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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

ISIS leader targeted in Syria strike by US forces

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

A unilateral strike by U.S. troops in northern Syria that targeted an Islamic State senior leader killed at least two people, U.S. Central Command said in a statement Monday.

A helicopter raid by American forces resulted in the deaths of two people who were armed in addition to the "probable death" of a senior ISIS leader responsible for planning attacks in the Middle East and Europe, the command said.

No U.S. troops were injured in the raid, CENTCOM said in the statement.

The statement added that no U.S. helicopters were damaged, an apparent reference to local reports saying the opposite.

The raid took place east of Aleppo and involved two missiles fired at a building where an ISIS commander had been living for a few months, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said in a Facebook post Monday.

The operation killed two members of the Soqour Al-Shamal faction, a Turkish-backed militia, and took place in an area of Syria controlled by militant groups backed by Turkey, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights post said.

A U.S. official confirmed that the post referred to the same CENTCOM raid Monday.

U.S. forces will do a DNA test on human remains they secured from the raid, said the U.S. official, who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said the operation was launched from a base near the

SEE STRIKE ON PAGE 3



ADAM KEELE/U.S. Air National Guard

Senior Airman James Gilchrist, 168th Communications Flight Client Systems specialist, Alaska Air National Guard and Air Force Gaming program manager, logs into the Air Force Gaming Discord at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska in, 2021.

DOD seeks balance on Discord

App was useful to service to recruit Gen Z until leaks started

By DREW HARWELL
The Washington Post

For years, the U.S. military has pushed to meet prospective Generation Z recruits on Discord, the online group-chat tool where many spend their time. It even runs a 17,000-member chatroom there for service members to talk about first-person shooter games, meet with career counselors and participate in what one sergeant called the "Army of tomorrow."

But Defense Department officials have also struggled to confront the risks of how Discord's closed channels operate — and the ease with which they can be used to expose military in-

telligence. Last month, in a detailed guide aimed specifically at Discord users, Special Operations Command, which oversees the country's most elite forces, told service members: "Don't post anything in Discord that you wouldn't want seen by the general public."

By then, hundreds of classified documents had already spilled onto a Discord server frequented by a 21-year-old National Guard airman, Jack Teixeira, who had used the government secrets, interviews and an FBI charging document suggest, to impress the teenagers

SEE DISCORD ON PAGE 8



NAOMI MAY/U.S. Marine Corps photo illustration

A Marine Corps avatar appears in Minecraft, a game popular on Discord.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Spotify drops name-that-tune game Heardle

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Heardle, the name-that-tune game inspired by the Wordle craze, is being dropped by Spotify less than a year after the music-streaming giant acquired it.

“After careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to say goodbye to Heardle,” Spotify said Saturday in a statement. A similar announcement was posted on the Heardle homepage.

First appearing in February

2022 amid a surge of games that used the format of Wordle, which the New York Times bought in January of that year, Heardle plays fleeting moments of a song and challenges users to see how quickly they can guess it. Saturday’s mystery song was (spoiler alert) 1998’s “Why Don’t You Get a Job” by the Offspring.

After Spotify bought Heardle in July, users could go from revealing the song to playing it on the app. That sort of music discovery, or rediscovery, was Spotify’s in-

tention in acquiring the game from its creators, according to the blog post announcing the acquisition.

But the statement on the game’s end said Spotify plans to “focus our efforts on other features for music discovery.”

The company did not give further details on why it was ending the game, and it’s not clear whether Heardle may continue life elsewhere. Spotify did not identify the creator and seller when it announced the purchase.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 18)	\$1.07
British pound (April 18)	\$1.21
Japanese yen (April 18)	129.00
South Korean won (April 18)	1277.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.2383
Canada (Dollar)	1.3400
China (Yuan)	6.8761
Denmark (Krone)	6.8164
Egypt (Pound)	30.8995
Euro	1.0933
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8497
Hungary (Forint)	340.66
Israel (Shekel)	3.6482
Japan (Yen)	134.32
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3063
Norway (Krone)	10.4333
Philippines (Peso)	55.98
Poland (Zloty)	4.23
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3340
South Korea (Won)	1320.13

Switzerland (Franc)	0.8971
Thailand (Baht)	34.46
Turkey (NewLira)	19.3851

(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	5.12
30-year bond	3.74

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STARS AND STRIPES

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MILITARY

Ramstein to host post-leak Ukraine aid meeting

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Defense ministers and senior military officials from the U.S. and some 50 partner nations helping Ukraine fight Russia will convene Friday at Ramstein Air Base for the latest round of talks.

The meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, hosted for the fourth time at Ramstein by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, may be a time for the U.S. to reassure allies following the leak of classi-

fied documents, a number of which relate to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Jack Teixeira, a 21-year-old Massachusetts Air National Guard member, was arrested last week and charged under the Espionage Act as a result of the extensive breach.

NATO allies and partners have used the contact group forum to hammer out what resources and military weapons to collectively provide to Ukraine since Russia

launched its full-scale invasion Feb. 24, 2022.

Ukraine hopes that support soon will include Western combat aircraft, a request made most recently last week by Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal when he met with Austin at the Pentagon.

Shmyhal said Ukraine is building a “fighter jet coalition” and invited the U.S. “to become its most important participant,” according to a Defense Department statement.

“In modern warfare, air superiority is crucial,” Shmyhal said. “America can once again demonstrate its leadership by providing Ukraine with F-15 or F-16 aircraft.”

NATO partners have already handed over older Soviet-era warplanes. Poland already had sent eight MiG-29 fighter jets, and last week, Germany gave permission for the Poles to send five more from old East German stocks, according to German news outlet

Deutsche Welle.

Slovakia also delivered all 13 MiG-29s it had promised Ukraine, the Slovak Defense Ministry said Monday, Associated Press reported.

The aircraft will help, but the country needs more modern and versatile combat planes to gain air superiority and strike ground targets, said Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat, independent news outlet the New Voice of Ukraine reported Monday.

DOD redactions mean GAO might not issue new sub status report

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

A congressional watchdog probably won’t release a sanitized audit raising questions about the construction timetable for the Navy’s next-generation submarine because Pentagon censorship has gutted the document, the agency said.

The Government Accountability Office report gives away the gist of its findings with its title: “Columbia Class Submarine: Construction Schedule Is Not Reliable.” But the GAO said the Navy and Pentagon blacked out so much of the report that it won’t be able to say much more.

Judging by the title, the findings could be another blow for the Pentagon’s premier program for a new, \$132 billion class of submarines to be armed with intercontinental ballistic missiles. The program already has little to no margin for error to meet a contractual schedule deadline set by the Navy.

Navy plans call for the first vessel in the 12-submarine program to deploy in 2031, with the service seeking delivery by April 2027 to allow sufficient time for testing and improvements. The Columbia, set to be a cornerstone of the U.S. nuclear triad along with bombers and land-based missiles, is being built by General Dynamics

and HII, previously known as Huntington Ingalls Industries.

Nine days after the GAO released the downbeat title of the report, Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro testified to the House appropriations defense panel that the contractors’ aspirational 78-month construction schedule — created to provide a margin for unforeseen problems — has now stretched by about six months, pushing it to the Navy’s “must-meet” schedule of 84 months, or seven years.

The censorship of the GAO report dated March 20 is the latest example of the Pentagon relying on the label “Controlled Unclassified Information” to block the release of information it doesn’t want made public even if none of the details are classified. The CUI label has drawn the ire of congressional committees, and the Pentagon is reviewing its use. Pentagon Inspector General Robert Storch has a separate inquiry underway to determine whether employees are receiving proper training and if the designation is being overused.

“GAO is still considering the possibility of issuing a public version,” the agency said in a statement on the submarine report. “However, based on the extensive CUI markings, we do have a concern that a public report might not



U.S. Navy

An artist’s rendering of a future Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine. A congressional watchdog likely won’t release a sanitized audit raising questions about the construction timetable for the Navy’s next-generation sub because Pentagon censorship has gutted the document, the agency said.

appropriately highlight GAO’s findings.”

Asked why the Pentagon’s acquisition office deemed much of the report CUI and whether it will release the Defense Department’s formal response, spokesman Jeff Jurgensen said “as the department’s response is still under review, we will not comment or release the contents of the report.”

“Public release of the report and subsequent comments will be through GAO, as they are the release authority,” he said.

The agency disagreed, saying “GAO does not classify any materials as not being able to be public. Only the agencies have that classification authority, and in this case we are following the Navy’s determination that the report cannot be publicly released.”

Lt. Cmdr. Javan Rasnake, a Navy acquisition spokesman, said the service “followed the standard best practice of rigorously reviewing the material to ensure operational security is maintained. The GAO determines whether ver-

sions of their reports will be made publicly releasable.”

“Overall, the Columbia program remains on track,” Rasnake said.

The supplier base and industrial base workforce remain the top risks to the submarine program, and the Navy is “addressing workforce trade skill gaps and constraints,” he said.

The Navy and the GAO were able to reach agreement on public versions of two previous reports about the Columbia program, most recently in January.

Strike: CENTCOM reported at least 34 operations against ISIS this year

FROM PAGE 1

town of Kobani and also said the attack targeted Soqour Al-Shamal, The Associated Press reported Monday. The SDF partners with the U.S. in anti-ISIS operations.

The Syrian volunteer rescue group known as the White Helmets reported a helicopter raid at approximately 1:30 a.m. Monday in a post on its Twitter page.

The White Helmets also said the raid took place east of Aleppo, adding that the group had transported two injured people to a hospital for treatment and that the two died.

A third person was killed as well, and family members took that person’s body, according to the group.

The U.S. has about 900 service members in Syria, part of joint ef-

forts with Kurdish fighters to prevent an ISIS resurgence, according to CENTCOM.

The U.S. also has about 170 contractors in Syria, CENTCOM spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn said last month.

These forces launched at least 34 operations against ISIS in the first three months of the year, statements by CENTCOM said.

In 2019, Islamic State, which

took over much of Iraq and Syria in 2014, lost the last territory it held. About 10,000 ISIS fighters remain in detention camps in northeastern Syria.

The U.S. says the group remains a threat in the region, and American military operations in recent years have resulted in the elimination of ISIS leaders.

In October 2022, the leader of ISIS, Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi

al-Qurayshi, was killed in battle with Syrian rebels in southern Syria. His predecessor, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, was killed in a U.S. raid in northwestern Syria earlier that year. ISIS founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died in a raid by U.S. forces in October 2019.

PACIFIC

Navy destroyer sails through Taiwan Strait

USS Milius transit is less than week after end of Chinese exercise in protest of US meetings

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

A Navy guided-missile destroyer steamed through the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, less than a week after Chinese forces concluded a three-day exercise in the area to protest meetings between Taiwan's president and U.S. politicians.

Over the course of 16 hours, the USS Milius steamed northeast through the 110-mile-wide channel that separates mainland China from Taiwan, U.S. 7th Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Kristina Wiedemann told Stars and Stripes by email Monday.

She said the destroyer's trip through the area was unrelated to

Chinese military exercises there last week.

"This was a routine transit of the Taiwan Strait from the South China Sea to the East China Sea in accordance with international law," she said. "U.S. Navy ships and aircraft routinely use the Taiwan Strait to transit between the two and have done so for many years."

Beijing on April 7 launched a series of exercises in the strait and elsewhere around Taiwan to protest Taiwan President Tsai Ingwen's visit with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on April 6 and U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Michael McCaul on April 8.

Dubbed Joint Sword, the exercise saw scores of aircraft and dozens of ships operating in the region on a daily basis in what China's Defense Ministry described as a "serious warning against the 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces colluding with external forces and provocations."

Beijing considers self-governing Taiwan a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, possibly by force.

The Navy regularly sends ships through the strait as a means of convenient navigation and as a message that it will "fly, sail and operate" anywhere that international law permits. China, in return, regularly criticizes the tran-

sits as antagonizing the status quo.

China's Eastern Theater Command monitored "the entire process" of the Milius' journey through the Taiwan Strait, according to a Monday post on the command's official Weibo account. Chinese forces hailed the Milius during its transit, Wiedemann said, but all communications were "consistent with international norms and did not impact the operation."

Sunday's passage marks the Navy's third there this year; a P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance and anti-submarine patrol aircraft made a flyover of the strait Feb. 27 and the Hawaii-based destroyer USS Chung-Hoon made the trip Jan. 5.

The Milius' trip through the strait also comes less than a week after it passed by the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea during a freedom-of-navigation operation on April 10, which coincided with the official conclusion of China's drills.

The Spratlys, approximately 960 miles from Taiwan, are a group of about 100 islands between Vietnam and the Philippines that are claimed in full by China, Vietnam and Taiwan; portions of the chain are also claimed by Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

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MINH-THY CHU/U.S. Navy

The amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island practices a replenishment-at-sea with Philippine navy ship BRP Jose Rizal, on Saturday.

Amphibious assault ship wields firepower during Philippine drills

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The USS Makin Island amphibious assault ship conducted live-fire weapons training and practiced replenishment-at-sea with two Philippine navy vessels on Saturday.

The flattop, along with the Philippine navy's missile frigate BRP Jose Rizal and landing dock BRP Tarlac, on Wednesday departed Subic Bay, a former U.S. naval base on the main island of Luzon, the government-run Philippine News Agency reported Friday.

The vessels traveled to the "joint operational area of the Puerto Princesa, Palawan-based Western Command," the agency reported.

Saturday's live-fire training utilized the Makin Island's close-in weapons system, the U.S. Navy said Monday. The ship is equipped with the Phalanx, a rapid-fire 20 mm gun, as a last de-

fense against anti-ship missiles.

