bottom of the staircase leading to the building. Sirens from the dozens of police cars coming toward them wailed in the background.

"The shooter has an angle on that officer," he said in the video recording. "We need to get up there. I don't know where he's at, the glass is blocking him."

A video taken by a bystander across the street, which police also released Tuesday, showed him darting back and forth from one side of the planter to another, trying to get a shot at the gunman.

He waited, and as other officers arrived, more gunshots rang out and glass shattered. Galloway fired toward the gunman at 8:44 a.m., three minutes after arriving.

"I think I got him down! I think he's down!" he shouted. "Suspect down! Get the officer!"

He advanced into the building, and shards of glass crunched under his feet. The video then showed Galloway approaching the suspect, who lay on the ground inside the lobby next to a long rifle.

"I think you can see the tension in that video," Humphrey said Tuesday. "You can understand the stress that those officers are going through. ... They did absolutely exactly what they needed to do to save lives. Once officers arrived on scene, not another person was shot."

Wilt was still in critical but stable condition Tuesday, according to University of Louisville Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jason Smith.

Cheaper gas, food provide some relief from inflation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer inflation eased in March, with less expensive gas and food providing some relief to households that have struggled under the weight of surging prices but likely still keeping the Federal Reserve on track to further raise interest rates.

The government said Wednesday that consumer prices rose just 0.1% from February to March, down from 0.4% from January to February and the smallest increase since December. Measured from a year earlier, prices were up just 5% in March, down sharply from February's 6% year-over-year increase and the smallest rise in nearly two years. Much of the drop resulted from price declines for such goods as gas, used cars and furniture, which had soared a year ago after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, though, so-called core inflation remains high. Core prices rose 0.4% from February to March and 5.6% from a year earlier. The Fed and many private economists regard core prices as a better measure of underlying inflation.

Price increases in the economy's vast service sector — ranging from rents and restaurant meals to haircuts and auto insurance — are keeping core inflation high, at least for now. That trend is widely expected to lead the Fed to raise its benchmark interest rate for a 10th straight time when it meets in May.

NATION

Lawmakers win access to mishandled docs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has begun sharing with a bipartisan group of lawmakers known as the Gang of Eight classified documents found in the possession of former President Donald Trump, President Joe Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence, according to five people familiar with the matter.

Top lawmakers, including Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, had for months been asking

the Justice Department to provide access to the documents — or at least an assessment of what was in them — so that Congress could gauge the potential national security harm.

That process recently got underway, said the people, who insisted on anonymity to discuss private interactions between the Justice Department and Congress.

“They’re finally moving. We’ve got a lot more documents to review and, more importantly, to make sure there was mitigation

taken,” Warner said Wednesday, adding that the documents were being received on a rolling basis. He said that while he was “glad to see progress,” it is “still unacceptable for me that it took this long.”

A Justice Department special counsel, Jack Smith, is investigating whether Trump mishandled roughly several hundred documents with classified markings that were taken after his term ended to Mar-a-Lago, the former president’s Florida estate, and whether he or his representatives sought to obstruct that probe. Another

special counsel, Robert Hur, is also investigating the improper retention of documents from Biden’s time as vice president that have been located in his Delaware home and his pre-presidential think-tank office. Biden has said he had no knowledge the documents were there.

A lawyer for Pence also said in January that an apparently small number of papers were inadvertently boxed and transported to his Indiana home at the end of the Trump administration.

Punchbowl News first reported

the development.

The Biden administration held a classified briefing on the documents earlier this year for members of Congress, but senators accused the executive branch of stonewalling and insisted that they needed for national security reasons to see for themselves what materials the men had been holding.

The Justice Department had said that it wanted to be cooperative with the lawmakers’ demands within the confines of the ongoing investigations.



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg claims in a lawsuit that Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, is attempting to intimidate and attack him over his indictment of former President Donald Trump.

Manhattan DA sues Jim Jordan over Trump indictment inquiry

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg sued Rep. Jim Jordan on Tuesday, an extraordinary move as he seeks to halt a House Judiciary Committee inquiry that the prosecutor contends is a “transparent campaign to intimidate and attack” him over his indictment of former President Donald Trump.

Bragg, a Democrat, is asking a judge to invalidate subpoenas that Jordan, the committee’s Republican chair, has issued or plans to issue as part of an investigation of Bragg’s handling of the case, the first criminal prosecution of a former U.S. president.

U.S. District Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil, a Trump appointee who previously served as a federal bankruptcy court judge, declined Tuesday to take immediate action on the lawsuit. She scheduled an initial hearing for April 19 in Manhattan, the day before the

committee plans to question, under subpoena, a top former prosecutor who was involved in the Trump probe.

Bragg’s lawsuit, a forceful escalation after weeks of sparring with Jordan and other Republican lawmakers in letters and media statements, seeks to end what it says is a “constitutionally destructive fishing expedition” that threatens the sovereignty and integrity of a state-level prosecution.

“Congress lacks any valid legislative purpose to engage in a free-ranging campaign of harassment in retaliation for the District Attorney’s investigation and prosecution of Mr. Trump under the laws of New York,” the lawsuit says, citing the lack of authority in the Constitution for

Congress “to oversee, let alone disrupt, ongoing state law criminal matters.”

In response, Jordan tweeted Tuesday: “First, they indict a president for no crime. Then they sue to block congressional oversight when we ask questions about the federal funds they say they used to do it.”

The Judiciary Committee recently issued a subpoena seeking testimony from a Mark Pomerantz, the former prosecutor who previously oversaw the Trump investigation and sparred with Bragg over the direction of the probe before leaving the office last year. Pomerantz, who has declined to cooperate with the committee, is under subpoena to testify at a deposition on April 20 unless Vyskocil intervenes. The committee has also sought documents and testimony from the DA’s office but Bragg has rejected those requests.



Jordan

Dems tap Chicago for 2024 convention, cite critical Midwest arena

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats announced Tuesday that they will hold their party’s 2024 national convention in Chicago, choosing the biggest liberal city in the Midwest as they try to keep the momentum going after a strong midterm election performance in the key battleground region.

Organizers from Chicago, Atlanta and New York spent months lobbying to be the site of the convention, but the final decision lay with President Joe Biden, who is expected to formally launch his reelection campaign in the coming weeks.

“Chicago is a great choice,” Biden, who was flying to Northern Ireland, said in a statement. “Democrats will gather to showcase our historic progress including building an economy from the middle out and bottom up, not from the top down.”

The Democratic National Committee said its convention would be held Aug. 19-22 and noted that Illinois, along with Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, was part of the critical Midwestern “blue wall,” which was key to Democrats’ success in the 2020 and 2022 elections. That rosy language omits the fact that Michigan and Wisconsin narrowly broke for Donald Trump in 2016, helping the Republican win the White House.

Chicago is solidly Democratic, as is Illinois. But holding the party’s presidential nominating gathering in such a pro-union city demonstrates Biden’s commitment to organized labor. The move also could counter Republicans, who are holding their 2024 convention in Milwaukee, located in another swing Midwestern state, Wisconsin.

Republican National Commit-

tee Chairman Ronna McDaniel blasted Democrats’ “radical agenda” and predicted that voters “will soundly reject whichever out-of-touch liberal the Democrats nominate in Chicago.”

The convention will be held at the United Center, home to the NBA’s Chicago Bulls and the Chicago Blackhawks of the NHL. Chicago made sense for logistical reasons, with plenty of hotel space and public transportation.

The city is also home to major Democratic donors who can help with raising money to cover costs of a convention. That includes Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, a billionaire businessman and heir to the Hyatt hotel fortune who has contributed millions to Democratic causes and candidates, and was a major proponent for his city getting the convention.

The DNC said that Chicago represents the party’s diversity and “formidable coalition” and that the Midwest will “showcase President Biden’s economic agenda” including spending on public works as part of a sweeping bipartisan infrastructure package that cleared Congress in 2021.

Chicago hosted the infamous 1968 Democratic convention, which is best remembered for a brutal clash between police and protesters opposing the Vietnam War. The last Democratic National Convention in the city was in 1996, when President Bill Clinton was headed to a second term.

Pritzker promised Tuesday that the convention would be an “unforgettable event.” He had pointed to Democrats’ desires to expand their Midwestern electoral gains, particularly in Michigan, where their party held the governorship and won control of both chambers of the Legislature during last fall’s midterms.

NATION

As STD numbers climb, doctors turn to old drug

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials released data Tuesday showing how chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis cases have been accelerating, but doctors are hoping an old drug will help fight the sexually transmitted infections.

Experts believe STDs have been rising because of declining condom use, inadequate sex education and reduced testing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Millions of Americans are infected each year. Rates are highest in men who have sex with men, and among Black and Hispanic Americans and Native Americans.

“Sexually transmitted infections are an enormous, low-priority public health problem. And they’ve been a low-priority problem for decades, in spite of the fact that they are the most commonly reported kind of infectious disease,” said Dr. John M. Douglas Jr., a retired health official who lectures at the Colorado School of Public Health.

To try to turn the tide, many doctors see promise in doxycycline, a cheap antibiotic that has been sold for more than 50 years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is drafting recommendations for using it as a kind of morning-after pill for preventing STDs, said Dr. Leandro Mena, director of the agency’s STD pre-

vention division.

The drug is already used to treat a range of infections. A study published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine showed its potential to prevent sexually transmitted infections.

In the study, about 500 gay men, bisexual men and transgender women in Seattle and San Francisco with previous STD infections took one doxycycline pill within 72 hours of unprotected sex. Those who took the pills were about 90% less likely to get chlamydia, about 80% less likely to get syphilis, and more than 50% less likely to get gonorrhea compared with people who did not take the pills after sex, the researchers found.

The study was led by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco and built on a similar French study that saw promise in the idea.

Mena, of the CDC, said there is no sign the STD trend is slowing.

Experts noted the CDC will have many factors to weigh as it develops the recommendations.

Among them: The drug can cause side effects like stomach problems and rashes after sun exposure. Some research has found it ineffective in heterosexual women. And widespread use of doxycycline as a preventive measure could contribute to mutations that make bacteria impervious to the drug.

Musk says owning Twitter ‘painful,’ needed to be done

Associated Press

LONDON — Billionaire Elon Musk has told the BBC that running Twitter has been “quite painful” but that the social media company is now roughly breaking even after he acquired it late last year.

In an interview also streamed live late Tuesday on Twitter Spaces, Musk discussed his ownership of the online platform, including layoffs, misinformation and his work style.

“It’s not been boring. It’s quite a roller coaster,” he told the U.K. broadcaster at Twitter’s San Francisco headquarters.

Musk predicted that Twitter could become “cash flow positive” in the current quarter “if current trends continue.” Because Twitter is a private company, information

about finances can’t be verified.

After acquiring the platform, Musk carried out mass layoffs as part of cost-cutting efforts. He said Twitter’s workforce has been slashed to about 1,500 from about 8,000, describing it as something that had to be done.

“It’s not fun at all,” Musk said.

“The company’s going to go bankrupt if we don’t cut costs immediately. This is not a caring-uncaring situation. It’s like if the whole ship sinks, then nobody’s got a job.”

Asked if he regretted buying the company, he said it was something that “needed to be done.”



Musk



ZACH PIATT, THE PALLADIUM-ITEM/AP

Smoke rises from an industrial fire, Tuesday in Richmond, Ind.

Massive plastics fire prompts evacuation order in Indiana city

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Ind. — An evacuation order affecting more than 1,000 people was expected to remain in place through Wednesday around a large industrial fire in an Indiana city near the Ohio border where crews worked through the night to douse piles of burning plastics, authorities said.

Multiple fires, which began burning Tuesday afternoon, continued burning Wednesday morning within about 14 acres of various types of plastics stored both inside and outside buildings at the former factory site in Richmond, 70 miles east of Indianapolis, Richmond fire

Chief Tim Brown said.

“There’s plastics inside buildings, there’s plastics outside buildings, there’s plastics in semitrailers that are throughout the grounds here at the complex, so we’re dealing with many type of plastics. It’s very much a mess,” Brown said.

Brown said a plume of smoke continued rising Wednesday from the site and about 15 firefighters had remained in place overnight working to fight the flames, which he said are contained within the old factory site.

Aaron Stevens, a Richmond police officer who lives six blocks from the plant, said he first heard

the sirens Tuesday before he saw the pillar of smoke from his backyard that blocked the afternoon sun. The smoke came with an acrid odor and he said ash then fell on his deck and backyard.

“It was blocking out the sun completely,” he said. “The birds were going crazy.”

State and federal regulators were at the scene to assess air quality and other environmental impact.

Richmond Mayor Dave Snow said Wednesday that the plastics recycling site had been under a city order to clean up and remediate the complex.

Criminal probe focuses on school where 6-year-old boy shot teacher

Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Prosecutors in the Virginia city where a 6-year-old shot his teacher in an elementary school classroom are investigating whether the “actions or omissions” of any school employees could lead to criminal charges, according to court documents released Tuesday.

Howard Gwynn, the commonwealth’s attorney in Newport News, filed a petition for a special grand jury to probe if any “security failures” contributed to the shooting at Richneck Elementary in January that seriously wounded teacher Abby Zwerner.

Gwynn wrote that an investigation could also lead to recommendations “in the hopes that such a situation never occurs again.”

Gwynn’s petition was released a day after his office charged the boy’s mother with felony child neglect and a misdemeanor count of endangering a child by reckless

storage of a firearm. The child used his mother’s 9 mm handgun to shoot Zwerner. Police say the weapon was legally purchased.

Last week, Zwerner filed a \$40 million lawsuit against the school system, accusing school officials of gross negligence and of ignoring multiple warnings from teachers and other school employees that the boy had taken a gun to school on the day of the shooting.

Zwerner also alleges that school officials knew the boy “had a history of random violence” at school and at home, including that he “strangled and choked” his kindergarten teacher.

“Our lawsuit makes clear that we believe the school division violated state law, and we are pursuing this in civil court,” Diane Toscano, an attorney for Zwerner, said Monday.

The prosecutor’s decision to investigate school employees for any criminal activity is the latest

fallout from the shooting, which sent shockwaves through Newport News, a shipbuilding city of about 185,000 people near the Chesapeake Bay.

Days after the shooting, school officials revealed that Richneck administrators suspected the child may have had a weapon, but they didn’t find it despite searching his backpack.

Parents and teachers lambasted administrators, saying students who assault classmates and staff rarely face consequences, and that Zwerner’s shooting could have been prevented if not for a toxic environment in which teachers’ concerns are ignored.

In the wake of the Newport News shooting, the school board fired the district’s superintendent, and Richneck’s assistant principal resigned. The elementary school’s principal is still employed by the district but no longer holds that position.





MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

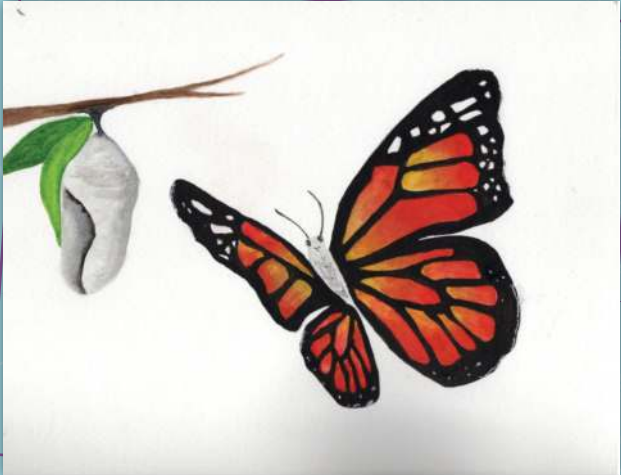
Processing Change

We asked what military children had to say about military life and they did not disappoint.

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Military Kids and Butterflies

Elisabeth / Vincenzo High

A few years ago, shortly after my family moved to Italy I wanted to try something new, so I decided to paint. Since then I have loved creating new things with my watercolors. I wanted to paint something that truly showed what it is like to be a military kid. I decided to paint a magnificent butterfly.

Butterflies go through tremendous changes in their lifetimes. Caterpillars become completely unrecognizable, yet no one mourns the caterpillar's change to a butterfly. The change that butterflies go through is difficult but essential to their life cycle. That change makes them more than they ever could be as a caterpillar. They have become a newer and better version of themselves.

A definition of change is an act or process through which something becomes different. This could be the definition of any military kid's life. We live in a constant state of change. For many of us, our lives become completely different every couple of years. Not only has our home changed, but we have too. We become a new and better version of ourselves. In some ways, we are the same, but in other ways, we are changed. After each move, I picked up new hobbies, made new friends, and learned new things.

Change is hard, but after I struggled through it, things always got better, slowly but surely. I can now see that change is good for me. No matter what, every move will be hard, and I will never truly get over the fear of change, but I can know that change will help me grow.

I want to suggest a different definition for the same word change: To replace something with something that is newer or better than before. Just like butterflies, change is what makes military kids so magnificent.



Go Forth, World Traveler

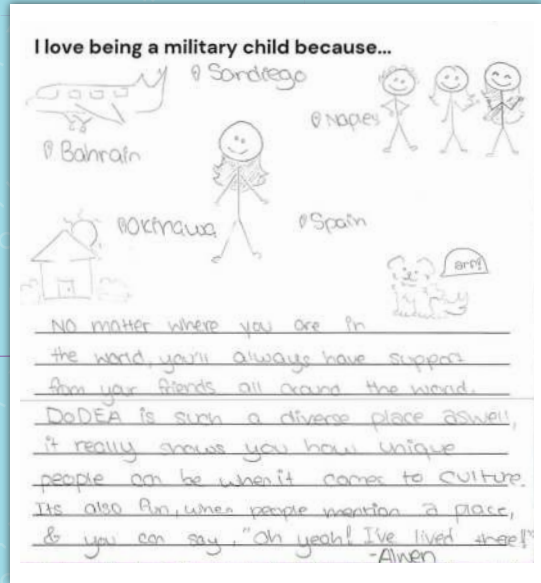


Being a Military Child

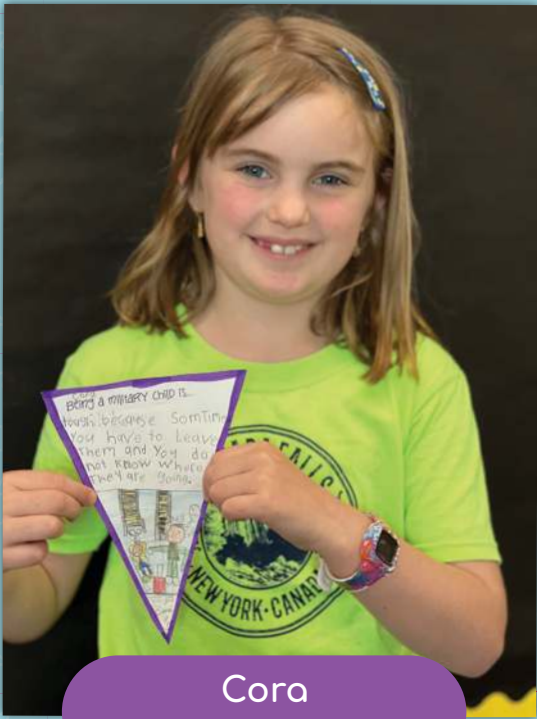
Johana / Netzaberg Elementary

Because my dad is in the army, he has to go and fight for the world and be away from home.

We move a lot and this is good because I can meet new places.



Alwen
Bahrain Middle



Cora
Bob Hope Elementary

Military Child

Jake / Bahrain Middle



My Dad's promotion ceremony

My Dad and Mom are both in the Navy

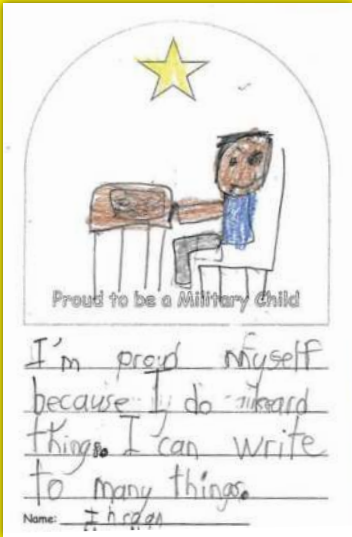
I have lived in Florida, Hawaii, Washington, Italy and Bahrain

I have been to 33 countries and I'm only 13 years old

Although I move often and have to leave friends, being a military kid is pretty good.

Military kids are great at traveling

I speak German and English



Ihsaan
Netzaberg Elementary

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Unpacking It All

Nala / Vicenza High

Hello, new bedroom

Hello, new street

Hello, new classmates I'm afraid to meet, don't get too close I always think

I always do, silly me

Despite the consistent home we sought

We remained persistent while our parents fought

Goodbye, bedroom

Goodbye, street

Goodbye, friends I've grown to adore

All I wish is I could see you once more

Goodbye, comfort

Goodbye, all I know

I'll learn tons more

In the next place I'll go

Buongiorno!!!

Evil Teddy Bear



Alondra
Baumholder Teen Center

Hopes Can't Be Quelled

The youngest in our military communities may have the least control over where they end up. Resilience and perspective shifts become second nature, which serves a military child throughout life when met with struggle.



You Think you Know, But You Have No Idea

Scarlett / Osan Middle High

You think you know, but you have no idea what an athlete goes through when transferring to a school overseas. A life spent revolving around a sport, turns to struggling to keep up with players in the States. With a scarcity of competitiveness and resources like travel teams and clubs, even playing for a division two team in college feels incredibly out of reach. Time overseas is spent constantly wondering where you could be with your sport if you lived in the States. It feels like no matter how hard you work, athletes in the states having will always be ahead.

My life has revolved around volleyball since the end of 5th grade, but it's almost embarrassing to say, because when compared to people my age in the States, I look like I'm lying due to the past two years living in South Korea. These two years have been filled with countless hours spent trying to keep up. This situation is worse in the eyes of a senior. There are no scouts here for sports, and to get a scholarship through athletics, your only option is to send in film from the school season, which is commonly overlooked.

Now, I feel like it is hard to get anywhere with volleyball, and while I will never give up on getting ahead, my career in athletics was the hardest goodbye. This is a struggle for all athletes stationed overseas that not enough know about.

Leaving and Finding

Sophie / Aviano Middle

Houses close together, new or old

I see the colors red and white as I

watch the flag fold

I am gone just as quick as I got there,

I wave goodbye, it's more than I can bear

In the sky, on the ground, we arrive

Feet shuffling, new voices around,

Every one trying to fit in, every one finding their kin,

None friends for long, each finding a brand new song

Desks lined up in a row, friendships longing to grow,

No one is minding, that we are

Leaving and finding.



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Fort Carson, Fort Hood,
Joint Base San Antonio, or
Joint Base Lewis-McChord?



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MONTH OF THE
MILITARY
CHILD

Tackling Challenges

Growing up in a military family gives young people a unique perspective. They can find joy in the small things and face the tough stuff with confidence.

My Life as a
Military Child

Hayley / Netzaberg Elementary



My life as a Military child has been a little bit difficult, I have been moving after 3 years all my life. Why do we rotate stations like this? Sometimes I cry in my room, all because I miss my best friend. She moved and we have different time zones, we miss each other daily but she's all the way in Virginia. I wish I didn't have the hurt that I have now, but there are good things too. Like, sometimes we move where we can go to the pool, even in winter! I do like how in Germany the snow is so soft, it feels like I'm up in the sky touching a cloud.

It's my birthday today, and I am all so joyful that there are other kids who get how I feel. When I am down, people are always there for me. No matter what mood, or place I'm in, people are always there to pick me up. I love writing and painting sunsets when I'm bored, and I love watching TV with my family. My little brother and I sometimes fight, but I love him no matter what. So, I guess it isn't all bad, at least I have great friends and family who support and love me with all their hearts.

Military Child

Odin / Kadena Elementary

It's great to be a military child! I'm glad that my dad is in the military. He is defending our country and supporting me and my family. We like to travel and explore new places in Japan. For example, we have been camping and river trekking in Okinawa. Another reason I like being a military child is because I have made new friends from all over the U.S and other countries. These are all the reasons why I like being a military child!



Military Child

Jody / Humphreys Middle

Hyperactive, Goofy, Intelligent, and Understandable!

Who enjoys food, video games, and sports

Who also loves his family, cooking, and spending time with friends

Who fears extremely large objects in the ocean,
And being left behind in a scary situation

Who is the person who wonders what comes next

Who wishes to be successful

Who dreams of accomplishing all goals

Who feels good about himself and wishes to feel the same for others

Who plans to do better and improve after failure

And who believes everyone has a chance to be successful

Being a Military Child

Aleena / Darby Elementary



Being a military child can be tough sometimes. You always have to move away, or your mom or dad has to go on deployment. But, you must always remember, even as a military child, you need to serve and help your community. Help make a better life for you and everyone around you and always be strong.



Growing Up a Military Kid

Sam / Vicenza High

Most people don't believe I was born in Japan, but it is true. I was born in Okinawa, Japan, at the Naval hospital. My dad is in the Army and has been for my entire life. As a military kid, I have had to move multiple times, attend several schools, adjust to different cultures, and learn at least two different languages, which is difficult at best. Some people call military kids "military brats." An Army brat is the child or teenager of an active-duty soldier. While brat is usually considered a negative term, "military brat" is generally used as an affectionate term among military families, including my own.