The weapons drill was part of the largest-ever annual Balikatan exercise, involving 17,600 troops from both nations, which kicked off April 11 and concludes April 28. Balikatan is Tagalog for "shoulder-to-shoulder."

The replenishment-at-sea rehearsed skills to transfer fuel, munitions and stores from one ship to another while underway.

Before leaving port, sailors from the two navies met to talk about the way they conduct such maneuvers, according to the Navy statement.

"Subject matter expert exchanges like these enhance our maritime interoperability with the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Capt. Tony Chavez, commanding officer of the Makin Island, said in the statement. "We need to do the reps and sets in a controlled environment so we are able to respond quickly in a con-

tested environment."

The training follows an April 11 meeting in Washington, D.C., between Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken and their Philippine counterparts, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo and Secretary of National Defense Carlito Galvez.

A fact sheet released by the Department of Defense after the meeting said the allies were finalizing plans for the resumption of combined maritime activities, "including the conduct of joint sails by the U.S. and Philippine Navies, in the South China Sea."

Both sides also discussed plans to conduct multilateral maritime activities with other like-minded partners in the South China Sea later this year, according to the fact sheet.

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US, S. Korea, Japan flex missile-defense muscles

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The United States, South Korea and Japan rehearsed their seaborne missile defense in international waters on Monday, four days after North Korea launched another ballistic missile.

The guided-missile destroyers Yulgok Yi I, the USS Benfold and the JS Atago trained together in the Sea of Japan, or the East Sea, South Korea's Ministry of National Defense said in a news release Monday. All three are equipped with the Aegis Combat System, shown capable in tests of intercepting ballistic missiles.

The drill included detecting and tracking simulated ballistic missiles and sharing that information between the ships, according to the ministry.

"This is an opportunity to boost [our] trilateral security cooperation against growing North Korean nuclear and missile threats ... and to firm up our navy's readiness posture and capabilities in responding to ballistic missiles," South Korean navy Capt. Kim Ki Young, commander of the Yulgok Yi I, said in the release. "We will increasingly toughen our operational readiness posture through exercises that are nearly identical to actual battles."

The drill follows what North Korea claimed was a successful test of a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile on Thursday. The new ICBM, dubbed the Hwasong-18, boosts North Korea's "nuclear counterattack posture" and offensive capabilities, according to a Friday report from the state-run Korean Central

News Agency.

South Korea's military described the projectile as a medium- to long-range ballistic missile that flew an estimated 620 miles before splashing down in the sea; Japan's Joint Staff said it suspected the launch vehicle was a high-angle ICBM.

The launch prompted Japan to issue a brief evacuation warning to residents in Hokkaido.

It also prompted South Korean and Japanese military aircraft to conduct separate air power demonstrations with the U.S. Air Force the next day.

Two B-52H Stratofortress bombers, two KC-135 Stratotankers and four F-35 Lightning IIs flew alongside four Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-15 fighters over the Sea of Japan, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said in a news release Friday.

The same day, B-52Hs and F-16 Fighting Falcons flew together over South Korean airspace with South Korean F-35As and F-15K Slam Eagles, according to the Ministry of National Defense.

Military aircraft from the U.S. and South Korea also began a large-scale, 12-day air exercise Monday. More than 110 aircraft, including the Marine Corps' F-35B, are scheduled to fly during the exercise to "reaffirm the solid [U.S.-South Korea] alliance," the ministry said in a statement.

North Korea, which launched 12 ballistic missiles in nine separate days of testing so far this year, condemned the drills as a declaration of war.

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PACIFIC

Iwakuni open house sees crowd despite rain

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — A rainy day dampened but failed to deter crowds from the first open house at this air base south of Hiroshima since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approximately 62,000 people attended the 44th Friendship Day on Saturday at MCAS Iwakuni, base spokesman Maj. Gerard Farao told Stars and Stripes by email Monday. That figure is less than half the estimated 165,000 who visited the last open house in 2019.

Morning rain canceled some aerial demonstrations and pushed others into the early afternoon, including flights by a Japanese aerobatic team in an EA300 and a Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II.

Despite the weather, spectators watched the Pacific Air Forces F-16 Demonstration Team and a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet flyover. But the headliner, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force demonstration team, Blue Impulse, did not make it off the ground. A crowd gathered in anticipation as the Blue Impulse taxied their Kawasaki T-4 jets along the runway, only to see the jets back-track to their flightline parking spots.

“While the weather may not have been exactly what we wanted, and there had to be a few adjustments made to the schedule, it was great to see the smiles on everyone’s faces,”



Festivalgoers check out an F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter and other military aircraft on Friendship Day at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, on Saturday.

Col. Richard Rusnok, the base commander, said in post Sunday on the base’s official Facebook page.

The event was jointly hosted by Fleet Air Wing 31 of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, U.S. Navy Carrier Air Wing 5 and the Marine Corps’ Marine Aircraft Group 12.

One visitor who attended previ-

ous open houses noticed an improvement in collaboration.

“This one is a markup. I’ve seen a lot more cohesiveness between the forces,” John Watson, 63, a Canadian living near Takamatsu, Japan, told Stars and Stripes at the event. “The personnel were amazing today; they answered a lot of dumb questions I had because I don’t

know anything about airplanes.”

The open house typically provides a once-a-year opportunity for Japanese citizens and civilians to walk on the Iwakuni flight line, view military aircraft up close and interact with the U.S. population at souvenir stands, static aircraft displays and food stalls.

This year, a large assortment of



Marine Pfc. David Bello-McCormick, left, and Lance Cpl. Sean Lynch pose with a child at the Friendship Day festival.

aircraft and terrestrial vehicles were on display. In addition to the F-35B, the Marines showed their MV-22 Osprey and KC-130J Super Hercules; the Navy brought its F/A-18 Super Hornet, E-2 Hawkeye and C-2 Greyhound; and the Maritime Self-Defense Force displayed its F-16, ShinMaywa US-2 amphibious aircraft and P-3 Orion surveillance and anti-submarine patrol plane.

“It’s also cool for me to see the Japanese side, [because] I don’t deal a lot with the Japanese side,” 1st Lt. Matthew Stevenson, 30, of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, said at the event.

Dennis Bowers, 8, son of Marine Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Bowers Jr., said he most enjoyed “looking at the planes and taking pictures of them.”

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Okinawa’s military community honors war correspondent Pyle

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

IESHIMA, Okinawa — Days after Army Col. Ned Holt got his license to drive in Japan, the newly minted 10th Support Group commander made a pilgrimage here to honor war correspondent Ernie Pyle, a man often referred to as the “soldier’s best friend.”

Holt, who took command in July, returned on Sunday to the spot where Pyle was felled by Japanese machine-gun fire to offer the keynote address at the annual ceremony honoring the Pulitzer Prize recipient.

Pyle became a household name during World War II for his dispatches from the front lines in North Africa, Italy and France. He is buried in Hawaii’s National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific alongside the troops he covered.

“I’ve been reading Ernie Pyle’s books since my early teens,” Holt said. “He has been a part of my life and continues to be.”

Pyle’s enduring legacy was apparent Sunday, two days before the 78th anniversary of his death,

as around 50 American Legionnaires, Marines, local officials and Boy Scouts from Okinawa-based Troop 102 gathered around an obelisk to discuss the man and his place in military history. Lawrence Occomy, commander of Okinawa’s American Legion Post 28, said this year’s ceremony drew the most attendees in years.

“He would often capture the human side of war in a way that no other journalist has before,” Occomy said.

Pyle was born in 1900 near Dana, Ind., and served in the Navy Reserve at the end of World War I. He studied journalism at Indiana University before becoming a war correspondent for Scripps-Howard newspapers.

He traveled to London in 1940 to report on the German bombings known as the Blitz. It wasn’t long before he joined the American troops stationed there. He shared foxholes with U.S. troops as they drove across Europe.

Pyle was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1944 for his coverage of the war.

After a short break from the action, Pyle joined the 77th Infantry Division as it bore down on Okinawa.

Pyle was killed on April 18, 1945, after the jeep he was riding in was fired upon by a Japanese machine-gun from a ridge above. He was buried near where he fell. His body was later moved to the national cemetery in Honolulu, commonly called the Punchbowl.

Pyle was mourned nationwide in the U.S. and was awarded a posthumous Purple Heart, a rare honor for a civilian.

The monument on Ie Shima is maintained by Post 28 and a Marine detachment on the island. The legionnaires have held memorial services at the site since 1952. Ie Shima is 3½ miles off the western tip of the Mobutu Peninsula of west-central Okinawa.

Holt grew emotional talking about the man who had such an impact on his life.

“When I got my first job and could buy books with my own money, I bought a couple of original editions of his books,” he recalled.



Famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle is honored during a ceremony Sunday near the spot where he was killed during World War II on Ie Shima, Okinawa.

When Holt arrived for a tour of Hawaii in 1999, his first stop was Pyle’s gravesite.

“He’s got an uncanny ability to tell the story through the soldier’s eyes and also tease out the big picture and what it all meant,” he said. “I recognized it when I was young. I think I’ve read everything he’s ever published.”

Tom Quinn, a retired Marine and motorcycle enthusiast who was riding with friends from American Legion Post 28, joined his family at the ceremony.

“He’s one of the most celebrated veterans that was on this island,” he said. “Him passing within this area here is significant so we got to pay respect.”

Nearby, Summer Hunter, 16, talked quietly with her mom and brother. The Hunters laid a wreath on behalf of Troop 102, Crew 28.

“I’ve learned that he was a great writer,” she said. “It’s always good to respect your history.”

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MILITARY

Navy unveils 5 designs for DC museum

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Navy on Thursday unveiled five eye-catching design concepts for its planned new national museum in Washington, D.C.

The ideas are not part of an official design competition, which will come later, but are meant to signal the progress of an enterprise that could bring a dramatic new presence to M Street near the Navy Yard in Southeast Washington, the Navy says.

The offerings, displayed at an afternoon event at the Navy Yard, came from noted architectural firms, and presented some striking designs — one of a building with wings that look like sails, and one with a submarine conning tower in a pool of water out front.

“I was kind of blown away,” said retired Rear Adm. Samuel J. Cox, the director of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

“It’s not the final design competition for actually building the museum,” he said in a telephone interview last Tuesday. “But one of these firms could wind up being the finalist for that when it occurs. Or it could be somebody else.”

“The idea is to generate interest among architectural firms, also, in our case, generate interest in the rest of the Navy, [and] generate interest in the American public,” he said.

“It’s not just a pipe dream. This is coming.”

The formal design competition will come after the Navy Museum Development Foundation raises enough money to move forward, he said. “I don’t know when that will be,” he said.

The Navy envisions a museum campus of about 270,000 square feet, including about 100,000 square feet of gallery space, according to MGAC, a consulting firm for the service.

The Navy announced in January that five prominent architecture firms had been chosen to develop ideas for the new museum. They were Bjarke Ingels Group, DLR Group, Frank Gehry Partners, Perkins&Will and Quinn Evans.



Rendering of design by Bjarke Ingels Group for a new Navy museum.



Rendering of design by Perkins&Will for the new Navy museum.



Rendering of design by Frank Gehry Partners for a new Navy museum.



Rendering of design by DLR Group for a new Navy museum.



Rendering of design by Quinn Evans for the new Navy museum.

“They’re all serious about wanting to do this,” Cox said.

Gehry, who designed Washington’s Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial, offered what looks like a majestic building largely made of glass.

The DLR Group presented a design that included the submarine conning tower in the outdoor pool.

Perkins&Will’s design featured a giant glass facade flanked by wings that resembled a sailing

ship.

“If any one of those was the final design, I’d be tickled pink,” Cox said. “I think at some point the artist is going to collide with the engineer. The building will have to meet basic Navy force protection standards, so that it can survive certain degrees of damage.”

The unveiling was another step in the Navy’s preparation for a \$450 million museum to replace the almost 60-year-old facility in its cavernous Naval Gun Factory and an adjacent building at the historic yard.

The service announced two years ago that it wanted to build the new museum on a roughly six-acre plot on M Street next-door to the Navy Yard.

The site was secured via a land swap with a developer, pending environmental review, the Navy said. The Navy exchanged 15 acres of “underutilized” land in the southeastern part of the yard for the new museum site.

The service hopes to break

ground in the fall of 2025.

Once completed, the Navy’s museum will join the National Museum of the U.S. Army, in Fort

Belvoir, Va., which opened in 2020, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps, in Triangle, Va., which opened in 2006.

EUROPE

7 troops hurt in tactical vehicle crash in Germany

BY ALEXANDER RIEDEL
Stars and Stripes

AMBERG, Germany — One U.S. soldier was airlifted to a hospital and six others were injured Monday following a crash involving two tactical vehicles near Amberg, Army officials said.

The collision occurred shortly before 11 a.m. on the eastbound A6 highway between the Sulzbach-Rosenberg and Amberg-West junctions in Bavaria.

“As of now, there are no life-threatening injuries to any of the individuals,” said Army Brig. Gen. Maurice Barnett, the head of the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

Six soldiers were taken by ambulance to hospitals, said Kate Necaise, a spokeswoman for U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach. An eighth U.S. soldier was taken to the Grafenwoehr Army Health Clinic for evaluation.

A convoy of seven armored vehicles was going from Shipton Kaserne, near Ansbach, to Grafenwoehr Training Area when a Mine



A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and a Stryker are severely damaged after colliding on the A6 highway near Amberg, Germany, on Monday. Seven American soldiers were injured in the crash.