As a "military brat," I have moved five times and lived in six locations, including four different countries. I am not unusual, as the average military kid attends six to nine schools from kindergarten through high school. Where I was born in Japan, local toddlers use training chopsticks. My favorite thing to do was to go to the "sushi go-round," where I could watch sushi plates go by on a conveyor belt. When I moved to Italy, I attended an Italian preschool, or "Asilo," where I had a four-course lunch daily. We wore smocks over our clothes, and the only person that spoke any English was the school secretary. In Mississippi, where I attended kindergarten and 1st grade, if a student didn't say "ma'am" or "sir" to an adult, the teacher would just stand there waiting, saying, "yes, what?" In Mississippi, my entire family had a crash course in manners. In Germany, where I attended school, or "Grundschule," from 2nd to 4th grade, I showed up on the first day only knowing one German word: "ausfahrt," which is a funny one and means "exit" on a highway. The best part of German school was that it was half-day, which meant I was home for lunch, and soccer was an actual class. When my family moved to Maryland, I had no idea what lacrosse was or how scary the Chesapeake Bay Bridge was. We are back in Italy; funny enough living in the same house we lived in when we were stationed here before. What is unusual about this particular assignment is that it is my first time attending a DODEA school. In sixteen years, I have gone to six different schools in locations all around the world.

Each year, April is recognized as Military Child Appreciation month. There is a reason military kids are recognized. Although it can be fantastic to travel the world and meet new people, if I am honest, it is also challenging. Military kids are often asked to be brave while their parent is away and in harm's way, brave while they start a new school and try to make new friends in a different culture, and brave while they catch blips of scary events happening worldwide in the news. Currently, my dad is at home, but he has deployed in the past and routinely travels to Africa. My Uncle Ike is deployed to Mongolia, and my cousin Grace has to go to bed every night without her dad.

How can you help a fellow army brat? It's easy. Smile at them. Ask them to eat lunch with you and your friends. Invite them to play soccer. Be welcoming. Understand that by just showing up at school "brand new" that day, they were brave. And as they say in the Army, "Hooah!"



View more entries at militarychild.stripes.com

WORLD

Biden: Economic growth in Ireland ‘just beginning’

Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — President Joe Biden said a bright future for Northern Ireland is “just beginning,” pledging enduring American support as he marked the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

The U.S.-brokered deal brought peace to this part of the United Kingdom, but a new political crisis has recently tested its strength.

“It’s up to us to keep this going,” Biden said in a speech at Ulster University.

On his first presidential visit to Northern Ireland, Biden stressed that American investment can help fuel economic growth — especially if the fractious politicians in Belfast resolve a stalemate that has put their government on pause.

“Your history is our history,” he said. “And even more important, your future is America’s future.”

Biden’s speech navigated Northern Ireland’s complex political currents, referring to his British as well as Irish ancestry, and noting the contribution to the U.S. of largely Protestant Ulster Scots as well as Irish Catholics like his own forebears.

U.S. involvement was key to negotiating the Good Friday accord,

which largely ended decades of sectarian violence that killed 3,600 people. Biden credited people who were willing to “risk boldly for the future” by reaching the agreement, reminding the audience that “peace was not inevitable.”

While that peace has endured, Northern Ireland is currently without a functioning government. Stormont, the seat of its assembly, has been suspended since the Democratic Unionist Party, which formed half of a power-sharing government, walked out a year ago over a post-Brexit trade dispute.

In addition, a top police official was shot and injured in February, an attack that authorities have blamed on Irish Republican Army dissidents opposed to the peace process.

“The enemies of peace will not prevail,” Biden said. “Northern Ireland will not go back, pray God.”

Biden’s schedule on Wednesday began over tea with U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Asked what he would tell the leaders of Northern Ireland’s five main political parties when he meets with them later in the day, Biden responded, “I’m going to



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President Joe Biden speaks at Ulster University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Wednesday.

listen.”

Amanda Sloat, the Democratic president’s top adviser on European affairs, said that while Biden wants to see the Stormont government back up and running, he won’t try to strongarm Northern Ireland’s politicians back to the table.

“The purpose of the president’s visit today is to mark the Good Friday Agreement, to continue to reaffirm the support of the United States for peace and prosperity,” she said. “The president’s message ... is the United States’ strong support for that, the belief that the people of Northern Ireland deserve to have a democratically elected power sharing represen-

tative governance.”

The political crisis stems, in part, from Brexit. Britain’s departure from the European Union left Northern Ireland poised uneasily between the rest of the U.K. and EU member Ireland and put the peace agreement under increased strain.

After much wrangling, Britain and the EU struck a deal in February to address the tensions over trade, an agreement welcomed by the U.S., which had urged London and Brussels to end their post-Brexit feud. The Democratic Unionist Party, though, says the Windsor Framework doesn’t go far enough and has refused to return to government.

As he set off for Belfast on Tuesday, Biden said a priority of his trip to Northern Ireland was to “keep the peace.”

While U.K. officials hope the president’s presence can help nudge the unionists back into government, Biden faces mistrust from some unionists because of his Irish American heritage. Sammy Wilson, a DUP lawmaker in the U.K. Parliament, told Talk TV that Biden “has got a record of being pro-republican, anti-unionist, anti-British.”

“The track record of the president shows he’s not anti-British,” Sloat said, adding that “the U.K. remains one of our strongest and closest allies.”

Germany scales back cannabis liberalization

Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany’s government presented scaled-back plans Wednesday to liberalize the country’s rules on cannabis, including by decriminalizing possession of limited amounts and allowing marijuana sales for recreational purposes to members of nonprofit “cannabis clubs.”

In a second step, German officials also envision setting up regional test projects to sell cannabis through “commercial supply chains,” Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said. But the proposal differs from one he presented in October, which foresaw allowing the sale of cannabis to adults across the country at licensed outlets.

The German government revised the plan following talks with the European Union’s executive commission. Agriculture Minister Cem Özdemir said EU law “sets us limits we must respect, but that I

will also say we are pushing.”

Lauterbach had cautioned all along that the government would only proceed with its original plan if it got the green light from the EU.

Germany has allowed some patients to get cannabis as a prescription medication since 2017, when a conservative-led government ran the country.

The proposed legislation foresees legalizing the possession of up to nearly 1 ounce of cannabis and allowing individuals to grow up to three plants.

It would let German residents 18 and older join nonprofit “cannabis clubs” with a maximum 500 members each, which would be allowed to grow cannabis for members’ personal consumption. Individuals would be allowed to buy up to 25 grams at a time, or up to 50 grams per month — a figure that would be limited to 30 grams for adults under age 21.

Mexican immigration chief to be charged in fire

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico’s top immigration official will face criminal charges in a fire that killed 40 migrants in Ciudad Juarez last month, with federal prosecutors saying he was remiss in not preventing the disaster despite earlier indications of problems at his agency’s detention centers.

The decision to file charges against Francisco Garduño, the head of Mexico’s National Immigration Institute, was announced late Tuesday by the federal Attorney General’s Office.

It followed repeated calls from within Mexico, and from some Central American nations, not to stop the case at the five low-level officials, guards and a Venezuelan migrant already facing homicide charges in the case.

Anger initially focused on two guards who were seen fleeing the March 27 fire, without unlocking the cell door to allow the

migrants to escape. But President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said earlier Tuesday that they didn’t have the keys.

The Attorney General’s Office said several other officers of Garduño’s agency will also face charges for failing to carry out their duties, the statement said, but prosecutors did not explain what specific charges or identify the officials.

Prosecutors said the case showed a “pattern of irresponsibility.”

The press office of the immigration agency that Garduño heads did respond to messages and phone calls requesting comment.

Prosecutors said that after a fire at another detention center in the Gulf coast state of Tabasco killed one person and injured 14 in 2020, the immigration agency knew there were problems which needed to be corrected, but alleged they failed to act.

Cooked bats, ton of fish, found in van in Germany

Associated Press

BERLIN — German officials seized cooked bats and nearly a ton of unrefrigerated fish after police stopped a van that had entered the country from Belgium, authorities said Wednesday.

Federal police said a patrol on Monday stopped the vehicle at a highway exit on the edge of the border city of Aachen, and found the bats under the fish. A vet from the local consumer protection office was sent to the scene and ordered the bats and fish confiscated. Police seized the van, which was uninsured.

The 31-year-old driver, an Ivorian citizen, faced a criminal complaint for traffic offenses and unauthorized entry because he entered the country without papers or a driver’s license, police said in a statement.



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OPINION

The leaked documents on the Ukraine war are chilling

BY DAVID IGNATIUS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON
James J. Angleton, the CIA counterintelligence chief who was a walking definition of the word “eccentric,” once confided to me that it didn’t matter whether a spy was a double agent or a triple agent, as long as you knew the difference.

I was 29 years old at the time, recently assigned to cover intelligence for The Wall Street Journal, and frankly, I had no idea what Angleton was talking about. But his meaning becomes slightly clearer as we consider the recent leaks of U.S. military intelligence regarding the Ukraine war.

Were these documents disclosed by the Russians to expose Ukrainian weakness and shatter morale, as seems most likely to the analysts I contacted? Or were they actually disseminated by Ukraine, as some Russian bloggers appear to believe, in a plot to make the Kremlin think that Ukraine is weak and thereby disguise its true strengths in advance of a planned spring counteroffensive?

We’re in Angleton’s “wilderness of mirrors” here. What matters, as he observed, is that you know what’s accurate and what is a manipulated reflection. Though a few documents appear to have been doctored, an administration official told me Monday: “We’re still examining them, but at first glance, this appears to be real.”

Intelligence is always about what philosophers call epistemology — the study of how we know what we know. But let’s try to focus on facts, by examining some baseline themes in the documents that accord with information from other sources.

First, Ukraine is facing a severe shortage of air defense weapons that could cost it the war. We knew it had a problem from last week’s announcement that the United States was rush-

ing an additional \$2.6 billion in air defense systems and other weapons. The new package includes ammunition for Patriot and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System missile batteries; nine gun trucks and 10 anti-drone laser systems; new air surveillance radars, anti-aircraft ammunition and Grad rockets.

The raw numbers about the air defense shortage recorded in a Feb. 23 document are scary. Ukraine depends on Soviet-era SA-10s and SA-11s for 89% of its air defense over 20,000 feet. At current firing rates, the document predicted, the SA-11s would be depleted by March 31 and the SA-10s by May 2. Other systems “are unable to match the Russian volume” of attacks, and the shortage is so severe that “multiple mitigating options must be simultaneously pursued.”

If Ukraine can’t fill this gap, Russia could finally have the “air superiority” to attack Ukrainian ground targets at will, the document notes. That means Ukraine might not be able to mass ground forces for its counteroffensive or protect its cities.

Second, the West’s “arsenal of democracy” isn’t close to matching Ukraine’s needs. In theory, logistics should be Ukraine’s great advantage against a Russia facing what were supposed to be “crippling” sanctions. But there’s a bad mismatch between Ukraine’s expenditure of missiles and ammunition and the West’s supplies. The documents describe desperate efforts to persuade nations such as South Korea and Israel to sell lethal weapons to Ukraine.

This ought to be the trump card for the United States. In World War II, the United States converted manufacturing plants across the country to make tanks, planes and aircraft carriers that simply overwhelmed Japan and Germany. No similar mobilization has taken place this time. Why not? Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has met several times with de-

fense contractors, but why hasn’t President Joe Biden appointed the equivalent of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s War Production Board?

Third, the Biden administration has been more risk averse than some allies — and more than seems necessary. One of the documents says that Britain and France have sent crewed electronic warfare planes over the Black Sea while the U.S. has sent only drones. Why? The answer is that we don’t want a direct confrontation with Russia, like the one the documents say took place in September, when the Russians nearly shot down a British RC-135.

The administration’s caution is sensible. But are Biden and Austin being too cautious? International law allows surveillance planes to fly 12 miles off the coast. Yet one of the documents draws a wider 50-mile limit around Crimea, describing it as a “SECDEF Directed Standoff.” Pentagon officials evidently decided that the intelligence gained from flying closer wasn’t worth the risk. But they should explain why to the public.

Finally, journalists have been hearing privately for many months from top U.S. officials that they believe this conflict is at a deadly impasse, with heavy casualties depleting both sides. The documents provide a more explicit snapshot. A Feb. 23 analysis described a “grinding campaign of attrition” that “is likely heading toward a stalemate.”

Ukraine is betting that a spring counteroffensive can reverse these trends. The administration backs that gamble, too. “Much will depend on the fighting in the spring as to how much longer the war lasts,” the administration official told me.

“In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies,” British Prime Minister Winston Churchill famously said in 1943. But the Ukraine intelligence documents appear to be largely accurate, and they tell a chilling story.

How the US is losing its control of the world over Ukraine

BY RACHEL MARSDEN
Tribune Content Agency

PARIS
CIA Director William Burns hightailed it to Saudi Arabia last week, reportedly frustrated, according to The Wall Street Journal, that peace was on the verge of breaking out — the kind that could end the Global War on Terrorism in the Middle East, which has been the pretext for U.S. military intervention for decades, but also unite Washington’s allies with its foes. And it only has itself to blame.

Of utmost concern to the spy chief is an agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to re-establish diplomatic ties. Even worse: China is the broker. Not only does this mean that efforts to isolate Iran from its neighbors and from the global economy will now be undermined, but Washington will also lose the ability to count on Saudi-backed jihadis to do its bidding against Iranian-aligned interests in Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Lebanon and Libya. It also raises the specter of a global economic de-dollarization, with both Iran and Saudi Arabia now ramping up their use of the Chinese yuan in bilateral trade.