MICHAEL SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle collided with a Stryker, Army officials in Ansbach said. The MRAP was missing a wheel following the crash, and the Stryker also showed significant damage.

German police cited “traffic-related braking” as the probable reason for the rear-end collision. The crash remains under investigation.

Both military vehicles involved in the crash belong to the 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, a subordinate unit of U.S. Army Europe and Africa’s 10th AAMDC, which is headquartered in Sembach.

There were no munitions on board the vehicles involved in the crash, Necaise said. Uninjured troops in the convoy secured the duty weapons at the scene, she added.

The collision closed parts of the busy national autobahn for several hours Monday afternoon.

In February, an American soldier was injured on a different stretch of the A6 when two U.S. military trucks carrying weapons collided.

Stars and Stripes reporter Michael Slavin contributed to this report.
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Slovakia gives Ukraine remaining 9 of 13 promised warplanes

Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Slovakia has delivered the remaining nine of the 13 Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jets that it promised to Ukraine, the Slovak Defense Ministry said on Monday.

The ministry said the warplanes were transported overland for security reasons in a “complicated logistics operation.” The first four were flown from Slovakia to Ukraine by Ukrainian pilots on March 23.

“We are doing the right thing,” Defense Minister Jaroslav

Nad said in a statement.

On March 17, the Slovak government approved a plan to give Ukraine its entire fleet of Soviet-era MiG-29 planes, becoming the second NATO member to answer Ukraine’s plea for warplanes to help defend against Russia’s invasion.

Slovakia grounded its MiGs in the summer due to a lack of spare parts and maintenance expertise. Neighboring Poland and the Czech Republic, both NATO members, stepped in to monitor Slovak airspace.

Replacements for the

MiG-29s are unlikely to arrive for another year. Slovakia previously signed a deal to buy 14 U.S. F-16 Block 70/72 fighter jets, but delivery was pushed back two years with the first aircraft to arrive in early 2024.

The United States has offered Slovakia 12 new military helicopters as compensation for the fighter jets given to Ukraine. Under the offer, Slovakia would pay \$340 million for the Bell AH-1Z attack choppers in a deal worth about \$1 billion. U.S. foreign military financing would cover the other \$660 million.



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

Slovak air force MiG-29 fighter jets take part in an airshow in Malacky, Slovakia, in August. Slovakia has delivered the remaining nine of the 13 Soviet-era MiG-29s that the country decided to give to Ukraine, the Slovak Defense Ministry said Monday.



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MILITARY

Discord: Leaks reflect broad challenge facing DOD

FROM PAGE 1

and 20-somethings who'd joined the chatroom.

That attempt to flex his military status for online approval ended with Teixeira's arrest Thursday. On Friday, he was charged with two counts of retaining and sharing classified national defense information, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

But the arrest doesn't end the dilemma for the military: how to supervise a young workforce that has access to classified secrets but lives much of its life online — including in corners of the internet where many share a fascination with military hardware and an eagerness to show off for strangers and friends. Two-thirds of U.S. military personnel are under the age of 30, with the vast majority of those under 25.

"Young men who may not feel their life gives them cachet and importance, they're trying to find that online ... often by attaching themselves to the gravitas of war and combat," said James D. Ivory, a Virginia Tech professor who researches the social dimensions of online communities and video games.

Some of them, he said, seek to overcome feelings of isolation and gain clout with their peers by spending time in these small online communities where they may feel they can push the boundaries and build camaraderie — even though the groups offer only the illusion of privacy and control.

"We're seeing massive security breaches and potential global instability just because someone was insecure about their popularity," he added, "and wanted people to know they knew cool stuff about the military."

Video games are one of the most popular forms of media for the 18- to 21-year-olds who are the target for the Defense Department's recruiting efforts and make up much of its junior ranks. The military sponsors esports tournaments to drive interest and advertises on the popular game-streaming site Twitch.

Many gamers have flocked to Discord for its fast-moving mix of public and private chatrooms, known as servers, where members can exchange jokes, memes and voice clips in a place largely invisible to the open web. Founded in 2015 in San Francisco, Discord says its 19 million servers attract 150 million active users every month.

Teixeira's group first met up on a Discord server devoted to Oxide, a YouTube creator known for his gaming clips and detailed breakdowns of combat rifles, body armor and military loadouts. The server, like many on Discord, was frenetic and irreverent: A clip from 2020 shows the room devolving into a chaos of gunfire noises

and shouts of "Allahu akbar."

A close-knit group from that server broke off into its own — named, for a pornographic meme, Thug Shaker Central — where they chatted about guns, games and geopolitics, and exchanged dark and racist jokes, members told The Washington Post.

Teixeira began sharing the documents late last year, FBI investigators said. By last month, a group member had reposted some of them in a separate Discord server, effectively sparking their viral spread.

In the offline world, Teixeira had worked in a relatively low-level IT-focused role as a "cyber transport systems specialist" in the Air National Guard, which gave him access to a computer network hosting top-secret information.

He worked at Otis Air National Guard Base in Cape Cod, Mass., far from the grisly realities of combat. When federal agents arrested him Thursday at his family home in the woody suburb of Dighton, Mass., he was dressed in gym shorts and a green T-shirt.

In the Discord server, though, Teixeira had built a devoted following as "O.G.," framing himself as a gun lover with a honed sense of combat strategy and intimate access to military secrets. A former Thug Shaker Central member told The Post that O.G. had shared the documents to educate his peers and build social capital on a slice of the internet where he was king.

Teixeira's profile on the gaming marketplace Steam shows he had been playing a lot of first-person shooters and military simulations with millions of players: the realistic military shooter "Arma 3," the hardcore survival game "Project Zomboid" and the battle royale shooter "PUBG: Battlegrounds."

But he also inhabited a die-hard subculture attracted to the precise details of military weapons, technologies and strategies. His ability to use those secrets to gain him credibility within the group, members said, ended up becoming a temptation he could not ignore.

On the server, he talked openly about guns, Catholicism, libertarian politics and the raids at Ruby Ridge in Idaho and in Waco, Texas, a common flash point for the anti-government fringe. He also posted video of himself firing a rifle while shouting racist and anti-semitic slurs.

Though investigators said he used anonymous screen names such as "jackthedripper" and "excalibureffect," Teixeira proved, ultimately, not hard to find. In a charging document Friday, an FBI agent said his Discord account information, which the San Francisco-based company provided to authorities, had included



JOSEPH COSLETT/U.S. Air Force

An airman plays games at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., which is equipped to a connection to the Discord online gaming application.

Teixeira's real name and home address.

That kind of online bravado is common in Discord gaming groups steeped in the macho, hard-charging culture of tactical shooters and military combat, Ivory said. Some members end up egging each other on toward increasingly cavalier behavior, he said, often because they feel safer in a closed-communal setting than if they were broadcasting their feelings to social media or the world.

That lack of discretion, he said, has led some members to adopt increasingly radical attitudes and behaviors. That's a potential risk for young service members, he said, particularly those who enlisted with expectations of combat duty but ended up working a job that now plays out largely on a screen.

"Some people may join the military because of the allure of the warrior ethos, and they may not feel very validated sitting in front of the computer all day," Ivory said.

Discord said in a statement that it is cooperating with law enforcement and declined to comment further. The company said it scans for violent and other rule-breaking content but also depends on volunteer moderators to flag potential threats, probably allowing some risks to go unseen.

In a report by the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, Discord officials were said to have acknowledged that "the risks of relying too much on user moderation when the userbase may not have an interest in reporting problematic content."

The Defense Department, facing a recruiting shortage, has nevertheless adopted a nationwide strategy of using gaming and online culture to attract new troops, many of whom grew up with Xboxes and iPads and who live much of their lives online.

Nearly every service branch now has an esports team that com-

petes on first-person shooter games such as the Halo franchise and "Valorant," some of which have their own private Discord servers where service members can chat.

Military esports teams also participate in nationwide competitions and stream their gameplay on Twitch. The Army's esports Discord server welcomes active-duty Army and National Guard members, as well as contractors, veterans, and their families and friends, encouraging them in a welcome banner to "be all you can be."

Progressive activists have criticized the military for using Twitch streamers and gaming channels popular with young viewers to promote military life and shape their perceptions about war.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., sponsored a House amendment in 2020 to ban the military from using Twitch to recruit that did not pass. "War is not a game," she said on Twitter. "We should not conflate military service with 'shoot-em-up' style games and contests."

But Amy J. Nelson, a technology expert and foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution, said the Discord leaks reflect a broader challenge of how to block the sharing of classified information.

Discord is "a tainted concept now," she said. "Does the Pentagon still use it? Does it use it officially? Does it use it unofficially?"

The Pentagon's detailed guide to Discord shows military officials counseling users to be aware of "personal security vulnerabilities" and suggests specific privacy and safety controls for an app that it said allows "friends and communities to stay in touch and spend time together."

"It may be a private server," the guide says, "but conversations and photos/videos can be captured by screenshot or recorded and leaked."

The military command has also

published similar guides to Twitch, TikTok and the dating apps Tinder, Bumble and Hinge, among other apps, recognizing that people in their 20s and younger are likely to be unwilling to give up online habits they've held for a lifetime.

The TikTok guide doesn't even discourage using the popular short-video app, which is banned on military devices but allowed for personal use, though it does recommend settings and guidelines that could limit the risks of an app owned by a Chinese firm.

Roughly 3 million Americans have undergone the monthslong process of acquiring security clearance, where they are asked about details of their behaviors and personal histories and made to provide names they might use online. But many Discord servers are invite-only and ask for direct confirmation of members' authenticity, blocking them from public view.

President Joe Biden said in a statement Friday that he had directed the military to "further secure and limit distribution of sensitive information." Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Thursday that he had ordered a review into the Pentagon's intelligence controls and reminded anyone with classified access that they had "a solemn legal and moral obligation to safeguard it."

The leaks could amplify calls in Washington to more closely monitor chatrooms and social media. Such a measure is not unheard of: Undercover governmental investigators have in the past closely monitored jihadi forums organized by Islamic State and al-Qaida militants for the purposes of investigation or intervention.

But civil liberties advocates have argued such tactics could violate Americans' First Amendment rights of free expression or their Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches.

"We do not have nor do we want a system where the United States government monitors private internet chats," Glenn Gerstell, the former general counsel of the National Security Agency, told NBC on Wednesday.

On Discord, some servers have already joked about the possibility of being surreptitiously infiltrated by the government. Using a word first coined on the anything-goes message board 4chan, people commonly accuse others of being "glowies" — federal agents whose out-of-place behaviors are so obvious that they practically glow.

But surveilling gamer chatrooms might also end up pushing away the same young recruits the military desperately needs, all for questionable practical gain: The internet is full of ways to anonymously share images, videos and documents.

NATION



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES/AP

Nearly half of North America's bat species, including this northern long-eared bat, are likely to diminish significantly, scientists warned.

Scientists say bats in N. America imperiled by climate, disease

Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — More than half of North America's bat species are likely to diminish significantly as climate change, disease and habitat loss take their toll, scientists warned Monday.

A report by experts from the U.S., Canada and Mexico said 81 of the continent's 154 known bat types "are at risk of severe population decline" in the next 15 years.

The "state of the bats" report was published by the North American Bat Conservation Alliance, a consortium of government agencies and private organizations.

"They need our help to survive," said Winifred Frick, chief scientist at Bat Conservation International, one of the participating groups. "We face a biodiversity crisis globally and bats play a very important role in healthy ecosystems needed to protect our planet."

Bats give U.S. agriculture a \$3.7 billion annual boost by gobbling crop-destroying insects, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Some are plant pollinators. Bats also serve as prey for other animals, including hawks, owls and weasels.

Millions have died since 2006 from a fungal disease called white-nose syndrome, which attacks hibernating bats and creates fuzzy spots on their muzzles and wings. It causes them to wake early from hibernation and sometimes fly outside. They can burn up winter fat stores and eventually starve.

Eight U.S. bat species are listed as endangered, or on the brink of extinction.

The federal Fish and Wildlife Service designated the northern long-eared bat as endangered last year and has proposed listing for the tricolored bat. The little brown bat is being evaluated for potential listing. White-nose syndrome is the primary killer for each of the species.

More than 150 agencies, non-

profits and universities are collaborating in the fight against the disease, said Jeremy Coleman, a wildlife biologist who coordinates the service's participation and a co-author of the report.

Among methods under development are vaccines, anti-fungal sprays and ultraviolet light treatments for hibernation spots.

"We have a number of tools that are showing great promise," Coleman said. "There are very few precedents for managing a wildlife disease, particularly one so devastating and pervasive."

The report said the bats also are imperiled by forest fragmentation — logging and urban sprawl in Canada, wildfire suppression in the U.S. and livestock ranching in Mexico. Many bats live in older trees during summer.

People sometimes disturb hibernating bats in winter by exploring caves and abandoned mines.

Climate change is expected to intensify the challenges, causing more extreme storms and temperature swings. The report said 82% of the continent's species are at risk from global warming's effects.

More than 1,500 bats were rescued in December after going into hypothermic shock during a sudden freeze in Houston, where they lost their grip and fell from roosting spots beneath bridges.

Drought and increasingly arid conditions will leave bats with less drinking water, killing some and preventing others from reproducing, the report said. As surface waters dry up, there are fewer places to fly over in search of aquatic insects.

Ironically, wind turbines — a leading source of renewable energy that can help slow climate change — pose another problem for bats. An estimated 500,000, representing 45 species, die each year in collisions with the structures, the report said.

SpaceX scrubs 1st launch attempt of its new rocket

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas — SpaceX called off its first launch attempt of its giant rocket Monday after a problem cropped up during fueling.

Elon Musk's company had planned to fly the nearly 400-foot Starship rocket from the southern tip of Texas, near the Mexican border.

The countdown was halted at the 40-second mark because of a stuck valve in the first-stage booster. Launch controllers couldn't fix the frozen valve in time, and canceled the attempt. The countdown continued, and fueling was completed, as a dress rehearsal.

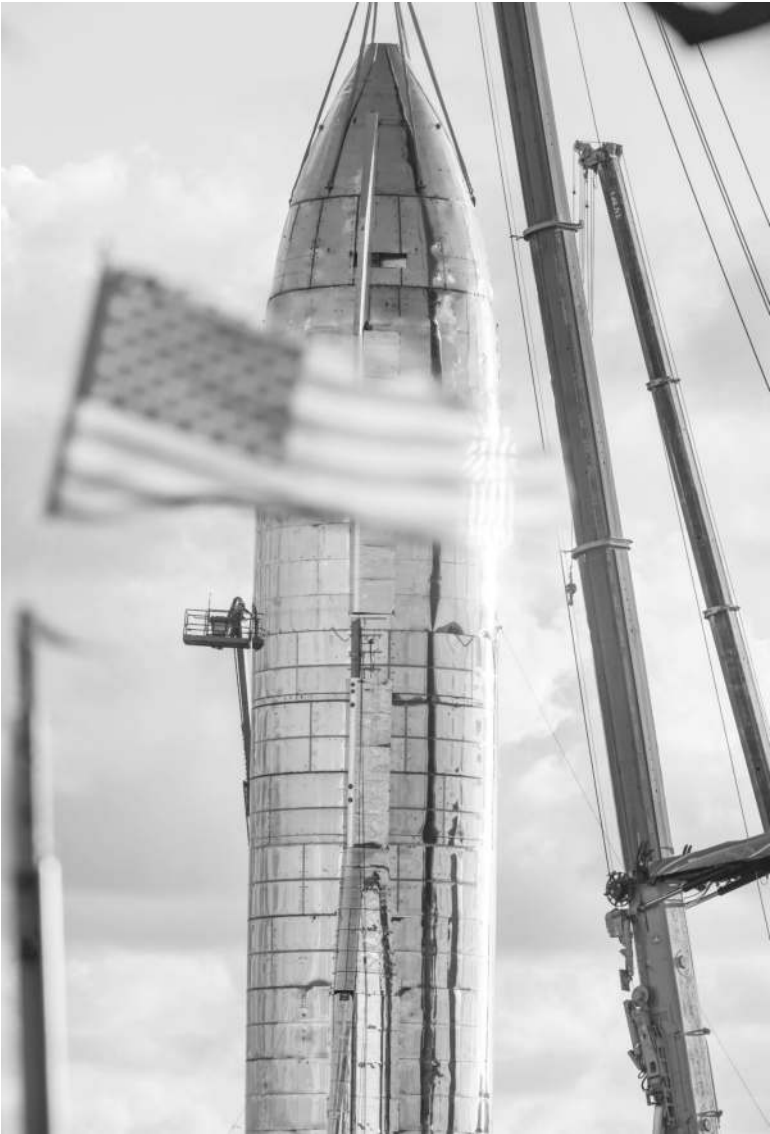
No people or satellites were aboard. There won't be another try until at least Wednesday.

The company plans to use Starship to send people and cargo to the moon and, ultimately, Mars.

On the eve of the launch attempt, cars, campers, RVs and even bicycles and horses jammed the only road leading to the launch pad, where the stainless steel rocket towered above the flat scrubland and prairie. Enthusiasts posed in front of the giant letters that spelled out Starbase at the entrance of the SpaceX complex, and in front of the rocket two miles farther down the road, which ended at the gulf.

On Monday, spectators were barred from the area, and instead packed a beach about six miles away on South Padre Island.

Ernesto and Maria Carreon drove two hours from Mission,



JONATHAN NEWTON/The Washington Post

A prototype of Starship is seen in September.

Texas, with their two daughters, 5 and 7, to watch.

"I got sad. They got sad," when the launch attempt was canceled, Maria Carreon said.

They can't return for the next try but planned to have fun on the beach Monday.

Fox News, Dominion Voting trial delayed

The Washington Post

The beginning of the much-anticipated defamation case between Dominion Voting Systems and Fox News has been delayed by one day, until Tuesday, to allow both parties to hold conversations about the possibility of a settlement, according to two sources with knowledge of the situation.

The judge in the case, Eric M. Davis, said in court Monday morning that one-day delays are not uncommon in such cases. "This does not seem unusual to me," he said.

He suggested the trial will still continue as scheduled, with prospective jurors expected to arrive Tuesday morning. Jury selection had been scheduled to conclude on Monday and then both sides were expected to give opening statements, kicking off a weekslong trial.

Voting technology company Dominion filed a \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against the network alleging that Fox guests and hosts defamed the company and severely damaged its business by connecting it to a plot to fraudulently steal the 2020 presidential election.

The judge announced the delay Sunday night and said Monday he would not give any further information about the cause. "This is not a press conference," he said. "I don't do that."

But two people familiar with the case said the two sides were scheduled to meet Monday to determine if a last-minute deal to avoid trial could be brokered. One of the people said the judge had asked the parties to make a final effort to settle the issue before proceeding with a trial.

The two people spoke on the con-

dition of anonymity to disclose sensitive information. Spokespeople for Dominion and for Fox News's parent company, Fox Corp., declined to comment.

Late settlement talks were first reported by the Wall Street Journal, which, like Fox News, is controlled by Rupert Murdoch's family. Fox and Dominion engaged in a round of mediation in December 2022 but were unable to reach a settlement agreement at that time, the court has previously said.

If the case proceeds to trial, a jury would ultimately decide how much to award Dominion in damages; the voting technology company's lawsuit sought \$1 billion in "lost enterprise value" and \$600 million in lost profits. Fox has aggressively contested Dominion's figures as out of line with the voting technology company's value.

NATION

Charities feel strain with drop in volunteers

BY THALIA BEATY
AND GLENN GAMBOA
Associated Press

CASA of Lexington has tried just about everything to find volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children with the Kentucky nonprofit.

Since 2020, it has hired someone to focus on recruiting volunteers, added in-person and virtual outreach events and options to complete the required 30-hour training, and printed information on fans to hand out in churches, Melynda Milburn Jamison, its executive director, said. She even visited a men's-only barbecue to make a quick 10-minute pitch.

The result? In 2022, CASA of Lexington had 62 new volunteers complete training, short of its target of 80. Only two came from the group's recruitment events, with the rest mostly via word of mouth, Jamison said.

"We've been able to retain keeping the number of children we serve fairly consistent," she said, "but we should have been increasing because we've taken on new counties and we've added additional staff."

Jamison is not alone in her frustration. Her experience reflects the latest twist in a decadeslong trend of declining volunteer participation. As pandemic-related government aid programs end and inflation rises, nonprofits of all kinds are looking everywhere and trying everything to get volunteers. According to a recent U.S. Census Bureau and AmeriCorps survey, formal volunteer participation was 23.2%, dropping 7% between 2019 and 2021 — the largest decrease the survey has recorded since a version of it started in 2002.

It's reached the point where the lack of volunteers strains the safety net that nonprofits provide to many of society's most vulnerable.

"This is a wake-up call for the social sector, which depends on volunteers, especially as needs for services remain high," said Michael D. Smith, CEO of AmeriCorps, which has opened its yearly grant program to award \$8 million to help nonprofits recruit and retain volunteers.

The largest drop between 2019 and 2021 in any state was Colorado at 16.1%. Hawaii, Wisconsin and Ohio also saw double-digit drops. Utah, with its highest-in-the-nation participation rate of 40.7% in 2021, the most recent figures that are available, saw an 8.8% drop.

Researchers, nonprofit professionals and volunteers offer a variety of explanations for the decline, including the COVID-19 pandemic and economic woes. Historically, volunteering has been strongest among college graduates, married people and people with children. However, many Millennials and Gen Zers are delaying those traditional markers of adulthood, and even their peers who do reach these milestones are volunteering at lower rates, researchers at the University of Maryland found in a 2019 report.

"Younger generations today are much more likely to work several jobs, more likely to have to share

places to live long past the college roommate stage of life," said Mark Snyder, director of the Center for the Study of the Individual and Society at the University of Minnesota. "These are barriers to getting involved. They are not all blessed to have the discretionary time to go out and volunteer."



JOSHUA A. BICKEL/AP

Melynda Milburn Jamison, right, executive director of CASA of Lexington, meets with a new volunteer before a training session, Thursday in Lexington, Ky.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Bella McGowan, right, works at a community garden Thursday with local residents Rico De Rixey, center, and his wife, Geraldine Brand, in Los Angeles.

The COVID-19 pandemic also played a role, as closures and fears about getting sick led some people to break their volunteering habit. Some did not return, instead putting their attention on their families or, as local United Ways report, their own needs for help with food, rent, utilities and health care.

At CASA of Lexington, the recruiting problems mean the nonprofit cannot increase the number of children it provides an advocate for as quickly as it would like.

"Even though we served just shy of 700 kids last year, that was less than 20% of the need here. So there's a huge need," Jamison said. "We typically get the worst of the worst cases."

Shannon Arimura, who runs volunteer support programs with Nevada Volunteers, said organizations should clearly outline the commitment and skills needed in volunteer postings, build relationships with new volunteers, and offer

fer appreciation for their work.

"If you're only going to give so much of your resources towards volunteer management, then it shouldn't surprise you when you don't have volunteers that will stay," she said.

Karmit Bulman, executive director of Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement, recommends nonprofits learn from informal volunteering networks, meaning the help neighbors provide each other when needed. Those behaviors remained largely steady through the pandemic, the census survey found. The rate was 50.9% in 2021, compared with 51.4% in 2017.

"We need to stop thinking that we can do everything we used to do in the same way. So it's a time for some pretty intensive change management," she said.

Her advice is to seek volunteers from within the communities that nonprofits are serving, make the onboarding process as efficient as possible and meet volunteers when and where they are.

"A lot of our systems were set up as a best practice for the professionals who might typically be a white woman who's leading the program as opposed to being a best practice for anyone" else, Bulman said.

US tax breaks lure European clean tech companies

BY KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

Norwegian startup Freyr will first build batteries to power electric vehicles and store clean energy in a remote town near the Arctic Circle. Up next? An Atlanta suburb. That's because a new U.S. clean energy law offers generous tax credits — up to 40% of costs — in what is a "massive, massive incentive" for producing in America, CEO Tom Einar Jensen said.

Across Europe, companies seeking to invest in the green energy boom — churning out everything from solar panels to windmills and EV batteries — are making similar calculations, weighing up the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act's \$375 billion in benefits for renewable industries against a fragmented response that European leaders

have been scrambling to patch together for months.

The law aims to kick-start the U.S. transition away from climate-changing fossil fuels with tax credits and rebates that favor clean technology made in North America.

It blindsided Europe when it became law in August, putting the U.S. on course to eclipse the continent in the global push to reduce carbon emissions and leaving European leaders fuming over rules that favor American products, threatening to suck green investment from Europe and spark a subsidy race.

The European Union's executive branch responded with plans aimed at ensuring at least 40% of clean technology is produced in Europe by 2030 and limiting the amount of strategic raw materials from any single

third country — typically China — to 65%. It also opened negotiations with President Joe Biden on making Europe-sourced minerals for EV battery manufacturing eligible for U.S. tax credits.

Executives, simply looking for the most money they can get to boost their businesses, are hailing the U.S. program's simplicity. Some complain that the EU plan is underwhelming, confusing and bureaucratic, putting Europe at risk of falling behind in the green energy transition, notably as the auto industry moves to EVs.

"While the United States are catching up thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, Europe is more and more lagging behind," Volkswagen's board member overseeing technology, Thomas Schmall, posted on LinkedIn. "The conditions of the IRA are so

attractive that Europe risks to lose the race for billions of investments that will be decided in the coming months and years."

Volkswagen said last month that its new PowerCo battery business would build its first gigafactory for EV battery cells outside Europe in St. Thomas, Ontario — following two others under construction in Germany and Spain. The Canadian plant, set to open in 2027, is expected to benefit from the IRA because of provisions for U.S. neighbors and free-trade partners Canada and Mexico.

Meanwhile, the German auto giant has reportedly put on hold a decision for a battery plant in Eastern Europe while it waits for more information on the EU's plan. Volkswagen didn't respond to a request for comment.

NATION

Deepfake porn a growing problem amid AI race

BY HALELUYA HADERO

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Artificial intelligence imaging can be used to create art, try on clothes in virtual fitting rooms or help design advertising campaigns.

But experts fear the darker side of the easily accessible tools could worsen something that primarily harms women: nonconsensual deepfake pornography.

Deepfakes are videos and images that have been digitally created or altered with artificial intelligence or machine learning. Porn created using the technology first began spreading across the internet several years ago when a Reddit user shared clips that placed the faces of female celebrities on the shoulders of porn actors.

Since then, deepfake creators have disseminated similar videos and images targeting online influencers, journalists and others with a public profile. Thousands of videos exist across a plethora of websites. And some have been offering users the opportunity to create their own images — essentially allowing anyone to turn whoever they wish into sexual fantasies without their consent, or use the technology to harm former partners.