A Russian-mediated rapprochement has also just taken place between Saudi Arabia and Syria. Until now, it was unthinkable considering the fact that in the past decade, the CIA and Pentagon have spent billions of U.S. taxpayer cash in support of Saudi-aligned jihadis to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Another sign that Washington was losing control over the Middle East to its own detriment came when OPEC+, the world’s oil producing countries — led by Russia and Saudi Arabia — decided to suddenly cut output (thereby raising prices) at a time when Washington and Europe have done everything to deprive Russia of revenues amid the conflict in Ukraine.

It’s not hard to imagine that these countries would be fed up with fighting with each other, egged on by Western interests, to the detriment of their own economic development. Or that the conflict in Ukraine has demonstrated the need for these nations to diversify their economic interests away from Washington and in favor of a more balanced approach to avoid the impact of U.S. and Western sanctions like those already imposed on Moscow, Iran and China. The problem with sanctioning so much of the world is the risk of it ultimately culminating in self-isolation.

Europe — and in particular France and Germany — have been begging Washington for some relief on pricey U.S. gas imports in the wake of being egged on, by President Joe Biden himself during a visit one year ago, to cut themselves off from cheap Russian gas in support of the U.S.-led Western agenda. Then came another slap in the face to European industry from Biden’s protectionist Inflation Reduction Act. So it’s no wonder that French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Spanish Prime

Minister Pedro Sanchez have recently made pilgrimages to China to talk trade. Or that France and China have also just announced their first LNG trade in Chinese yuan.

For Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., all this economic diversity is a threat. “Brazil cut a trade deal with China. They’re going to, from now on, do trade in their own currencies, get right around the dollar. They’re creating a secondary economy in the world totally independent of the United States,” Rubio told Fox News’ Sean Hannity. “We won’t have to talk about sanctions in five years, because there will be so many countries transacting in currencies other than the dollar that we won’t have the ability to sanction.”

Rubio’s description of global trade not controlled by the U.S. as a “secondary economy” speaks volumes. But what exactly did he expect? Inoculation against U.S. sanctions is the whole idea of de-dollarization. Maybe if lawmakers like Rubio hadn’t wielded sanctions as a weapon against even the friendliest global competitors, then it wouldn’t have blown back in their faces.

The conflict in Ukraine has sent much of the world scrambling to reduce its exposure to Washington’s self-centered whims in their own sovereign interests. Don’t blame China and Russia, who are only capitalizing on years worth of unforced errors.

Rachel Marsden is a columnist, political strategist and host of independently produced talk shows in French and English.

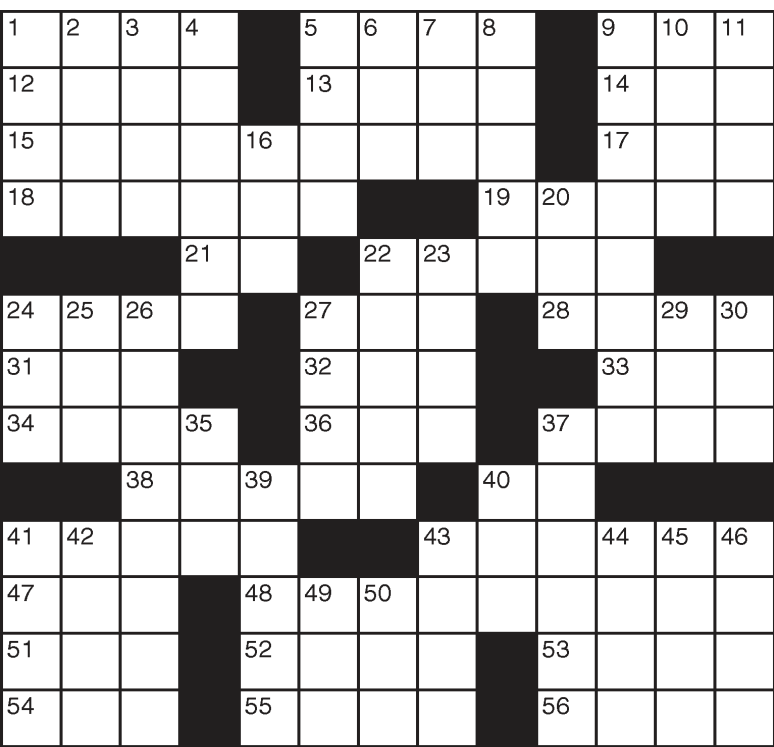
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

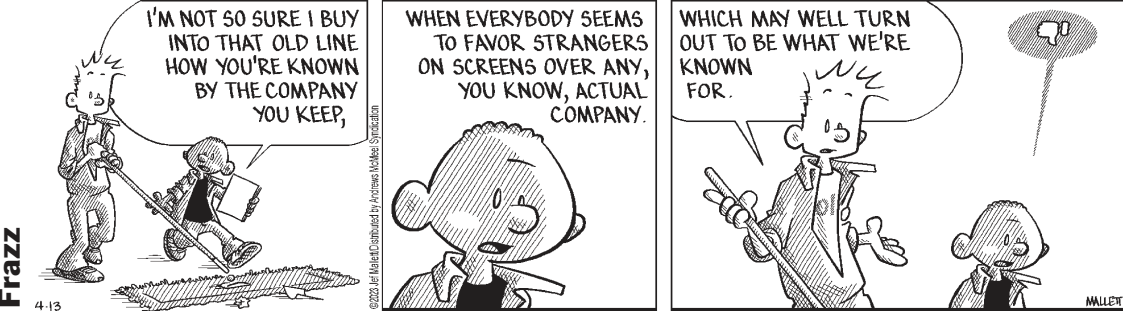


- ACROSS
- 56 Vail gear
- 24 Stitch
- 25 Previously
- 26 Fizzy drink
- 27 Thwart
- 29 Large snake
- 30 Cry
- 35 The Cowboys, on a scoreboard
- 37 Leafy lunches
- 39 Jaunty chapeau
- 40 PC alternative
- 41 Reporter's quest
- 42 Has bills
- 43 Charon's river
- 44 Ankara resident
- 45 Morales of "Jericho"
- 46 Society newbies
- 49 Not 'neath
- 50 Flamenco cheer
- DOWN
- 1 Relaxing resorts
- 2 Small fruit pie
- 3 Monster
- 4 Illinois city
- 5 Franc replacement
- 6 L-P link
- 7 Olympic skater Midori
- 8 Gambling game
- 9 Red vegetable
- 10 Rhine feeder
- 11 — gum (thickener)
- 16 Drenched
- 20 Summer mo.
- 22 Bit of snow
- 23 Mandolin's kin
- 1 Desist
- 5 Actor Jannings
- 9 Purse
- 12 Leaf
- 13 Golden Rule word
- 14 — de cologne
- 15 Starch-yielding plant
- 17 Historic period
- 18 Sound system
- 19 Spud
- 21 Tagged player
- 22 Bakery need
- 24 Poet Teasdale
- 27 Winter ailment
- 28 Oodles
- 31 Conceit
- 32 Feedbag bit
- 33 Odometer start
- 34 Fireplace fuel
- 36 '50s president
- 37 Wild guess
- 38 Kitchen furniture
- 40 Cellist Yo-Yo
- 41 Aristocrat
- 43 Like most pretzels
- 47 Lamb's mama
- 48 Source
- 51 Teeny
- 52 Slithery
- 53 Colorless
- 54 Old map letters
- 55 Fearsome dinosaur

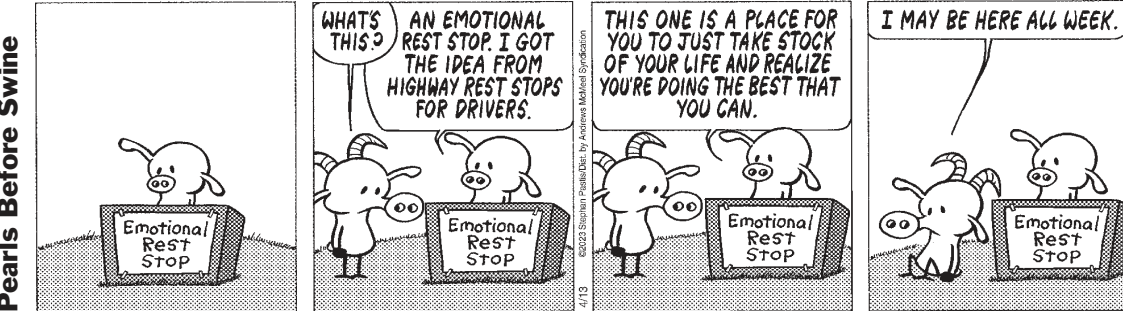
Answer to Previous Puzzle



Frazz



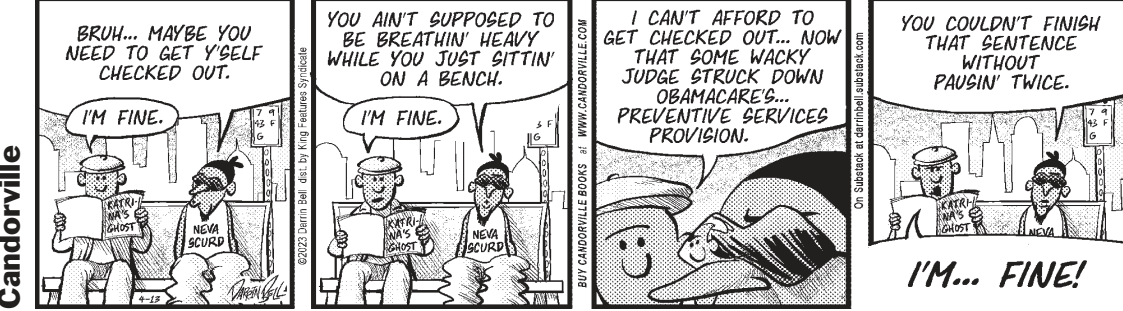
Pearls Before Swine



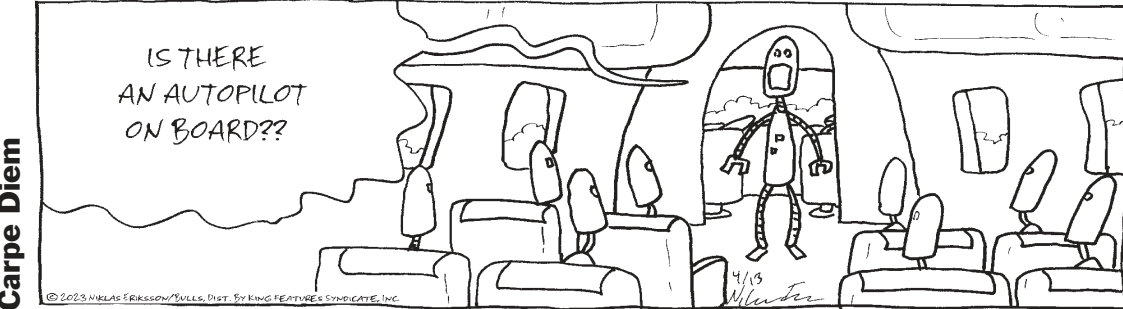
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

JMBX HE ELNUXMHRZ XMBX
QLDGC IU YLDRC IUGLJ B
VHQXDPU LY B QMBPZUC
BXLN? B QBXHLR QBVXHLR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DIDN'T THAT MEGASTORE HAVE ANY TALCUM AVAILABLE TO BE PURCHASED? IT HAD A POWDER OUTAGE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals G

FACES

Prepared by a page-turner

Great read turned into dream role for Garner in ‘The Last Thing He Told Me’

By ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

If you devoured Laura Dave’s novel “The Last Thing He Told Me,” you’re not alone. The book spent 65 weeks as a New York Times bestseller, and one of those readers who couldn’t put it down was Jennifer Garner.

“I read it with my middle child. We kept pushing bedtime later and later because we were just compelled to read one more chapter, two more chapters, three more chapters,” Garner said in a recent interview, where she had a copy of the book next to her on a chair. “I can’t even explain how much I loved it.”

Her great read turned into a “dream role” when Julia Roberts — who was originally attached to star in a TV show based on the book — had to drop out due to scheduling conflicts. Dave co-created the series, which debuts Friday on Apple TV+, with Josh Singer, her Oscar-winning husband, and wrote the adaptation. Reese Witherspoon, who chose the book for her Reese’s Book Club after its May 2021 release, is also an executive producer.

Garner plays Hannah Hall, who marries a man named Owen (played by Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) after a whirlwind courtship. Hannah is not just a new wife but a stepmom to Owen’s teen daughter, Bailey, played by Angourie Rice, who regards her as a rude interruption to her family of two. One day Owen disappears and leaves Hannah a note instructing her to protect Bailey, with no other information. Hannah and Bailey are left to figure out what happened.