The problem, experts say, grew as it became easier to make sophisticated and visually compelling deepfakes. And they say it could get worse with the development of generative AI tools that are trained on billions of images from the internet and spit out novel content using existing data.

“The reality is that the technology will continue to proliferate, will continue to develop and will continue to become sort of as easy as pushing the button,” said Adam Dodge, the founder of EndTAB, a group that provides training on technology-enabled abuse. “And as long as that happens, people will undoubtedly ... continue to misuse that technology to harm others, primarily through online sexual violence, deepfake pornography and fake nude images.”



ANDRES KUDACKI/AP

Australian Noelle Martin poses for a photo March 9, in the Manhattan borough of New York. The 28-year-old found deepfake porn of herself 10 years ago when out of curiosity one day she used Google to search an image of herself.

Noelle Martin, of Perth, Australia, has experienced that reality. The 28-year-old found deepfake porn of herself 10 years ago when out of curiosity one day she used Google to search an image of herself. To this day, Martin says she doesn't know who created the fake images, or videos of her engaging in sexual intercourse that she would later find. She suspects someone likely took a picture posted on her social media page or elsewhere and doctored it into porn.

Horried, Martin contacted different websites for a number of years in an effort to get the images taken down. Some didn't respond. Others took it down but she soon found it up again.

“You cannot win,” Martin said. “This is something that is always going to be out there. It's just like it's forever ruined you.”

The more she spoke out, she said, the more the problem escalated. Some people even told her the way she dressed and posted images on social media contributed to the harassment — essentially blaming her for the images in-

stead of the creators.

Eventually, Martin turned her attention toward legislation, advocating for a national law in Australia that would fine companies \$370,706 if they don't comply with removal notices for such content from online safety regulators.

But governing the internet is next to impossible when countries have their own laws for content that's sometimes made halfway around the world. Martin, currently an attorney and legal researcher at the University of Western Australia, says she believes the problem has to be controlled through some sort of global solution.

In the meantime, some AI models say they're already curbing access to explicit images.

OpenAI says it removed explicit content from data used to train the image generating tool DALL-E, which limits the ability of users to create those types of images. The company also filters requests and says it blocks users from creating AI images of celebrities and prominent politicians. Midjourney, another model, blocks the use of cer-

tain keywords and encourages users to flag problematic images to moderators.

Meanwhile, the startup Stability AI rolled out an update in November that removes the ability to create explicit images using its image generator Stable Diffusion. Those changes came following reports that some users were creating celebrity inspired nude pictures using the technology.

Stability AI spokesperson Motez Bishara said the filter uses a combination of keywords and other techniques like image recognition to detect nudity and returns a blurred image. But it's possible for users to manipulate the software and generate what they want since the company releases its code to the public. Bishara said Stability AI's license “extends to third-party applications built on Stable Diffusion” and strictly prohibits “any misuse for illegal or immoral purposes.”

Some social media companies have also been tightening up their rules to better protect their platforms against harmful materials.

TikTok said last month all deepfakes or manipulated content that show realistic scenes must be labeled to indicate they're fake or altered in some way, and that deepfakes of private figures and young people are no longer allowed. Previously, the company had barred sexually explicit content and deepfakes that misled viewers about real-world events and cause harm.

The gaming platform Twitch also recently updated its policies around explicit deepfake images after a popular streamer named Atrioc was discovered to have a deepfake porn website open on his browser during a livestream in late January. The site featured phony images of fellow Twitch streamers.

Twitch already prohibited explicit deepfakes, but now showing a glimpse of such content — even if it's intended to express outrage — “will be removed and will result in an enforcement,” the company

wrote in a blog post. And intentionally promoting, creating or sharing the material is grounds for an instant ban.

Other companies have also tried to ban deepfakes from their platforms, but keeping them off requires diligence.

Apple and Google said recently they removed an app from their app stores that was running sexually suggestive deepfake videos of actresses to market the product. Research into deepfake porn is not prevalent, but one report released in 2019 by the AI firm DeepTrace Labs found it was almost entirely weaponized against women and the most targeted individuals were western actresses, followed by South Korean K-pop singers.

The same app removed by Google and Apple had run ads on Meta's platform, which includes Facebook, Instagram and Messenger. Meta spokesperson Dani Lever said in a statement the company's policy restricts both AI-generated and non-AI adult content and it has restricted the app's page from advertising on its platforms.

In February, Meta, as well as adult sites like OnlyFans and Pornhub, began participating in an online tool, called Take It Down, that allows teens to report explicit images and videos of themselves from the internet. The reporting site works for regular images, and AI-generated content — which has become a growing concern for child safety groups.

“When people ask our senior leadership what are the boulders coming down the hill that we're worried about? The first is end-to-end encryption and what that means for child protection. And then second is AI and specifically deepfakes,” said Gavin Portnoy, a spokesperson for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which operates the Take It Down tool.

“We have not ... been able to formulate a direct response yet to it,” Portnoy said.

House where King planned Ala. marches moving to Mich.

Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — A lot was happening in March 1965 in the bungalow in Selma, Ala., that then-4-year-old Jawana Jackson called home, and much of it involved her “Uncle Martin.”

There were late-night visitors, phone calls and meetings at the house that was a safe haven for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders as they planned the Selma to Montgomery marches calling for Black voting rights.

The role the Jackson House

played was integral to the Civil Rights Movement, so Jackson contacted the The Henry Ford Museum near Detroit about a year ago to ask if it would take over the preservation of the Jackson House and its legacy.

“It became increasingly clearer to me that the house belonged to the world, and quite frankly, The Henry Ford was the place that I always felt in my heart that it needed to be,” she told The Associated Press last week from her home in Pensacola, Fla.

Starting this year, the Jackson



Jawana Jackson via AP

Historic civil rights site the Jackson House in Selma, Ala., will be moved to Michigan.

House will be dismantled piece-by-piece and trucked the more than 800 miles north to Dearborn,

Mich., where it will eventually be open to the public as part of the history museum.

The project is expected to take up to three years.

Owned by dentist Sullivan Jackson and his wife, Richie Jean, the 3,000-square-foot home was where King and others planned the three marches against racist Jim Crow laws that prevented Black people from voting in the Deep South.

“There was a synergy going on in that house during those critical times,” Jawana Jackson said.

“Whether that was when Uncle Martin was praying the morning of the Selma to Montgomery march or whether he was talking to President Johnson (by phone) in the little bedroom of that home, I always got a sense of energy and a sense of hope for the future.”

The house and artifacts, including King's neckties and pajamas, and the chair where he sat while watching Johnson's televised announcement, will be part of the acquisition by The Henry Ford.

The purchase price is confidential.

NATION

GOP states targeting equity, diversity efforts in higher ed

By DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

Frustrated by college diversity initiatives he has said are “fomenting radical and toxic divisions,” Texas state Rep. Carl Tepper set out to put an end to diversity, equity and inclusion offices in higher education.

The freshman Republican lawmaker filed a bill to ban such offices. Three months later, he filed a new version of the legislation doing the same thing. The difference? Tepper switched the wording to align with a new model bill developed by the Manhattan Institute and Goldwater Institute, a pair of conservative think tanks based in New York and Arizona, respectively.

Republican lawmakers in at least a dozen states have proposed more than 30 bills this year targeting diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in higher education, an Associated Press analysis found using the bill-tracking software Plural. The measures have become the latest flashpoint in a cultural battle involving race, ethnicity and

gender that has been amplified by prominent Republicans, including former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, potential rivals for the GOP presidential nomination in 2024.

Many of the proposals root in one of a half-dozen conservative or libertarian organizations offering recommendations for limiting consideration of diversity, equity and inclusion in employment decisions, training and student admissions. Some measures mirror the model bills nearly exactly. Others copy key definitions or phrases while adapting the concepts to their particular states.

“There’s a tremendous appetite on the right to deal with this issue,” said Joe Cohn, legislative and policy director for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, which in February added its own model bill to the swelling ranks of proposals.

The bills are an outgrowth of recent Republican attempts to limit critical race theory, a viewpoint that racism is historically systemic in the nation’s institutions and con-

tinues today to maintain the dominance of white people in society. Christopher Rufo, who now is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, helped propel conservative outrage in 2020 against what he has described as critical-race-theory concepts infiltrating governments and educational institutions.

Trump responded by issuing an order in September 2020 banning training involving “divisive concepts” about race for government employees and contractors. Similar wording began cropping up in state-level legislation the following year.

Florida’s so-called “Stop WOKE” law, which DeSantis signed last year, is among the most prominent measures. It bars businesses, colleges and K-12 schools from giving training on certain racial concepts, such as the theory that people of a particular race are inherently racist, privileged or oppressed. Courts have currently blocked the law’s enforcement in colleges, universities and businesses.



Sameeha Rizvi, left, a student at University of Texas at Austin, talks with fellow student Amanda Garcia at the Texas Capitol on April 6.

DeSantis has continued to press the issue. He proposed legislation this year to ban diversity, equity and inclusion offices as part of a broader agenda to reshape higher education. He also appointed Rufo and other conservatives to the New College of Florida’s oversight board, which then abolished the liberal arts college’s office that handles diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

“DeSantis has been so vocal about the changes he wants to make in universities that it has probably spurred activity in other

states,” said Jenna Robinson, president of the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal, a conservative nonprofit based in Raleigh, N.C.

The American Association of University Professors, which has about 45,000 members nationwide, said the bills mischaracterize DEI initiatives.

“They’re dog whistling that DEI initiatives are something sinister and subversive that people should be afraid of, and that’s not true at all,” association President Irene Mulvey said.







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WORLD

Fighting intensifies in Sudan's capital

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Gunbattles, airstrikes and shelling shook Sudan's embattled capital Monday in a third day of heavy fighting between the army and a powerful rival force for control of the country, as the weekend's civilian death toll rose to 97.

Rapid, sustained firing was heard near the military headquarters in central Khartoum, a key battle zone since fighting began, and white smoke rose from the area. Residents hunkering down in their homes reported power outages and incidents of looting.

"Gunfire and shelling are everywhere," Awadeya Mahmoud Koko, head of a union for tea vendors and other food workers, said from her home in a southern district of the city.

She said a shell struck a neighbor's house Sunday, killing at least three people. "We couldn't take them to a hospital or bury them."

The clashes are part of a power struggle between Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the commander of the armed forces, and Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the head of the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group. The two generals are former allies who jointly orchestrated an October 2021 military coup that derailed Sudan's short-lived transition to democracy. Both men are backed by tens of thousands of fighters.

Both men have dug in, saying they would not negotiate a truce, instead engaging in verbal attacks and demanding the other's surrender. Dagalo, whose forces grew out of the notorious Janjaweed militias in Sudan's Darfur region, portrayed himself in a statement on Twitter on Monday as a defender of democracy and branded Burhan as the aggressor and a "radical Islamist."

Pro-democracy activists have noted that both generals have a



MARWAN ALI/AP

People walk past shuttered shops in Khartoum, Sudan, on Monday.

long history of human rights abuses. At the same time, both men have powerful foreign backers, making them potentially susceptible to mounting diplomatic pressure to end the fighting.

Since fighting erupted on Saturday, 97 civilians have been killed and hundreds have been wounded, said the Sudan Doctors' Syndicate, a pro-democracy group monitoring casualties.

There has been no official word on the number of fighters killed.

The military on Monday claimed to have secured the main television building on the Nile River in Khartoum's adjoining city of Omdurman, after days of fighting with RSF fighters trying to seize

the building. State-run Sudan TV resumed broadcasting, airing footage of residents celebrating with army troops in the streets.

Earlier in the day, footage posted online purported to show RSF barracks in Omdurman. The bodies of dozens of men in camouflage uniforms were seen sprawled on beds and the floor of a medical ward and in a sandy outdoor area.

The authenticity of the videos could not be confirmed independently, but they surfaced after the military said it has targeted RSF bases with airstrikes. Mohamed al-Mokhtar al-Nour, an RSF adviser, told the Al Jazeera satellite network Sunday that RSF forces have withdrawn from the camp.

Kremlin critic is convicted of treason

Associated Press

A Russian court convicted a top opposition activist of treason on Monday for publicly denouncing Moscow's war in Ukraine and sentenced him to 25 years in prison. It was the latest move in the Kremlin's relentless crackdown on anyone who dares to criticize the invasion.

Vladimir Kara-Murza Jr., an activist and journalist who twice survived poisonings he blamed on the Kremlin, has rejected the charges against him as punishment for standing up to Russian President Vladimir Putin and likened the proceedings to the show trials during the rule of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Human rights organizations and Western governments denounced the verdict and demanded his release. Amnesty International declared the 41-year-old a prisoner of conscience.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: 5 people shot, 2 dead at chicken fight

HONOLULU — Two victims died after five people were shot during an altercation at a late-night chicken fight Friday in Honolulu, police said.

Honolulu police responded to a call about shots fired just past midnight Friday and were searching Saturday for a suspect believed to be in his 20s who allegedly shot the others who were attending the event, KHON-TV reported.

“At the end of the fight, a group of males started arguing and then it escalated to a physical altercation, at some point gun shots were fired, hitting the five people who were in the immediate area,” Honolulu Police Department Lt. Deena Thoemmes told KHON.

Police said a 59-year-old woman and a 34-year-old male were pronounced dead at a hospital, KHON reported. Three men aged 38, 40 and 57 were shot, but were treated and released from a hospital, KHON reported.

Police alerted to letters sent to lawmakers’ homes

ME AUGUSTA — Maine legislative leaders notified Capitol Police that inflammatory letters from a white nationalist organization have been mailed to lawmakers’ homes in an attempt to harass and intimidate, they announced Friday.