The idea of playing a person “growing into becoming a mother” intrigued Garner. As a mom of

three, she gravitates to children and describes herself as a “natural caretaker.” Garner co-founded the children’s fresh produce-centric company Once Upon a Farm and is a board member of Save the Children. She’s also acted in a number of family-friendly films including “Yes Day” and “Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.” Garner was curious about a character who learns “how much parenting comes from doing it.”

For Rice, she adjusted to play someone who doesn’t know how to have a mother.

“Bailey has only had one person



APPLE TV+/AP

Angourie Rice, as Bailey (left), and Jennifer Garner, as Hannah, must work together when Bailey’s father disappears and leaves behind a cryptic note in “The Last Thing He Told Me.”

in her life, and that’s her dad. That is the first and only person she goes to for anything,” Rice said. “They really form a team, so when that goes away, I think Bailey is resistant to Hannah because she is everything that her dad is not. She doesn’t understand Bailey, and Bailey is so used to being understood.”

Garner and Rice found that their off-screen relationship also progressed throughout filming, in a more organic way than becoming an insta-mother and daughter.

“Sometimes you play a mom in a movie and you are thrust in the role of motherhood. You’re being a mom, and then the actual relationship under it has to catch up,” Garner said. “In this case, you’re watching us grow closer and closer and more and more trusting of each other into a really cool part-

nership in the way that Hannah and Bailey experienced as well.”

Garner also had to still her own energy to match Hannah’s, who is more reserved.

“Hannah and I are incredibly different,” she said. “I have kind of Labrador Retriever energy and Hannah is more a sphinx of a cat who wants to be left alone.”

Dave spent 10 years writing the book and says for someone who loves the process of writing, this one was “painful.” Working on the screenplay swung the other way and was so positive, it made her emotional. “There were a couple of times when we were in my backyard where I had to casually say, ‘Excuse me’ and I went inside and I was, like, a puddle. And then I’d go back outside and Jen would be like, ‘You’re not fooling anyone. I see the tears.’”

Renner attends premiere, months after plow accident

From wire reports

Jeremy Renner attended the premiere for his new series Tuesday, less than four months after the “Avengers” star was nearly killed in a snowplow accident.

Renner was surrounded by family and supporters at the “Rennervations” premiere in Los Angeles, where he posed for photos and did interviews, at times making use of a cane and a knee scooter.

Renner was crushed by his 7-ton snowplow on New Year’s Day while trying to help free a relative’s car at his Nevada home. The actor has said he broke numerous bones and suffered a collapsed lung and pierced liver.

“Rennervations,” now streaming on Disney+, follows Renner as he transforms large vehicles into community spaces for young people in India, Mexico, Chicago and Nevada. The purposes range from serving as a mobile music



Renner

studio to a water filtration truck for a community in India.

Construction and music have been creative outlets for Renner, who is best known for playing the superhero Hawkeye in the Marvel “Avengers” films and in his own spin-off TV series.

Other news

■ Fed up by an enormous pothole in his Los Angeles neighborhood, **Arnold Schwarzenegger** picked up a shovel and filled it himself. The actor and former California governor tweeted a video Tuesday of him and a helper using packaged concrete to repair the roadway in the Brentwood area. “I always say, let’s not complain, let’s do something about it,” Schwarzen-

egger said on Twitter. Mayor Karen Bass has announced a plan to address what she called an unprecedented number of potholes caused by recent storms. City authorities say more than 17,000 potholes have been filled since Dec. 30.

■ For years, **Metallica’s** hits have been a staple in marching bands’ repertoires. Now the metal group is reciprocating the love. On Monday, Metallica launched its inaugural “For Whom the Band Tolls” marching band competition. Frontman and guitarist James Hetfield broke the news with a whimsical YouTube video. “Calling all marching bands. Metallica wants to see your most creative and impressive performances of our songs,” Hetfield said after playing toy drums and a toy trumpet. According to Hetfield, Metallica has partnered with sponsors to provide winning high school and collegiate bands “over \$150,000 in new gear for their programs.”

Recordings from Madonna, Mariah, Mario put in registry

Associated Press

Mario, Madonna and Mariah have entered the national audio canon.

Madonna’s star-making 1984 album “Like a Virgin,” Mariah Carey’s 1994 holiday perennial “All I Want For Christmas Is You” and the original 1985 theme from Super Mario Bros. are now in the U.S. National Recording Registry as part of “the defining sounds of the nation’s history and culture,” the Library of Congress announced Wednesday.

In all, 25 albums, singles and other sound artifacts spanning more than a century are being inducted into the registry, from the first known recording of mariachi music in 1908 and 1909 by Cuarteto Cocolense, to 2012’s “Concerto for Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra” by composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich.

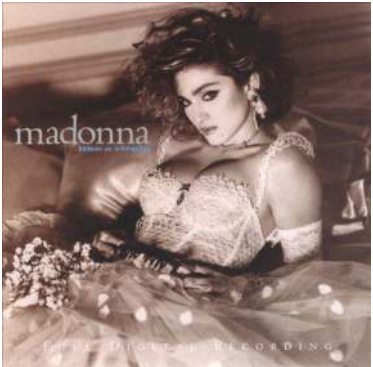
The Super Mario Bros. music, officially known as the “Ground Theme,” written by young Nintendo composer Koji Kondo, becomes the first music from a video game to enter the registry.

Queen Latifah becomes the first female rapper with a recording in the registry with the inclusion of her 1989 album, “All Hail the Queen,” whose songs include the feminist anthem “Ladies First.”

Other full albums getting recognition include 1970’s “Déjà Vu” by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, 1983’s “Synchronicity” by the Police, and 1985’s “Black Codes (From the Underground)” by jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.

Other singles making the list include Bobby Gentry’s “Ode to Billie Joe” (1967), John Lennon’s “Imagine” (1971), Led Zeppelin’s “Stairway to Heaven” (1971), John Denver’s “Take Me Home, Country Roads” (1971), and Jimmy Buffett’s “Margaritaville” (1977).

They are joined by two 1980s standards: “Flashdance...What a Feeling” by Irene Cara (1983) and “Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)” by Eurythmics (1983).



Madonna’s breakthrough album, “Like a Virgin,” was among the recordings added to the U.S. National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress.

SCOREBOARD/SOCCER

PRO SOCCER

MLS							
EASTERN CONFERENCE							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Cincinnati	5	0	2	17	9	4	
New England	5	1	1	16	12	6	
Atlanta	4	1	2	14	14	10	
Columbus	4	2	1	13	17	8	
Nashville	3	2	2	11	6	2	
Chicago	2	1	3	9	9	8	
NYCFC	2	2	3	9	7	8	
Orlando City	2	2	2	8	5	6	
Toronto FC	1	1	5	8	8	7	
Philadelphia	2	4	1	7	8	9	
New York	1	2	4	7	5	6	
Inter Miami CF	2	5	0	6	6	8	
D.C. United	1	4	2	5	7	12	
Charlotte FC	1	4	2	5	7	14	
CF Montréal	1	5	0	3	3	16	
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Seattle	5	1	1	16	15	3	
Saint Louis SC	5	2	0	15	15	8	
LAFC	4	0	2	14	12	3	
FC Dallas	3	2	2	11	9	7	
Minnesota	3	1	2	11	7	5	
San Jose	3	2	2	11	7	8	
Houston	3	3	0	9	8	7	
Vancouver	2	2	3	9	11	7	
Austin FC	2	3	1	7	6	10	
Real Salt Lake	2	4	0	6	6	14	
Colorado	1	3	3	6	3	8	
Portland	1	4	2	5	6	12	
LA Galaxy	0	3	3	3	3	9	
Sporting KC	0	4	3	3	2	8	

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

Saturday, April 8

Cincinnati 1, Philadelphia 0

Columbus 2, D.C. United 0

Los Angeles FC 3, Austin FC 0

FC Dallas 1, Miami 0

New England 4, CF Montréal 0

San Jose 1, New York 1, tie

Atlanta 1, New York City FC 1, tie

Chicago 2, Minnesota 1

Houston 3, LA Galaxy 0

Colorado 1, Sporting Kansas City 0

Toronto FC 0, Nashville 0, tie

Real Salt Lake 3, Charlotte FC 1

Seattle 3, Saint Louis City SC 0

Vancouver 1, Portland 0

Saturday's games

Colorado at Charlotte FC

New England at Columbus

D.C. United at CF Montréal

Houston at New York

Nashville at New York City FC

Atlanta at Toronto FC

Vancouver at Austin FC

Philadelphia at Chicago

Real Salt Lake at FC Dallas

Orlando City at Minnesota

Cincinnati at Saint Louis City SC

Seattle at Portland

Sporting Kansas City at San Jose

Sunday's game

Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy

Saturday, April 22

Columbus at Charlotte FC

Portland at Cincinnati

New York at CF Montréal

Sporting Kansas City at New England

FC Dallas at New York City FC

D.C. United at Orlando City

Toronto FC at Philadelphia

Miami at Houston

Los Angeles FC at Nashville

Saint Louis City SC at Colorado

San Jose at Real Salt Lake

Austin FC at LA Galaxy

Minnesota at Seattle

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	2	0	0	6	8	1
San Diego	2	0	0	6	6	3
Washington	1	0	1	4	3	2
Houston	1	0	1	4	2	1
OL Reign	1	1	0	3	2	1
Angel City	1	1	0	3	3	3
Gotham FC	1	1	0	3	2	3
North Carolina	1	1	0	3	2	3
Louisville	0	0	2	2	2	2
Chicago	0	2	0	0	3	5
Kansas City	0	2	0	0	1	5
Orlando	0	2	0	0	1	6

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

Friday's game

Houston at Portland

Saturday's games

Washington at North Carolina

Gotham FC at Orlando

Kansas City at Chicago

Louisville at Angel City

San Diego at OL Reign

Saturday, April 22

Chicago at OL Reign

Houston at Washington

North Carolina at Gotham FC

Louisville at Portland

TENNIS

Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters	
Tuesday	
At Monte Carlo Country Club	
Monte Carlo, Monaco	
Purse: Euro 5,779,335	
Surface: Red clay	
Men's Singles	
Round of 64	
Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, def.;	Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 6-1, 7-5.
Alexander Zverev (13), Germany, def.;	Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def.;	Ben Shelton, United States, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.
Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def.;	Ugo Humbert, France, 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.
Karen Khachanov (9), Russia, def.;	Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, 6-2, 6-2.
Luca Nardi, Italy, def.;	Valentin Vacherot, Monaco, 7-5, 7-5.
Lorenzo Musetti (16), Italy, def.;	Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, 7-6 (1), 6-0.
Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, def.;	Daniel Evans, Britain, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.
Round of 32	
Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, def.;	Jaume Munar, Spain, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def.;	Ivan Gakhov, Russia, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, def.;	Benjamin Bonzi, France, 4-1, ret.
Hubert Hurkacz (10), Poland, def.;	Jack Draper, Britain, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 7-5.
Men's Doubles	
Round of 32	
Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni, Argentina, def.;	Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Maxime Cressy, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (2).
Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool (6), Britain, def.;	Nicolas Mahut, France, and Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-4.
Round of 16	
Fabrice Martin, France, and Andreas Mies, Germany, def.;	Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, and Jannik Sinner, Italy, 6-4, 6-4.
Taylor Fritz, United States, and Holger Rune, Denmark, def.;	Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavić (4), Croatia, 6-3, 6-4.
ATP rankings	
Singles	
Through April 10	
1. Novak Djokovic, Serbia	7160
2. Carlos Alcaraz, Spain	6780
3. Stefanos Tsitsipas, Greece	5775
4. Casper Ruud, Norway	5250
5. Daniil Medvedev, Russia	5150
6. Andrey Rublev, Russia	3470
7. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada	3450
8. Jannik Sinner, Italy	3345
9. Holger Rune, Denmark	3335
10. Taylor Fritz, USA	3065
11. Frances Tiafoe, USA	2870
12. Karen Khachanov, Russia	2855
13. Hubert Hurkacz, Poland	2750
14. Cameron Norrie, Great Britain	2735
15. Rafael Nadal, Spain	2715
16. Alexander Zverev, Germany	2410
17. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain	2185
18. Tommy Paul, USA	2070
19. Alex de Minaur, Australia	2050
Doubles	
1. Neal Skupski, Great Britain	7100
1. Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands	7100
3. Rajeev Ram, USA	6612
4. Joe Salisbury, Great Britain	6522
5. Mate Pavić, Croatia	5410
6. Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands	5290
6. Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez, El Salvador	5290
8. Nikola Pietrangeli, Croatia	5205
9. Austin Krajicek, USA	5040
10. Ivan Dodig, Croatia	4530
WTA rankings	
Singles	
Through April 10	
1. Iga Swiatek, Poland	8975
2. Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus	6891
3. Jessica Pegula, USA	5735
4. Ons Jabeur, Tunisia	5031
5. Caroline Garcia, France	4990
6. Coco Gauff, USA	4346
7. Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan	4305
8. Daria Kasatkina, Russia	3505
9. Maria Sakkari, Greece	3191
10. Petra Kvitová, Czech Republic	3162
11. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland	2870
12. Barbora Krejčíková, Czech Republic	2443
13. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia	2360
14. Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil	2276
15. Liudmila Samsonova, Russia	2246
16. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus	2237
17. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic	2210
18. Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia	2100
19. Magda Linette, Poland	1810
Doubles	
1. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic	7716
2. Barbora Krejčíková, Czech Republic	6846
3. Coco Gauff, USA	6195
4. Jessica Pegula, USA	6170
5. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia	4880
6. Giuliana Olmos, Mexico	4615
7. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada	4615
8. Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine	4545
9. Desirae Krawczyk, USA	4500
10. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia	4335