“We cannot state this forcefully enough: We have zero tolerance for white nationalist groups’ behavior or intimidation,” Senate President Troy Jackson and House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, both Democrats, said in a statement Friday.

The letters last week claimed “ethnic Europeans” are being defamed, disenfranchised and threatened with “demographic replacement.”

“The groups issuing these messages masquerade as seeking social justice, yet in reality distort information to create false equivalency to misdirect the public and stoke racial tensions. The state Legislature is a place where lawmakers, members of the public and professional staff deserve safety, security and the certainty that the democratic process will operate without harassment,” the leaders said.

Rutgers, unions agree to terms, classes to resume

NJ NEW BRUNSWICK — Rutgers University and union representatives have announced an agreement on a framework for new contracts with several faculty unions, allowing a halt to a five-day strike that was the first such job action in the 257-year history of New Jersey’s flagship university,

Rutgers said early Saturday that the agreement on the framework on economic issues was



ALIE SKOWRONSKI, MIAMI HERALD/AP

Learning the ropes

A family practices roping during Miami-Dade CountryFest on Sunday at the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center at Tropical Park in Miami, Fla. The festival, which offered live music, food trucks, kids zones, and a professional rodeo show over two days, was formerly called the Miami Agriculture, Horse and Cattle Show.

reached late Friday night with the aid of Gov. Phil Murphy, and closure on that framework “will allow our 67,000 students to resume their studies and pursue their academic degrees.”

The unions representing professors, part-time lecturers and graduate student workers told members that they had agreed to suspend the strike and return to work, but more issues need to be resolved before members would have a tentative agreement to vote on.

The unions said the framework included “significant” pay increases for adjuncts and substantial raises for graduate student workers, as well as more job security for adjunct and nontenure-track faculty, union representation for graduate fellows and other improvements.

Ferry runs aground, no reports of injuries

WA SEATTLE — A passenger ferry carrying

hundreds of people ran aground near Bainbridge Island west of Seattle on Saturday but there were no reports of injuries or contamination, authorities said.

The Walla Walla ran aground in Rich Passage around 4:30 p.m. as it was traveling from the city of Bremerton to Seattle, according to Washington State Ferries, a division of the state Department of Transportation.

“Initial indications are the vessel suffered a generator failure,” but investigators were still looking into exactly what happened, the agency said.

There were 596 passengers and 15 crew members aboard, according to ferries spokesperson Diane Rhodes. A tug boat and the Coast Guard were on the scene.

Man accused of arson, murder in wildfire death

WV FAYETTEVILLE — A West Virginia man has been charged with murder after a forestry worker was killed

trying to extinguish a fire the man is accused of setting.

The fire was reported on Tuesday night in the Tucker Hollow area of Fayette County. Overnight, the fire grew to consume several hundred acres.

On Thursday, forester Cody Mullens was fatally injured by a falling tree while fighting the fire.

The Division of Forestry was able to determine that the fire was intentionally set, Fayette County Sheriff Mike Fridley said Friday in a news release. The arson investigation led to the arrest of David A. Bass, of Kimberly.

In addition to the murder charge, Bass is charged with four counts of felony wildland arson.

Paper mill temporarily closes from fungal illness

MI ESCANABA — A paper mill in northern Michigan will close for up to three weeks for a scrubbing after authorities confirmed at least 21 cases of a fungal infection among workers

since March along with dozens more probable cases.

The illness, blastomycosis, is related to a fungus that grows in moist soil and decomposing wood and leaves, according to the public health department in Delta County.

Blastomycosis does not pass from person to person, the department said. Common symptoms are cough, fever, shortness of breath, joint pain and weight loss.

The Billerud Paper Mill in Escanaba, which employs more than 800 people, will close temporarily, the company said Thursday.

The mill will undergo “deep cleaning in high traffic areas through the mill” as well as other steps, including vent inspections, filter replacements and tests on raw materials, said Kevin Kuznicki, president of Billerud North America.

County roiled by book ban looked at closing libraries

TX BUCHANAN DAM — Leaders in a rural Texas county held a special meeting Thursday, but drew back from the drastic option of shutting their public library system rather than heeding a federal judge’s order to return books to the shelves on themes ranging from teen sexuality and gender to bigotry and race.

Following public comments both for and against a possible shutdown, the Llano County Commissioners Court decided to remove consideration of a possible closure from the agenda, assuring its three libraries remain open.

The special meeting was called after U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman granted a temporary injunction last month that ordered almost 20 books be returned to library shelves.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, said this was the first incidence she was aware of in which officials moved to consider closing a system altogether.

State probes claim of prison chief’s misconduct

VT SPRINGFIELD — The superintendent of the prison in Springfield has been placed on paid administrative leave while officials investigate a misconduct allegation against him, the Vermont Department of Corrections said.

In a news release issued late Thursday, the department did not elaborate on the nature of the allegations, but said they aren’t related to a number of recent deaths at the Southern State Correctional Facility.

The Vermont Department of Human Resources will conduct an independent investigation, the department said. Monique Sullivan, a supervisor at the prison, will serve as acting superintendent.

FACES



MATT LICARI, INVISION/AP

Cedric the Entertainer stars in “The Neighborhood,” which aired its 100th episode on CBS last week.

At home in ‘Neighborhood’

Cedric the Entertainer says hit sitcom needed time to find its stride

BY GARY GERARD HAMILTON
Associated Press

“The Neighborhood” might be a hit sitcom now, but needed some careful planning before laying down a solid foundation.

“We shot the pilot twice. We had to recast. And so, there was moments where you didn’t think the show was going to go,” said Cedric the Entertainer. “But the elements of it, the idea that it was about gentrification, the idea that it was about a Black family kind of staying true to their neighborhood when they saw white families moving in ... I think it just caught legs and really resonated with people because we do it in, of course, a sitcom, lighthearted way.”

“The Neighborhood,” now in its fifth season on CBS, follows the Butlers, a Black family led by Calvin (Cedric) and Tina (Tichina Arnold) as they coexist with their white neighbors, Dave (Max Greenfield) and Gemma Johnson (Beth Behrs), who moved from the Midwest to a predominantly Black neighborhood in Pasadena, Calif. The show celebrated its 100th episode last week.

While not every episode deals with heavy topics, the show has unpacked topics like Black Lives Matter

and social justice, pregnancy loss and white privilege. But as more issues emerge like attempts to ban books and critical race theory, Cedric believes his show is more than capable of exploring them.

“One of the great testaments to the show is that we try not to preach it, but we also aren’t afraid to kind of just dive in,” said the former Emmys host. “We try to ... deal with all those kind of subject matters on our show without just saying, ‘Hey, this is the line and this is what we believe in.’ We just raise a question.”

The milestone episode was directed by Cedric, who also serves as an executive producer. He said sitting in the big chair has been the next progression of his show responsibilities.

“It was only natural for me to kind of really morph into directing because I can see the show; when I’m reading the scripts, I kind of know where people are going to be. And so, that was something that I’ve been wanting to grow into,” explained the funnyman, who also directed an episode last season.

Currently, the star comedian is on the 23-city “Straight Jokes No Chaser” tour with D.L. Hughley, Earthquake and DC Young Fly, hosted by Mike Epps.

In ‘Florida Man,’ Edgar Ramirez has fun with popular meme

BY ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

Edgar Ramirez says his new series “Florida Man,” now on Netflix, may share a name with the popular meme of the same name, but it is not making fun of the state or its residents.

“It does not make fun of that. It has fun with it, which is completely different,” said Ramirez in an interview.

In “Florida Man” — the TV show — Ramirez plays Mike Valentine, an ex-cop in Philadelphia who falls from grace because of a gambling addiction. He also still owes a big debt to a local mob boss (Emory Cohen), so he often has to do his dirty work. On his orders, Ramirez’s character begrudgingly returns to his home state of Florida to track down his boss’ runaway girlfriend (Abbey

Lee). What he intends to be a quick trip turns into a wild treasure hunt that opens up a Pandora’s box about his past.

“It is funny, but it’s dark. It’s offbeat, it’s strange, it’s weird,” Ramirez said. “The absurdity of the situations is where the comedy lies.”

Ramirez says Valentine is one of those people who believes he innocently finds himself in absurd situations — but in reality, he courts it.

“He’s very dramatic. I think that he foolishly thinks the way to get out of chaos is by creating more chaos. He believes that he can outrun the ghosts of his past,” he said.

Despite its title, “Florida Man” is filmed in North Carolina. To get a feel for Florida, Ramirez spoke to the show’s creator, Donald Todd, who is from there. He also trav-

eled to the state.

“I went to the places that inspired the story ... to look at the characters, the atmosphere in the air and the mood that inspired the show,” he said.

Before he ever went into acting, Ramirez worked in journalism in his home country of Venezuela and says that desire to learn about people and things is still within him, and serves him today.

“Maybe it has to do with my journalistic background, you know? I’m interested in the human experience. I’m a very curious person,” he said. “That curiosity is the driving force of everything that I do, not only as an actor, but in other interests that I have.”

The actor’s past roles include “Zero Dark Thirty,” “Carlos” and “The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story.”



WILLY SANJUAN, INVISION/AP

Actor Edgar Ramirez says the Netflix series “Florida Man” isn’t poking any fun, but finds comedy in the absurdity of the situations it depicts.

Stellar second ‘Super Mario’ weekend sets box office record

The Associated Press

“The Super Mario Bros. Movie” scored the best second weekend ever for an animated movie in North American theaters with \$87 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. The family-friendly Universal release dropped a slim 41% from its record-making opening weekend.

With \$94 million from international showings, “Mario’s” global total now stands at a staggering \$678 million, surpassing “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania” to become biggest film of 2023 in just two weekends.

“There are not enough adjectives to describe the enormity of this box office performance,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

For most blockbusters, second weekends are usually down by about 60%, making “Mario’s” 41% drop especially noteworthy. According to Comscore, only a handful of films that opened over \$100 million have had less of a fall, including “Shrek 2,” “Frozen 2,” 2002’s “Spider-Man,” “The Force Awakens” and 2016’s “The Jungle Book.”

“The Pope’s Exorcist,” starring Russell Crowe as the late Father Gabriele Amorth — the chief exorcist of the Diocese of Rome from 1986 to his death at 91 in 2016 — fared the best of the newcomers. It opened with an estimated \$9.2 million.

Third place went to “John Wick: Chapter 4” in its fourth weekend with \$7.9 million. The action pic has now made over \$160.1 million domestically.

“Renfield,” the supernatural thriller starring Nicolas Cage as Dracula and Nicholas Hoult as the title character, opened in fourth place with \$7.8 million.

Ben Affleck’s Air Jordan origin story “Air” rounded out the top five, with \$7.7 million in its second weekend to bring its total domestic earnings to \$33.3 million.

Clint Eastwood set to direct ‘Juror No. 2’

Clint Eastwood is getting back in the director’s chair.

The “Unforgiven” and “Gran Torino” filmmaker is set to direct the legal drama “Juror No. 2” for his longtime studio, Warner Bros., a person close to the production who requested anonymity confirmed April 14.

The film will be Eastwood’s first since 2021’s neo-Western “Cry Macho,” which also marked his return to the screen as an actor. With production on “Juror No. 2” to begin in June, Eastwood will be 93 when he steps on set.

Nicholas Hoult and Toni Collette are in early talks to star in the film, written by Jonathan Abrams, about a murder trial wherein a juror discovers he may have played a role in the victim’s death.

In an interview in 2014, Eastwood said the reason for his career longevity was that “I never let the old man in.”

“There are so many different stories to tell out there,” said Eastwood. “You can be 21 or 81. ... If you tell yourself, ‘I’m too old to do that’ — bulls—. You’re not too old to do anything.”

Other news

■ Nobel laureate **Malala Yousafzai** is working on a new memoir. The young activist from Pakistan is known for her advocacy for education for girls and for surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban in her teens. Atria Books announced the memoir Monday. It is currently untitled and has no scheduled release date.

■ **Mark Sheehan**, guitarist with Irish rock band The Script, died April 14. He was 46. The band said Sheehan died in a hospital after a brief illness. Formed in Dublin in 2001 by Sheehan, singer Danny O’Donoghue and drummer Glen Power, The Script topped U.K. and Irish charts with its self-titled debut album in 2008.



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OPINION

Leaks reveal discord regarding Ukraine’s offensive

By DOYLE McMANUS
Los Angeles Times

The bizarre torrent of intelligence documents posted on a gamers’ chat server, allegedly by a 21-year-old National Guard technician, produced headlines last week about a host of revelations including secret Russian military plans and U.S. espionage against allies like Israel and South Korea.

But some of the revelations weren’t exactly new. U.S. allies learned long ago that our intelligence agencies spy on them, and most reacted to the news with a shrug.

But the damage to American foreign policy, especially the Biden administration’s effort to organize international support for Ukraine, is real.

“This is embarrassing for anyone who’s ever had a security clearance,” a former senior official told me. “The allies are going to look at this and conclude that they can’t trust us with any of their secrets.”

The so-called Discord leaks, named for the social media site where the documents appeared, were a windfall for Russia’s counterintelligence agencies, too.

“The Russians can use those documents to make intelligence gathering more difficult for us,” said Paul R. Pillar, a 28-year veteran of the CIA. “They can use them to narrow down the possibilities of where they’ve been compromised.”

The documents included detailed assessments of Ukrainian army units, their deployment and the state of their weaponry.