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions	
BASEBALL	
Major League Baseball American League	
BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated RHP Garrett Whitlock from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Kutter Crawford to Worcester (IL). Sent RHP Brayan Bello to Worcester on a rehab assignment.	
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed SS Tim Anderson on the 10-day IL. Recalled INF Lennyn Sosa from Charlotte (IL).	
HOUSON ASTROS — Reinstated LHP Blake Taylor from the 15-day IL and optioned him to Sugar Land (PCL).	
MINNESOTA TWINS — Sent OF Alex Kirilloff to Fort Myers (FSL) on a rehab assignment. Placed OF Joey Gallo on the 10-day IL, retroactive to April 8.	
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Sent RHP Paul Blackburn to Las Vegas (PCL) on a rehab assignment.	
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Placed RHP Zach Eflin on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 8. Recalled RHP Taj Radley from Durham (IL).	
TEXAS RANGERS — Sent OF Leody Taveras to Round Rock (PCL) on a rehab assignment.	
National League	
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Reinstated RHP Jose Ruiz from the 15-day IL. Placed RHP Scott McGough on the paternity sit	
ATLANTA BRAVES — Reinstated RHP Kyle Wright from the 15-day IL. Optioned LHP Dylan Dodd to Gwinnett (IL).	
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed RHP Brandon Woodruff on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 8. Recalled RHP Janson Junk from Nashville (IL).	
NEW YORK METS — Acquired RHP Seth Elledge off waivers from Atlanta and optioned him to Syracuse (IL). Transferred LHP Jose Quintana from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL.	
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Sent LHP Cristopher Sanchez to Lehigh Valley (IL) on a rehab assignment.	
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Claimed RHP Eli Villalobos off waivers from Miami and optioned him to Indianapolis. Transferred INF Oneil Cruz from the 15-day to the 60-day IL.	
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Sent SS Paul DeJong to Memphis (IL) on a rehab assignment.	
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Sent LHP Drew Pomeranz to El Paso (PCL) on a rehab assignment.	
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled SS Jeter Downs from Rochester (IL). Placed INF/OF Ildemaro Vargas on the 10-day IL, retroactive to April 10.	
FOOTBALL	
National Football League	
ATLANTA FALCONS — Re-signed WR KhaDarel Hodge.	
DENVER BRONCOS — Signed OT Quinn Bailey o a one-year exclusive rights tender.	
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed WR Richie James.	
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed DT Jeffrey Simmons to a multi-year contract extension.	
HOCKEY	
National Hockey League	
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Recalled C Benoit-Olivier Groulx from San Diego (AHL).	
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Signed G Drew Commesso to a three-year, entry-level contract.	
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled Ds Jake Christiansen and David Jiricek, F Josh Dunne and RWs Trey Fix-Wolansky and Carson Meyer from Cleveland (AHL).	
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled F Danny O'Regan from Grand Rapids (AHL). Sent D Simon Edvinsson to Grand Rapids (AHL).	
MONTREAL CANADIENS — Recalled LW Joel Teasdale and D Frederic Allard from Laval (AHL).	
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled D Kevin Gravel from Milwaukee (AHL).	
OTTAWA SENATORS — Returned D Jacob Bernard-Docker to Belleville (AHL). Recalled D Maxence Guenette from Belleville.	
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Recalled D Adam Ginning from Lehigh Valley (AHL). Assigned F Zayde Widsom from Lehigh Valley to Reading (ECHL).	
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Recalled LW Alexander Nylander from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).	
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Recalled G Joel Hofer, D Tyler Tucker and LW Hugh McGing from Springfield (AHL) on loan.	
SAN JOSE SHARKS — Returned RW Adam Raska to San Jose (AHL).	
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Reassigned D Connor Corcoran from Henderson (AHL) to Savannah (ECHL).	
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled LW Henrik Borgstrom from Hershey (AHL).	
SOCCER	
Major League Soccer	
AUSTIN FC — Agreed to terms with D Julio Cascante on a three-year contract.	
COLLEGE	
GEORGETOWN — Named Tasha Butts head women's basketball coach.	
ST. JOHN'S — Named Steve Masiello men's assistant head basketball coach, Ricky Johns assistant men's basketball coach, Taliek Brown director of men's basketball player personnel, Bob Walsh special assistant to the men's head basketball coach, Jeff Martin director of men's basketball operations and Brandon Irving video coordinator.	



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The United States' Alex Morgan, right, protects the ball from Ireland's Louise Quinn during the first half of their friendly Tuesday.

Cook's goal lifts US over Ireland

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Alana Cook scored her first international goal on her 26th birthday and the United States beat Ireland 1-0 in an exhibition Tuesday night as the teams prepare for the Women's World Cup this summer.

It was the Americans' first game without Mallory Swanson, who tore the patellar tendon in her left knee during Saturday's game against Ireland in Austin, Texas.

Swanson was the top scorer for the U.S. this year with seven goals. She had scored in six straight games, tied for the fourth-longest streak in team history.

It appears unlikely that Swanson will be able to play in the World Cup. She returned home to Chicago after the injury and she announced on social media that she had surgery on Tuesday morning.

"This is hard," she wrote on Instagram. "I'm in shock and don't have much to say other than thank you to everyone for the messages. I feel the love and prayers, and holding them close to my heart."

The U.S. shuffled its lineup for the match at City Park in Swanson's absence. It was the final opportunity for U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski to look at players before announcing a 23-player World Cup roster, which is due in mid-July.

The coach said he'll analyze the game in the coming days. It wasn't immediately clear whether he would make a like-for-like swap for Swanson or whether he'd try a new tactic going forward.

"So with losing Mal, conceptually we may look slightly different, because you look at this team, it was going to be built around Mal and (Sophia Smith) and their attacking power," Andonovski said.

"Now with Mal not being there, we're going to have to make a decision. What are we going to go for? Like-for-like and try the same way, or is Mal going to be replaced by a group of players?"

Emily Fox, who scored in Saturday's 2-0 victory over Ireland, was available off the bench. Casey Murphy started in goal rather than Alyssa Naeher, and Rose Lavelle didn't play because of an unspecified injury she picked up in Austin.

Andonovski started Alyssa Thompson, an 18-year-old forward who was drafted this season out of high school by Angel City of the National Women's Soccer League. Thompson was brought in as a replacement for Swanson for Tuesday's game.

"Once we lost Mal in the last game, we knew that may be a long-term injury. We wanted to explore every possible option before we make the final decision and one of those was Alyssa Thompson," Andonovski said.

Before the game, the U.S. honored Becky Sauerbrunn, who is from St. Louis, for her 200th appearance with the team. The defender reached the milestone last year, but the ceremony was set for Tuesday so she could celebrate with relatives and hometown fans.

Sauerbrunn, now at 216 appearances, nearly scored her first national team goal early in the game off a corner kick by Sophia Smith. Sauerbrunn was subbed out in the 28th minute because she has a game with her NWSL team, the Portland Thorns, on Friday.

Cook scored from distance in the 43rd minute. Irish goalkeeper Courtney Brosnan got her fingertips on the shot but couldn't stop it. Cook is the third player in team history to score on her birthday, joining Mia Hamm (1998) and Alex Morgan (2019).

ROUNDUP

Rays beat Red Sox for 11th straight

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Rays just keep adding to their perfect start, one sweet swing at a time.

The Rays ran their season-opening winning streak to 11 games, using another homer from Brandon Lowe and a strong performance by Shane McClellan to beat the Boston Red Sox 7-2 on Tuesday night.

Yandy Díaz and Lowe hit back-to-back solo shots with two out in the fifth inning. Lowe extended his homer streak to four straight games.

Isaac Paredes and Josh Lowe also connected for the Rays, and McClellan (3-0) struck out nine while pitching five-plus innings of one-run ball.

The four homers brought Tampa Bay's total to 29, matching the major league record through 11 games set by the 2000 St. Louis Cardinals. It was the Rays' third four-homer game of the young season.

Tampa Bay's winning streak is one game short of the franchise record set in 2004, and the Rays became one of only four teams since 1901 to win the first 11 games of a season.

"The history of it is not lost on us," Lowe said. "We understand what's happening, but we're not putting any added pressure on anything. We're not staring at our schedule or staring at our record right now. ... And it's not one guy doing it. It's nice knowing that it's one through nine, and if you don't get the job done, the next guy will."

Angels 2, Nationals 0: Shohei Ohtani pitched seven sparkling innings for host Los Angeles, and rookie catcher Logan O'Hoppe hit his team-leading fourth homer.

Ohtani (2-0) set an Angels record with his 10th straight start allowing two or fewer runs. Nolan Ryan had a nine-game streak across the 1972-73 seasons.

The Japanese star yielded one hit, walked four and struck out six. He has allowed only one run in his first three starts and has an 0.47 ERA.

Carlos Estévez got three outs for his first save, finishing a one-hitter.

Washington's Josiah Gray (0-3) went 5½ innings and allowed two runs and four hits.

Marlins 8, Phillies 4: Luis Arraez became the first player to hit for the cycle for visiting Miami, finishing with four hits and two RBIs.

Before Tuesday, the Marlins were the only active major league team without a cycle in its history. Miami entered the National League as the Florida Marlins



SCOTT AUDETTE/AP

The Tampa Bay Rays' Wander Franco, left, and Randy Arozarena celebrate after defeating the Boston Red Sox on Tuesday in St. Petersburg, Fla. The win was the Rays' 11th straight to open the season.

back in 1992.

Arraez was acquired in a January trade with Minnesota. He is 22-for-41 (.537) in 12 games to start the 2023 season.

Miami left-hander Jesús Luzardo (2-0) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings.

Orioles 12, Athletics 8: Ryan Mountcastle homered twice and tied a team record with nine RBIs, helping host Baltimore rally for the victory.

Mountcastle hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning and added a grand slam in the seventh as the Orioles overcame a difficult home debut for right-hander Grayson Rodriguez. Austin Hays homered and had four hits for Baltimore, which handed the A's their sixth straight loss.

Mountcastle tied the franchise's single-game mark for RBIs set by Jim Gentile in 1961 and matched by Eddie Murray in 1985. He became the first player anywhere in the majors to drive in nine runs since Adam Duvall in 2020.

Bryan Baker (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the win.

Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 1: Willy Adames broke up Merrill Kelly's no-hit bid in the seventh inning by smashing a solo homer to center field, sending Corbin Burnes and visiting Milwaukee to the victory.

Kelly (0-2) and Burnes (1-1) were locked in a scoreless duel for the first six innings. Adames broke through when he led off the seventh by belting a 91 mph sinker deep to center.

Mike Brosseau homered for Milwaukee and drove in three

runs. Rowdy Tellez also went deep.

Cubs 14, Mariners 9: Nelson Velázquez hit his first career grand slam in his team's eight-run third inning, and host Chicago rallied for the win.

Dansby Swanson went 4-for-4 and Trey Mancini homered as the Cubs won for the fifth time in six games. Mancini had three RBIs, and Nico Hoerner had two hits and drove in two runs.

Swanson posted his fifth career four-hit game before departing in the sixth with tightness on his left side. He is batting .400 (16-for-40) in his first 10 games with his new team.

Yankees 11, Guardians 2: Gerrit Cole pitched seven effective innings and Franchy Cordero hit a three-run homer, powering visiting New York to the victory.

Cole (3-0) gave up two runs and three hits in the first before locking in and improving to 5-0 against Cleveland over the past two seasons. The right-hander beat the Guardians twice in last year's AL Division Series.

Blue Jays 9, Tigers 3: Kevin Kiermaier hit a solo home run and made a sensational leaping catch at the wall, leading host Toronto to the win.

The Blue Jays belted five homers in their home opener in front of a sellout crowd of 42,053. Alejandro Kirk hit a three-run shot, and George Springer, Matt Chapman and Bo Bichette each hit a solo homer.

Rangers 8, Royals 5 (10): Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning for host Texas, and Jacob deGrom had nine stri-

keouts to break a franchise record that had been held by Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan.

While deGrom ended up with a no-decision, the nine Ks pushed his season total to 27 and set a new mark for a Rangers pitcher in his first three appearances — that had been Ryan's 26 after he joined the team in 1989.

Cardinals 9, Rockies 6: Nolan Gorman sparked visiting St. Louis' three-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking solo homer off Pierce Johnson.

Tommy Edman and Juan Ypez also went deep for the Cardinals, who trailed 6-2 after six innings. Nolan Arenado hit a three-run double, and rookie Jordan Walker extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Giants 5, Dodgers 0: Alex Wood and five relievers combined on a three-hitter, and host San Francisco beat Los Angeles to end a six-game losing streak to its NL West rival.

Braves 7, Reds 6: Matt Olson and Ozzie Albies homered, and host Atlanta overcame a rocky season debut by Kyle Wright.

Padres 4, Mets 2: Ryan Weathers got his first big league win in two years, and Manny Machado hit a key two-run double for visiting San Diego.

Pirates 7, Astros 4: Rookie Ji-Hwan Bae hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting host Pittsburgh to the victory.

Twins 4, White Sox 3 (10): Hanser Alberto's throwing error allowed the automatic runner to score from second base, sending host Minnesota to the extra-inning victory.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	11	0	1.000	—
New York	7	4	.636	4
Toronto	7	4	.636	4
Baltimore	6	5	.545	5
Boston	5	6	.455	6
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	7	4	.636	—
Cleveland	7	5	.583	½
Chicago	5	7	.417	2½
Kansas City	3	9	.250	4½
Detroit	2	8	.200	4½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	7	4	.636	—
Los Angeles	6	5	.545	1
Houston	5	7	.417	2½
Seattle	4	8	.333	3½
Oakland	2	9	.182	5
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	8	4	.667	—
New York	6	6	.500	2
Miami	5	7	.417	3
Philadelphia	4	7	.364	3½
Washington	4	8	.333	4
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	8	3	.727	—
Pittsburgh	7	4	.636	1
Chicago	6	4	.600	1½
Cincinnati	4	6	.400	3½
St. Louis	4	7	.364	4
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	7	5	.583	—
San Diego	7	5	.583	—
Los Angeles	6	6	.500	1
San Francisco	5	6	.455	1½
Colorado	5	7	.417	2
Monday's games				
Tampa Bay 1, Boston 0 Washington 6, L.A. Angels 4 Philadelphia 15, Miami 3 Baltimore 5, Oakland 1 Arizona 3, Milwaukee 0 Chicago Cubs 3, Seattle 2, 10 innings Cleveland 3, N.Y. Yankees 2 Texas 11, Kansas City 2 Colorado 7, St. Louis 4 L.A. Dodgers 9, San Francisco 1 Atlanta 5, Cincinnati 4, 10 innings N.Y. Mets 5, San Diego 0 Houston 8, Pittsburgh 2 Chicago White Sox 4, Minnesota 3				
Tuesday's games				
Tampa Bay 7, Boston 2 L.A. Angels 2, Washington 0 Miami 8, Philadelphia 4 Baltimore 12, Oakland 8 Milwaukee 7, Arizona 1 Chicago Cubs 14, Seattle 9 N.Y. Yankees 11, Cleveland 2 Toronto 9, Detroit 3 Texas 8, Kansas City 5, 10 innings St. Louis 9, Colorado 6 San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 0 Atlanta 7, Cincinnati 6 San Diego 4, N.Y. Mets 2 Pittsburgh 7, Houston 4 Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 10 in- nings				
Wednesday's games				
Houston at Pittsburgh Chicago White Sox at Minnesota N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland San Diego at N.Y. Mets Seattle at Chicago Cubs St. Louis at Colorado Milwaukee at Arizona Miami at Philadelphia Washington at L.A. Angels Oakland at Baltimore Boston at Tampa Bay Detroit at Toronto Cincinnati at Atlanta Kansas City at Texas L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco				
Thursday's games				
Oakland (TBD) at Baltimore (Irvin 0-2) Boston (Kluber 0-2) at Tampa Bay (Springs 1-0) Philadelphia (TBD) at Cincinnati (Lodolo 1-0) Minnesota (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (TBD) Detroit (Turnbull 0-2) at Toronto (Bassitt 1-1) Pittsburgh (Velasquez 0-2) at St. Louis (Montgomery 2-0) Milwaukee (Lauer 1-1) at San Diego (TBD)				

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Boston	81	64	12	5	133	300	173
x-Carolina	81	51	21	9	111	260	209
x-New Jersey	81	51	22	8	110	286	222
x-Toronto	81	49	21	11	109	276	220
x-N.Y. Rangers	81	47	21	13	107	275	216
x-Tampa Bay	81	45	30	6	96	278	254
x-Florida	81	42	31	8	92	286	267
N.Y. Islanders	81	41	31	9	91	239	220
Pittsburgh	81	40	31	10	90	260	261
Buffalo	80	40	33	7	87	287	295
Ottawa	81	39	35	7	85	258	267
Detroit	81	35	36	10	80	240	274
Washington	81	35	37	9	79	251	260
Philadelphia	81	30	38	13	73	217	273
Montreal	80	31	43	6	68	226	298
Columbus	80	24	47	9	57	209	323

Western Conference							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Vegas	81	50	22	9	109	269	228
x-Edmonton	81	49	23	9	107	320	259
x-Colorado	80	49	24	7	105	272	221
x-Dallas	80	45	21	14	104	279	216
x-Los Angeles	81	46	25	10	102	275	254
x-Minnesota	81	46	25	10	102	243	221
x-Seattle	81	46	27	8	100	288	253
x-Winnipeg	81	46	32	3	95	246	221
Calgary	81	37	27	17	91	260	252
Nashville	80	41	31	8	90	222	231
St. Louis	80	37	36	7	81	261	295
Vancouver	81	37	37	7	81	272	297
Arizona	81	28	40	13	69	224	294
San Jose	80	22	42	16	60	231	313
Chicago	81	26	49	6	58	200	296
Anaheim	81	23	46	12	58	206	333

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Monday's games
Dallas 6, Detroit 1
Toronto 2, Florida 1, OT
Buffalo 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, SO
Ottawa 3, Carolina 2
Washington 5, N.Y. Islanders 2
Winnipeg 6, San Jose 2
Minnesota 4, Chicago 2
Nashville 3, Calgary 2, SO
Seattle 4, Arizona 1
Los Angeles 3, Vancouver 0

Tuesday's games
Carolina 4, Detroit 1
New Jersey 6, Buffalo 2
Philadelphia 4, Columbus 3, OT
Boston 5, Washington 2
Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 3
Chicago 5, Pittsburgh 2
Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 1
Edmonton 2, Colorado 1, OT
Vegas 4, Seattle 1
Vancouver 3, Anaheim 2

Wednesday's games
Montreal at N.Y. Islanders
Dallas at St. Louis
San Jose at Calgary

Thursday's games
Boston at Montreal
Carolina at Florida
Detroit at Tampa Bay
New Jersey at Washington
Ottawa at Buffalo
Pittsburgh at Columbus
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers
Minnesota at Nashville
St. Louis at Dallas
Winnipeg at Colorado
Philadelphia at Chicago
San Jose at Edmonton
Los Angeles at Anaheim
Vancouver at Arizona
Vegas at Seattle

Friday's games
Buffalo at Columbus
Colorado at Nashville

Saturday's games
No games scheduled

Scoring leaders				
Through Wednesday				
	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	81	64	88	152
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	79	51	74	125
Nikita Kucherov, TB	81	30	82	112
David Pastrnak, BOS	81	60	51	111
Matthew Tkachuk, FLA	78	40	68	108
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	69	39	68	107
Jason Robertson, DAL	80	46	60	106
R. Nugent-Hopkins, EDM	81	37	66	103
Mikko Rantanen, COL	80	54	48	102
Elias Pettersson, VAN	79	38	63	101
Erik Karlsson, SJ	80	25	75	100
Mitch Marner, TOR	79	30	69	99
Jack Hughes, NJ	77	43	54	97

ROUNDUP

Bruins top Caps, break points record

Associated Press
BOSTON — The Boston Bruins saved their latest record-setting performance of the season for their home crowd.

Brad Marchand and Tyler Bertuzzi had power-play goals and the Bruins broke the NHL points record with a 5-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night in their regular-season home finale.

Under chants of “We want the Cup!” from fans inside TD Garden, the Bruins won their seventh straight to push their points total to 133, one more than the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens. Those Canadiens played in an era without overtime and shootouts. The Bruins have 11 extra points — five for shootout wins and six for overtime wins — unavailable to the Canadiens when they set the record.

“We’re happy about it, don’t get me wrong. But it’s a regular-season record,” Marchand said. “Playoffs start and everything starts over again. There’s going to be 16 teams that have the same goal in mind and what we’ve accomplished so far has no bearing on that.”

The Bruins broke the mark a game after setting the NHL victory record with 63 on Sunday at Philadelphia, breaking a tie with the 1995-96 Detroit Red Wings and 2018-19 Tampa Bay Lightning.

“I think (Montreal’s) wins in 80 games is a little more significant,” Bruins coach Jim Montgomery said. But he added it’s still meaningful “because those were dominant hockey teams.”

Hurricanes 4, Red Wings 1: Stefan Noesen and Jordan Martinook scored early and host Carolina maintained its hold on first place in the Metropolitan Division with one game remaining in the regular season.

Brent Burns and Jesperi Kotkaniemi also scored and Antti Raanta made 20 saves as the Hurricanes shed a slump that included the team’s only three-game stretch without a point this season.

Carolina has 111 points, one more than the New Jersey Devils. With the win, the Hurricanes clinched home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs. A victory Thursday night at Florida would give the Hurricanes a division title for the third season in a row.

Robert Hagg scored for the Red Wings, who lost their fourth straight game. Former Carolina goalie Alex Nedeljkovic made 25 saves for Detroit.

Devils 6, Sabres 2: Tomas Tatar had two goals and an assist, and host New Jersey clinched home ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs while ending Buffalo’s postseason hopes.

Jack Hughes scored a late emp-



CHARLES KRUPA/AP
Bruins goaltender Linus Ullmark gloves the puck on a save as Washington Capitals right wing Tom Wilson (43) tries to poke it free during the first period Tuesday in Boston. The Bruins won 5-2.

ty-net goal for his 97th point this season, breaking the franchise record of 96 set by Patrik Elias in 2000-2001.

Jesper Boqvist, Jonas Siegenthaler and Miles Wood also scored as the Devils got big games from their role players in tying their franchise record with their 51st win. Vitek Vanecek made 36 saves in handing the Sabres only their second regulation loss (7-2-1) in 10 games.

Jeff Skinner and Mattias Samuelsson scored for the Sabres, whose late run wasn’t enough to earn the franchise its first playoff berth since 2011. The 12-year run is the NHL’s current longest postsea-son drought. Emerging 21-year-old star Devon Levi made 24 saves in losing for the second time in six starts.

Oilers 2, Avalanche 1 (OT): Evan Bouchard scored a power-play goal 1:50 into overtime, Stuart Skinner stopped 28 shots and visiting Ed-monton won its eighth straight.

Connor McDavid assisted on the OT winner to extend his points streak to 15 games. He’s the first player in NHL history to have three different points streaks of 15 or more games in the same season. He’s only had seven games where he didn’t register a point.

Mattias Ekholm also scored for the Oilers, who remain in the chase for the Pacific Division title with one game remaining. They also extended their points streak to 14 straight games.

Ben Meyers scored for the de-fending Stanley Cup champion Avalanche, who saw their five-game winning streak snapped, and Alexandar Georgiev made 38 saves. Colorado remains in the driver’s seat for the Central Di-vision crown with two games to go.

With a point Tuesday, the Ava-lanche also wrapped up home ice in the first round courtesy of Minne-sota’s loss to Winnipeg earlier in the night.

Golden Knights 4, Kraken 1: Michael Amadio had two goals and an assist, and host Vegas moved closer to claiming the Pacific Division with a victory over Seattle.

Reilly Smith had a three-point game, scoring on the rebound of a shot by linemate Amadio. Smith al-so picked up assists on Amadio’s goals. Jonathan Marchessault scored on a 5-on-3 power play and William Karlsson had two assists for Vegas.

Laurent Brossoit made 20 saves and ran his season record to 6-0-3, helped by a Vegas defense that al-lowed four shots on goal in the third period.

Maple Leafs 4, Lightning 3: Mi-nor league call-up Joseph Woll made 45 saves, William Nylander had a goal and two assists, and vis-iting Toronto beat Tampa Bay in a preview of an opening-round playoff series next week.

The Maple Leafs rested for-wards Auston Matthews and Mitch-ell Marner, and defenseman Mark Giordano. Matt Onuska from Windsor of the OHL served as the backup goalie due to salary cap is-sues.

Toronto also got goals from Luke Schenn, Calle Jarnkrok and Ryan O’Reilly.

Jets 3, Wild 1: Mark Scheifele scored his 42nd goal, Connor Helle-buyc made 33 saves and visiting Winnipeg clinched the last spot in the Western Conference playoffs.

Adam Lowry and Mason Apple-ton also scored goals in Helle-buyc’s 13th consecutive start for the Jets, who won for the fifth time in six games to secure the second

wild card and eliminate Nashville.