But intelligence experts said those disclosures may be less damaging than they look. “The battlefield intelligence has a limited

shelf life,” said Douglas Lute, a retired Army lieutenant general and former commander of U.S. forces in Kosovo. “It changes almost day to day.”

“The part that’s most damaging is the information about which units are getting the most advanced armor,” including Western tanks, Lute said. “The Russians can conclude that those are the units they should focus on.”

But the Ukrainians can make things harder by changing unit names and assignments, he noted.

A bigger problem, Lute suggested, may be the leaks’ effect on any countries willing to send aid to Ukraine, but only if they can keep their role secret. After the leaks, those governments are more likely to be risk averse.

One of the documents, for example, listed Serbia alongside the countries that have agreed to supply weapons to Ukraine — a surprise, since Serbia has officially stayed neutral on the war and has tried to maintain friendly relations with Russia. Serbia’s defense minister quickly denied that his government has supplied weapons to Ukraine, but added that he couldn’t prevent private arms deals.

The biggest impact of the Discord leaks, though, could stem less from their substance than from the striking pessimism they revealed in U.S. intelligence assessments of Ukraine’s planned spring offensive.

A U.S. intelligence assessment reported by The Washington Post warned that Ukraine suffers from “deficiencies in training and munitions” and said the offensive was likely to achieve only “modest territorial gains,” a result “well short” of Kyiv’s goals.

Officials have not contested the authenticity of the document.

Another report warned that the war could descend into a long stalemate in 2024.

Some U.S. officials have been privately voicing similar assessments for months, warning that Ukraine’s official goals for its counteroffensive may be unrealistic. The Ukrainians themselves have clamored publicly about shortages in air defense and artillery.

But those judgments somehow appeared starker on paper, in the spare language of official intelligence reports.

Just when President Joe Biden and his aides were trying to persuade other countries to step up their aid to Ukraine, the Discord documents put an unexpected spotlight on private U.S. doubts that Ukraine can win.

“It’s not as if nobody realized the Ukrainians face a hell of a challenge,” Pillar said. “But the fact that it’s being said in official channels may make it more difficult to sustain the coalition” supporting the Kyiv government.

Lute agreed. “This leak accelerates the erosion of Western support for Ukraine,” he said.

Polls in the United States and Europe have found that public willingness to send aid to Ukraine is slowly declining. An Associated Press poll in February found that 48% of Americans supported U.S. weapons aid to Ukraine, down from 60% last May.

Governments facing public skepticism will be even less likely to continue contributing money and weapons to Kyiv if the war begins to look like a lost cause.

Ukraine’s spring offensive was never a sure thing. The Discord leaks, however unlikely their origin, have made the stakes even higher.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

Hecklers, your disruptions don’t count as free speech

By NICO PERRINO
Los Angeles Times

America is experiencing two disturbing simultaneous trends: the rise of mob censorship to shut down speaking events on college campuses, and an attempt to justify it as merely the exercise of “more speech.”

At SUNY Albany this month, protesters stormed an event, formed an improvised conga line and prevented a lecture — ironically, titled “Free Speech on Campus” — from beginning. In a now notorious incident at Stanford Law School last month, protesters shouted down a federal appellate judge’s speech. And in November, hecklers drowned out conservative commentator Ann Coulter at Cornell, playing loud music, chanting, shouting at her and repeatedly preventing her from speaking. “We don’t want you here, your words are violence,” screamed one heckler.

I have defended free speech on college campuses for over a decade. We’ve seen waves of shout-downs before. But few defended the disruptions. In fact, they were usually met with near-universal condemnation.

Not so anymore. Some now argue that drowning out and shutting down speakers is an exercise of “more speech,” not an attempt to carry out a “heckler’s veto” on the speaker. Depressingly, 62% of college students say that shouting down a speaker is acceptable to some degree.

“It’s called protest,” one Stanford student remarked to Judge Kyle Duncan while the judge objected to being shouted down. “It’s under the First Amendment. I thought you knew about the First Amendment.” Later, af-

ter the Stanford administration condemned the incident, a group of protesters papered Stanford Law Dean Jenny Martinez’s classroom with flyers reading, “We have free speech rights too,” and, “ ‘Counter-speech’ is free speech.”

Apparently, America’s future lawyers and future judges fundamentally misunderstand free speech rights. Shouting down speakers is just like any other form of censorship: It’s the few deciding for the many what they can hear. Protesters have every right to engage in peaceful, nondisruptive protest. But they do not have the right to take over someone else’s event and make it their own. This is a basic point, and we understand it in almost every other context. Nobody argues that you have a free speech right to stand up during a Broadway musical and sing along with the actors or to scream at a public library book reading.

Just because the public is invited to attend an event — and sometimes to speak during a Q&A period — does not make it the public’s event to disrupt or transform as it pleases. Your distaste for a speaker doesn’t grant you a right to prevent a willing audience from listening to that speaker.

There must be places in a free and pluralistic society where groups can freely associate and share ideas without first seeking approval from a crowd of hecklers. Colleges are such spaces. It’s the very reason they exist.

One increasingly common semantic game is to argue that “heckler’s veto” is a legal term and that it applies only when the government steps in to shut down speech in anticipation of a disruptive response. But as a practical matter, the government — or on college campus-

es, those in the administration — can end up supporting a heckler’s veto through its action or inaction. Besides, “heckler’s veto” has long had a nonlegal, colloquial definition that tracks the plain meaning of the words: hecklers vetoing speech.

In either case, both the hecklers and those in authority who enable them will regret normalizing this sort of response to speech.

In December 1860, Frederick Douglass and a group of abolitionists assembled at a public meeting hall in Boston to discuss how to abolish slavery. No sooner had the meeting begun than it was overtaken by a pro-slavery mob. The police did nothing to prevent the heckling and disruption, and the meeting was eventually shut down. A few days later, Douglass gave an impassioned defense of free speech: “To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker.”

The “heckling-is-free-speech” crowd may argue that the pro-slavery mob’s action was wrong because of its message, whereas those engaged in today’s disruptions are morally right. But we can’t hinge the validity of a heckler’s veto on whether the hecklers feel justified in their actions. They always do. That’s why justifications for censorship shouldn’t be allowed to outweigh principles of free speech.

While students may succeed today in shouting down speakers they oppose, they should realize that those same tactics could be used tomorrow against speakers they support.

Nico Perrino is executive vice president of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression and host of “So to Speak: The Free Speech Podcast.”

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33			34	35					36	37		
			38				39					
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48					49		
50					51					52		
53					54					55		

- ACROSS
- 55 Painter Magritte
- 25 Composer Rorem
- 1 Chapel service
- 26 Fish eggs
- 5 Prom rental
- 27 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 8 Garbage barge
- 28 Flight stat
- 12 Rights org.
- 29 "Kidnapped"
- 13 — out a living
- monogram
- 14 Hefty horn
- 31 6 on a phone
- 15 Spinning sound
- 34 Belted areas
- 16 Snoopy's foe
- 35 Concept
- 18 Colorful tim-
- ber trees
- 36 Deity
- 20 Shoelace tip
- 37 "That's cheating!"
- 21 Before
- 39 Adolescents
- 22 SSW opposite
- 40 Spoken
- 23 Singer Chrissie
- 41 Sultry Horne
- 26 Macy's logo
- 42 June 6, 1944
- feature
- 43 Some HDTVs
- 30 Shoe width
- 44 Biography
- 31 Cattle call
- 45 Tennis score
- 32 Right angle
- 46 Portal
- 33 Merlot, for one
- 48 Ref
- 36 Pesky insects
- 38 Ruckus
- 39 Overly
- 40 Nostalgic tune
- 43 Danger sign
- 47 Marinara, for one
- 49 Verdi opera
- 50 Gray's subj.
- 51 "Sheesh!"
- 52 — ain't broke ..."
- 53 Sets (down)
- 54 Ltr. addenda

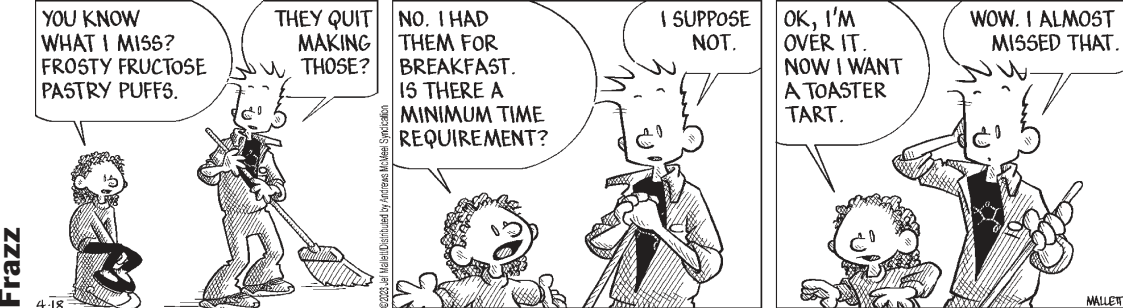
DOWN

- 1 Bryn —
- 2 Rue the run
- 3 Lost traction
- 4 Rode the waves
- 5 — Haute
- 6 Guitars' kin
- 7 Deleted
- 8 Theater platforms
- 9 Ringlet
- 10 Reed instrument
- 11 Long for
- 17 Combo
- 19 Hot temper
- 22 Prefix with natal
- 23 That ship
- 24 — —haw!"
- (cowboy cry)

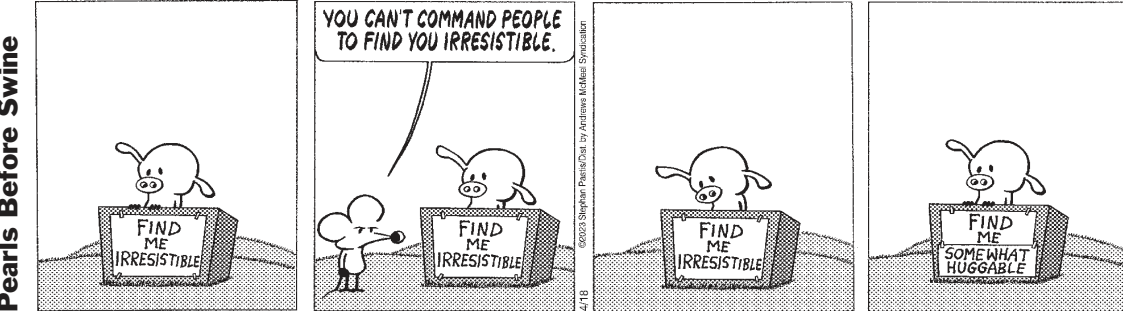
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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R	E	L	I	E	F		T	I	T	L	E	S
				N	E	H	I		M	O	A	
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D	O	S	E		P	A	R	T	T	I	M	E
				N	U	T		C	A	N	E	
S	L	O	G	A	N			N	A	M	E	I
T	I	M	E	C	A	R	D		P	A	C	O
E	D	E	N		T	O	E		O	V	E	R
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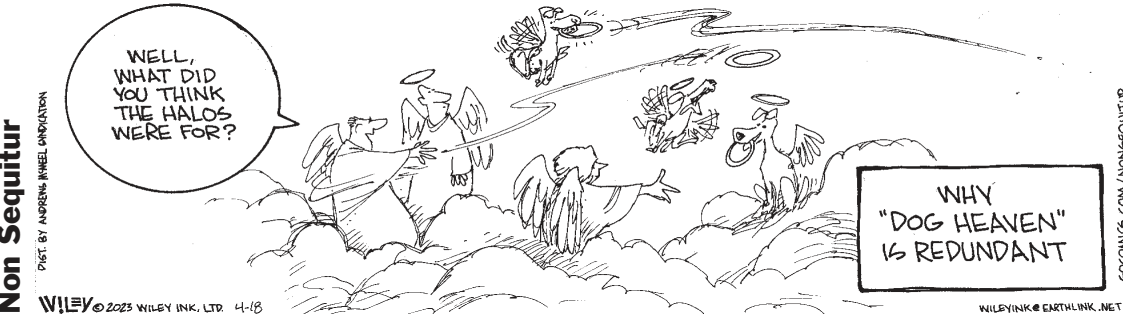
Frazz