Kirill Kaprizov had a power-play goal early in the third period for the Wild, who lost for the first time in four games this season to the rival Jets and had their longshot chance to win the Central Division end. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 17 shots.

Blackhawks 5, Penguins 2: Buddy Robinson and Andres Atha-nasiou scored 26 seconds apart in the third period and visiting Chica-go dealt Pittsburgh’s playoff chanc-es a significant blow.

Pittsburgh began the night need-ing wins in its last two games over Chicago and Columbus to extend the longest active playoff streak in major North American profession-al sports to 17 years.

Instead, Petr Mrazek made 38 saves, Robinson scored just the fourth goal of his nomadic career to give Chicago a late lead and Pitts-burgh finds itself on the outside of the playoffs looking in with just one game to go. Connor Murphy, Tyler Johnson and MacKenzie Entwistle also scored for Chicago.

Canucks 3, Ducks 2: J.T. Miller had a goal and an assist and visiting Vancouver got its third win in four games.

Elias Pettersson had two assists and crossed the 100-point mark for the season, Brock Boeser and An-drei Kuzmenko had power-play goals, and the Canucks got their third win in four games.

Flyers 4, Blue Jackets 3 (OT): Owen Tippett scored his second goal of the game with 15.5 seconds left in overtime and host Philadel-phia snapped a seven-game losing streak.

James van Riemsdyk scored his 300th career goal and Joel Farabee added a score for the Flyers. Carter Hart made 28 saves.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Outlast: Lakers went back to work after foul

FROM PAGE 24

of rhythm we're playing in, to defend at the level that we're defending at, going into the most important time of the year, you can't ask for a better situation," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said.

The Wolves still forced overtime when Conley hit his free throws after Davis stepped on his foot after he had already released a three-point attempt. Davis and James said they had a mix-up about who was supposed to defend the shooter in the corner.

"The play was between me and AD, and we discussed it on the bench, and then we moved forward," James said. "We've still got five more minutes to play. That's how we started overtime. We were able to recalibrate. Get our game back."

Instead of getting down, the Lakers went back to work.

"That was totally on me," said Davis, who had 24 points and 15 rebounds. "He faded out of bounds where I was going. But it goes back to next-play mentality, and we got it done in overtime."

Los Angeles finally won it with defense, holding the Wolves to seven points in the final 11 minutes from midway through the fourth quarter while rallying from a 15-point deficit.

Conley scored 23 points for Minnesota, which gave an inspired effort for the first three quarters while playing without starters Rudy Gobert and Jaden McDaniels. Gobert is suspended for punching teammate Kyle Anderson during Minnesota's regular-season finale against New Orleans, while McDaniels is out indefinitely with a broken hand after punching a wall in frustration Sunday.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 24 points for the Wolves, who will host New Orleans or Oklahoma City on Friday for the eighth spot and a first-round date with top-

seeded Denver beginning Sunday.

The Pelicans host the Thunder on Wednesday night, and Minnesota must then beat the winner to reach the playoffs for only the third time in 19 seasons.

"We expected to win this game," Conley said. "It's disappointing to lose. We had a lead and let it slip. This should be a different postgame speech. ... We've just got to be mentally and physically more engaged at the end, and we've got a couple of days to work on it."

After leading for most of the night, Minnesota went scoreless for six full minutes in the fourth quarter. Los Angeles began its comeback after Towns had to sit with his fifth foul, and it took the lead for good on a three-pointer on the opening possession of OT by Rui Hachimura, who had 12 points.

The Wolves missed 11 consecutive shots before Anthony Edwards' dunk with 2:36 left in overtime. Edwards scored just nine points — more than 15 below his average — and left the court briefly in the second half to get tape on his left shoulder after taking an early fall.

Schröder stepped up tremendously for D'Angelo Russell, who had a nightmare game for Los Angeles against the team that traded him in February. Russell had eight assists, but scored two points on 1-for-9 shooting before getting benched down the stretch.

Tip-ins

Timberwolves: McDaniels attended the game. ... A minor confrontation after the first-quarter buzzer ended with technical fouls for Edwards and Hachimura.

Lakers: Schröder returned from a two-game injury absence. ... Tristan Thompson and Shaq Harrison were in uniform for the first time after signing last Sunday. Neither veteran played.



Lakers guard D'Angelo Russell, right, tries to drive around Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards during the first half of Tuesday's play-in tournament game in Los Angeles.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young looks for room to shoot as Heat guard Max Strus defends during the first half of Tuesday's play-in game in Miami. Young had 25 points in Atlanta's 116-105 victory.

Atlanta holds off Miami, grabs No. 7 seed in East

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — Quin Snyder's bags were packed in February for an overseas trip. He was going to spend time with some friends and family, see some coaches he's gotten to know over the years.

Then the Atlanta Hawks called with a job offer, to bring him on as coach.

And now Snyder's bags are packed again — for the playoffs, starting with a trip to Boston.

Trae Young scored 25 points, Clint Capela grabbed 21 rebounds and the Hawks earned the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs by beating the Miami Heat 116-105 in a play-in tournament game Tuesday night.

"Our guys are trying to be the best version of ourselves at the end of the year," Snyder said. "The year's not over. So hopefully we can take this and continue to build on it. It's one game — but it was our game."

Dejounte Murray added 18 points for the Hawks, who avenged a five-game Round 1 loss to Miami last season and earned an East first-round matchup with Boston that will start Saturday.

Kyle Lowry scored 33 points — his highest-scoring game in his two Miami seasons — for the Heat, who will host either Toronto or Chicago on Friday to decide the No. 8 seed and a spot against top overall seed Milwaukee in Round 1. The Raptors and Bulls played

Scoreboard

Play-in	
FIRST ROUND	
Tuesday, April 11	
Eastern Conference	
Atlanta 116, Miami 105	Western Conference
L.A. Lakers 108, Minnesota 102	Western Conference
Wednesday, April 12	
Eastern Conference	
Chicago at Toronto	Western Conference
Oklahoma City at New Orleans	Western Conference
SECOND ROUND	
Friday, April 14	
Eastern Conference	
Chicago-Toronto winner at Miami	Western Conference
Oklahoma City-New Orleans winner at Minnesota	Western Conference

Wednesday; the winner of Friday's game opens the series against the Bucks on Sunday.

Tyler Herro scored 26 for Miami, and Jimmy Butler finished with 21.

"Come Friday, we have to play the legit exact opposite of how we played tonight," Butler said.

For the Hawks, four reserves — Saddiq Bey, Bogdan Bogdanovic, Onyeka Okongwu and Jalen Johnson — combined for 53 points.

The Hawks improved to 3-0 all-time in play-in tournament games; that's the best mark in the league, one that New Orleans could match when it played host to Oklahoma City on Wednesday night.

And they earned this one on the boards. Atlanta outrebounded Miami 63-39, including 22-6 on the offensive glass that keyed a 26-6

edge in second-chance points.

"We all understand the moment and the time of year it is," Young said. "Credit our guys for being locked in, ready and focused on the game plan."

Tip-ins

Hawks: It was the second time this season that Atlanta took a huge first-half lead and nearly wasted it. The Hawks were up 26 over Miami on Jan. 16, let the Heat get within four in the final moments and held on to win 121-113. ... Capela had one 20-rebound game in the regular season.

Heat: Lowry came off the bench in a postseason game for the first time since 2009. His last 94 appearances after the regular season were all starts. ... The Heat went 1-6 this season against Friday's possible win-or-go-home opponents — 0-3 against Chicago and 1-3 against Toronto.

Looking ahead

Boston went 3-0 against Atlanta this season, and nearly all the rotation players from both teams missed at least one of those contests. Young averaged 31 points and 11 assists in two games against the Celtics; Jayson Tatum averaged 26.5 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists in two games against the Hawks.

It'll be the 13th series between the Celtics and Hawks franchises, the first since Atlanta's six-game Round 1 win in 2016.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cavinders leaving Miami after 1 season

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The Cavinder twins, Haley and Hannah — two of the most prominent athletes in the name, image and likeness era of college athletics — announced Tuesday that they will not return to the Miami Hurricanes next season, ending their tenure after one year with the program.

The Cavinders — who are 22 and were listed as seniors on the Miami roster — both played four seasons in college, but they could have played next season, too, because of the NCAA ruling that restored a year of eligibility to all athletes who went through a pandemic-affected season.

They transferred from Fresno State to Miami in April 2022 with hopes of playing in the NCAA Tournament and probably exceeded even their own expectations by helping the Hurricanes fall just short of reaching the Final Four.

“We would like to thank our teammates and coaches for bringing us in as family and being part of a historic season,” the twins said in a statement. “With that being said, Hanna and I have decided to not take our fifth year and start a new chapter in our lives. The U will always be home and we are forever proud to be Hurricanes.”



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Miami's Haley Cavinder, left, and Hanna Cavinder celebrate after Miami defeated Indiana in the women's NCAA Tournament on March 20 in Bloomington, Ind.

Griner writing memoir on captivity

NEW YORK — Saying she is ready to share the “unfathomable” experience of being arrested and incarcerated in Russia, basketball star Brittney Griner is working on a memoir that is scheduled to be released

in spring 2024.

Griner was arrested last year at the airport in Moscow on drug-related charges and detained for nearly 10 months, much of that time in prison. Her plight unfolded at the same time Russia invaded Ukraine and further heightened tensions between Russia and the United States, ending only after she was freed in exchange for the notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

Griner said in a statement that she hoped her book would raise awareness of other Americans detained overseas, including Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, arrested in Russia last month and accused of espionage; businessman Kai Li, serving a 10-year sentence in China on charges of revealing state secrets to the FBI; and Paul Whelan, a corporate security executive imprisoned in Russia on spying charges. Around the time Griner was released, Whelan criticized the U.S. government for not doing enough to help him.

The memoir is currently untitled and will eventually be published in a young adult edition. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Kingsbury joining USC's staff

LOS ANGELES — Kliff Kingsbury is joining Lincoln Riley's coaching staff at South-

ern California as a senior offensive analyst.

USC announced the addition Tuesday of Kingsbury, who was fired by the Arizona Cardinals in January after four seasons as their head coach.

Kingsbury went 28-37-1 at Arizona, making one playoff appearance. Before that, he spent six seasons as Texas Tech's head coach and earned a reputation as one of football's most innovative offensive minds.

Big Ten names new commissioner

The Big Ten is hiring former Major League Baseball executive Tony Petitti to be its next commissioner, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because a deal was still being finalized. An announcement is expected from the conference by the end of the week.

Petitti replaces Kevin Warren, who is leaving to become president of the Chicago Bears. Warren's last day on the job was scheduled to be April 17.

Petitti has extensive background in television, working for ABC, CBS and MLB Network. He was also chief operating officer for MLB, taking over the position Rob Manfred held before he became commissioner.

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SPORTS

The streak continues
Rays win 11th straight behind four home runs » **MLB, Page 20**



PHOTOS BY MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Mike Conley (10) is fouled on a three-point shot by Lakers forward Anthony Davis in the final second of regulation during Tuesday's play-in tournament game in Los Angeles. Conley made all three free throws to send the game into overtime, but the Lakers prevailed to snag the Western Conference's seventh seed.

Lakers outlast Wolves in OT

LA overcomes Davis' last-second foul to win play-in game

BY GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nearly everything about this season has been a grueling challenge for the Los Angeles Lakers, so nobody in a gold jersey really seemed surprised when Anthony Davis committed a baffling foul that allowed Minnesota's Mike Conley to snatch a playoff berth from their hands with 0.1 seconds on the regulation clock.

The Lakers simply absorbed the latest body blow to their championship hopes and played on.

Five overtime minutes later, they finally claimed a postseason berth that seemed all but unattainable just a couple of months ago.

LeBron James had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and the Lakers snagged the sev-

INSIDE
Young, Hawks top Heat to claim East's 7th seed
Page 22

enth spot in the Western Conference playoffs with a 108-102 victory over the short-handed Timberwolves in the NBA's play-in tournament Tuesday night.

Conley hit three clutch free throws to tie it after Davis foolishly fouled him on a three-point attempt, but the Lakers coolly kept rolling toward their 10th win in 12 games. Their reward is a date with the second-seeded Memphis Grizzlies in the first round starting Sunday.

"It took everything out of us to get to

where we are, and it took more out of us tonight," Davis said. "But we've got a couple of days before we go to Memphis to start preparing for them. It's been a battle. It's been an up-and-down season for us, but now is the time to show who we are, and we showed it tonight."

Dennis Schröder scored 21 points, drilling a tiebreaking three-pointer on a pass from James with 1.4 seconds left in regulation before icing the win with two free throws with 8.4 seconds left in overtime for the Lakers, who started the season 2-10 and sat six games below .500 at the trade deadline.

"Once you get to the end of things, to have everyone healthy, to be playing in the type

SEE OUTLAST ON PAGE 22



LeBron James led the Lakers with 30 points and 10 rebounds. Los Angeles is now set to face No. 2 seed Memphis in the first round of the playoffs.

Bruins break points record by beating Caps » **NHL, Page 21**