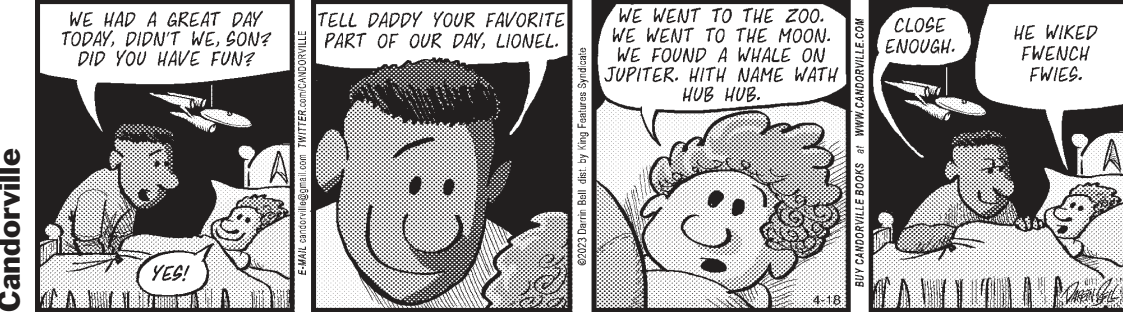
Pearls Before Swine



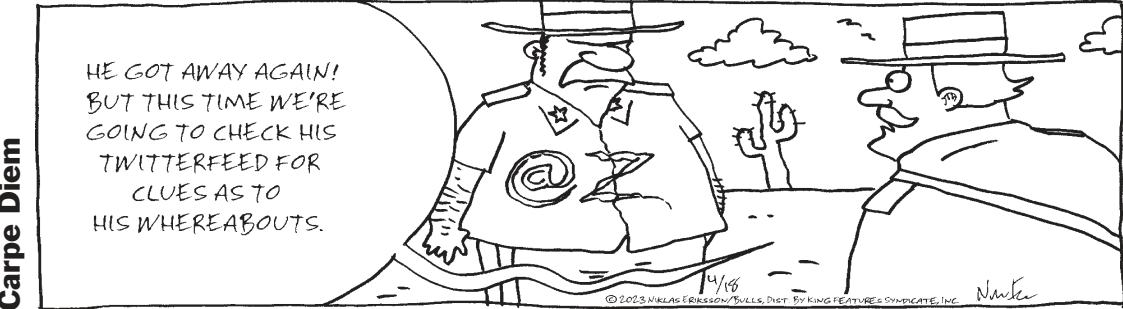
Non Sequitur



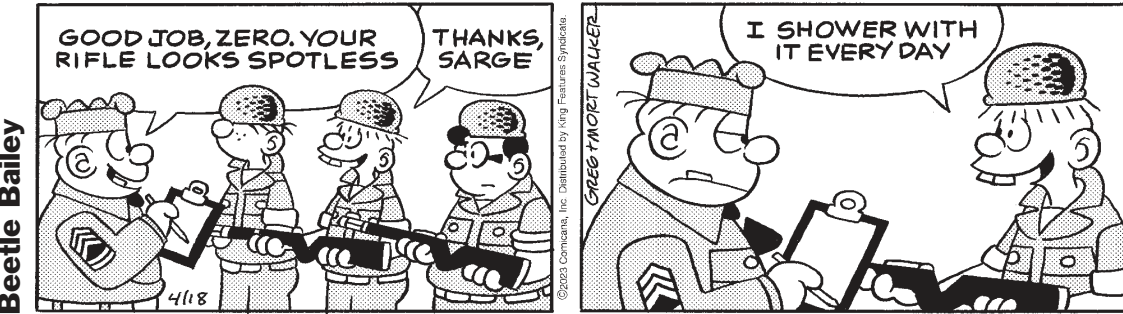
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



SCOREBOARD/GOLF

PRO SOCCER

MLS							
EASTERN CONFERENCE							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
New England	5	1	2	17	13	7	
Cincinnati	5	1	2	17	10	9	
Atlanta	4	1	3	15	16	12	
Columbus	4	2	2	14	18	9	
NYCFC	3	2	3	12	9	9	
Nashville	3	3	2	11	7	4	
Orlando City	3	2	2	11	7	7	
Chicago	2	1	4	10	11	10	
Toronto FC	1	1	6	9	10	9	
Philadelphia	2	4	2	8	10	11	
D.C. United	2	4	2	8	8	12	
New York	1	2	5	8	6	7	
Inter Miami CF	2	5	0	6	6	8	
Charlotte FC	1	4	3	6	9	16	
CF Montréal	1	6	0	3	3	17	

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Saint Louis SC	6	2	0	18	20	9	
LAFC	5	0	2	17	15	5	
Seattle	5	2	1	16	16	7	
FC Dallas	4	2	2	14	11	8	
San Jose	4	2	2	14	10	8	
Minnesota	3	2	2	11	8	7	
Houston	3	3	1	10	9	8	
Vancouver	2	2	4	10	11	7	
Portland	2	4	2	8	10	13	
Austin FC	2	3	2	8	6	10	
Colorado	1	3	4	7	5	10	
Real Salt Lake	2	5	0	6	7	16	
LA Galaxy	0	4	3	3	5	12	
Sporting KC	0	5	3	3	2	11	

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

Sunday's game	
Los Angeles FC 3, LA Galaxy 2	
Saturday's games	
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	
Sunday, April 23	
Chicago at Atlanta	

NWSL							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Portland	2	0	1	7	9	2	
Washington	2	0	1	7	5	3	
San Diego	2	1	0	6	6	4	
OL Reign	2	1	0	6	3	1	
Gotham FC	2	1	0	6	4	3	
Houston	1	0	2	5	3	2	
Angel City	1	1	1	4	5	5	
Chicago	1	2	0	3	7	7	
Louisville	0	0	3	3	4	4	
North Carolina	1	2	0	3	3	5	
Kansas City	0	3	0	0	3	9	
Orlando	0	3	0	0	1	8	

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

Friday, April 14	
Houston 1, Portland 1, tie	
Saturday, April 15	
Washington 2, North Carolina 1	
Gotham FC 2, Orlando 0	
Chicago 4, Kansas City 2	
Louisville 2, Angel City 2, tie	
OL Reign 1, San Diego 0	
Saturday's games	
Chicago at OL Reign	
Houston at Washington	
North Carolina at Gotham FC	
Louisville at Portland	
Sunday, April 23	
Orlando at Kansas City	
San Diego at Angel City	
Friday, April 28	
North Carolina at Houston	

TENNIS

Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters	
Sunday	
At Monte Carlo Country Club	
Monte Carlo, Monaco	
Purse: Euro 5,779,335	
Surface: Red clay	
Men's Singles Championship	
Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, def. Holger Rune (6), Denmark, 5-7, 6-2, 7-5.	
Men's Doubles Championship	
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek (5), United States, def. Romain Arneodo, Monaco, and Tristan-Samuel Weissborn, Austria, 6-0, 4-6, 14-12.	

AUTO RACING

NOCO 400	
NASCAR Cup Series	
Sunday	
At Martinsville Speedway	
Ridgeway, Va.	
Lap length: 0.53 miles	
(Start position in parentheses)	
1. (19) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 400 laps, 43 points.	
2. (15) Joey Logano, Ford, 400, 35.	
3. (5) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 400, 34.	
4. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 400, 44.	
5. (4) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 400, 47.	
6. (3) Aric Almirola, Ford, 400, 42.	
7. (31) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 400, 30.	
8. (16) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 400, 29.	
9. (9) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 400, 32.	
10. (24) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 400, 27.	
11. (23) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 400, 26.	
12. (18) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 400, 25.	
13. (34) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 400, 29.	
14. (10) Chris Buescher, Ford, 400, 23.	
15. (1) Ryan Preece, Ford, 400, 32.	
16. (22) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 400, 21.	
17. (2) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 400, 30.	
18. (12) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 400, 19.	
19. (20) Michael McDowell, Ford, 400, 18.	
20. (7) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 400, 32.	
21. (17) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 400, 16.	
22. (6) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 400, 30.	
23. (8) William Byron, Chevrolet, 400, 15.	
24. (21) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 400, 19.	
25. (13) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 399, 16.	
26. (27) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 399, 11.	
27. (14) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 399, 10.	
28. (26) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 398, 9.	
29. (32) Harrison Burton, Ford, 398, 8.	
30. (29) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, 398, 7.	
31. (28) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 398, 6.	
32. (35) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 397, 5.	
33. (25) Austin Cindric, Ford, 397, 4.	
34. (33) Zane Smith, Ford, 395, 0.	
35. (30) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, 390, 0.	
36. (36) JJ Yeley, Ford, accident, 337, 0.	
Race statistics	
Average speed of race winner: 74.005 mph.	
Time of race: 2 hours, 50 minutes, 35 seconds.	
Margin of victory: 4.142 seconds.	
Cautions: 5 for 50 laps.	
Lead changes: 10 among 9 drivers.	
Lap leaders: R.Preece 0-135; R.Chastain 136-166; K.Harvick 167-185; C.Briscoe 186-256; D.Hamlin 257-292; B.Keselowski 293-299; D.Suárez 300-306; C.Briscoe 307-344; K.Harvick 345; J.Logano 346-370; K.Larson 371-400	
Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led):	
R.Preece, 1 time for 135 laps; C.Briscoe, 2 times for 109 laps; D.Hamlin, 1 time for 36 laps; R.Chastain, 1 time for 31 laps; K.Larson, 1 time for 30 laps; J.Logano, 1 time for 25 laps; K.Harvick, 2 times for 20 laps; D.Suárez, 1 time for 7 laps; B.Keselowski, 1 time for 7 laps.	
Wins: K.Larson, 2; W.Byron, 2; C.Bell, 1; T.Reddick, 1; J.Logano, 1; K.Busch, 1; R.Stenhouse, 1.	
Top 16 in points: 1. C.Bell, 302; 2. R.Chastain, 297; 3. K.Harvick, 287; 4. K.Larson, 285; 5. M.Truex, 266; 6. T.Reddick, 265; 7. J.Logano, 258; 8. K.Busch, 250; 9. D.Hamlin, 247; 10. R.Blaney, 241; 11. A.Bowman, 237; 12. B.Keselowski, 235; 13. R.Stenhouse, 223; 14.	

DEALS

Sunday's transactions	
BASEBALL	
Major League Baseball American League	
BOSTON RED SOX — Placed right-handed pitcher Chris Martin on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 13. Selected RHP Jake Faria from Worcester (IL). Transferred RHP Wyatt Mills and Zack Kelly to the 60-day IL. Claimed LHP Brennan Bernardino off waivers from Seattle.	
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed INF Hanser Alberto on the 10-day IL, retroactive to April 15. Selected the contract of OF Adam Haseley from Charlotte (IL). Designated INF/OF Nick Solak for assignment.	
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled RHP Andrew Wantz from Salt Lake (PCL). Placed RHP Ryan Tepera on the 15-day IL.	
MINNESOTA TWINS — Recalled LHP Brent Headrick from St. Paul (IL). Optioned RHP Louie Varland to St. Paul.	
NEW YORK YANKEES — Placed DH/OF Giancarlo Stanton on the 10-day IL. Recalled INF Oswald Peraza from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.	
National League	
COLORADO ROCKIES — Recalled RHP Noah Davis from Albuquerque (PCL). Optioned INF/OF Nolan Jones to Albuquerque. Sent RHP Daniel Bard to Albuquerque on a rehab assignment.	
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Signed C Aus-	

GOLF

RBC Heritage	
PGA Tour	
Sunday	
At Harbour Town Golf Links	
Hilton Head, S.C.	
Purse: \$20 million	
Yardage: 7,213; Par: 71	
Final Round	
(x-won on third playoff hole)	
x-M. Fitzpatrick, \$3,600,000	66-70-63-68—267 -17
Jordan Spieth, \$2,180,000	68-67-66-66—267 -17
Patrick Cantlay, \$1,380,000	69-65-66-68—268 -16
Xander Schauffele, \$980,000	67-66-70-66—269 -15
Hayden Buckley, \$772,500	69-68-66-67—270 -14
Sahith Theegala, \$772,500	70-68-67-65—270 -14
Cameron Davis, \$607,500	70-67-66-68—271 -13

C.Briscoe, 210; 15. W.Byron, 208; 16. C.Buescher, 206.

Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach	
IndyCar Series	
Sunday	
At Streets of Long Beach	
Long Beach, Calif.	
Lap length: 1.968 miles	
(Start position in parentheses)	
1. (1) Kyle Kirkwood, Dallara-Honda, 85 laps, Running.	
2. (3) Romain Grosjean, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
3. (2) Marcus Ericsson, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
4. (7) Colton Herta, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
5. (4) Alex Palou, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
6. (13) Will Power, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85, Running.	
7. (10) Felix Rosenqvist, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85, Running.	
8. (12) Marcus Armstrong, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
9. (8) Josef Newgarden, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85, Running.	
10. (9) Scott McLaughlin, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85, Running.	
11. (18) Santino Ferrucci, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85, Running.	
12. (24) Graham Rahal, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
13. (15) Jack Harvey, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
14. (17) Christian Lundgaard, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
15. (14) Simon Pagenaud, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
16. (20) Devlin DeFrancesco, Dallara-Honda, 85, Running.	
17. (6) Pato O'Ward, Dallara-Chevrolet, 84, Running.	
18. (21) Sting Ray Robb, Dallara-Honda, 84, Running.	
19. (22) Callum Ilott, Dallara-Chevrolet, 84, Running.	
20. (25) David Malukas, Dallara-Honda, 84, Running.	
21. (16) Helio Castroneves, Dallara-Honda, 84, Running.	
22. (11) Alexander Rossi, Dallara-Chevrolet, 83, Did not finish.	
23. (27) Conor Daly, Dallara-Chevrolet, 83, Running.	
24. (23) Benjamin Pedersen, Dallara-Chevrolet, 82, Running.	
25. (26) Agustin Canapino, Dallara-Chevrolet, 52, Running.	
26. (19) Rinus VeeKay, Dallara-Chevrolet, 48, Did not finish.	
27. (5) Scott Dixon, Dallara-Honda, 37, Did not finish.	
Race statistics	
Average speed of race winner: 97.171 mph.	
Time of race: 01:43:17.3748.	
Margin of victory: 0.9907 seconds.	
Cautions: 2 for 7 laps.	
Lead changes: 6 among 4 drivers.	
Lap leaders: Kirkwood 1-21, Newgarden 22, Canapino 23-25, Newgarden 26-51, Kirkwood 52-53, Palou 54-55, Kirkwood 56.	
Points: Ericsson 110, O'Ward 95, Palou 91, Newgarden 89, Kirkwood 74, Dixon 72, Grosjean 71, Herta 69, Power 68, McLaughlin 68.	

tin Wynn's to a one-year contract. Placed C Will Smith on the 7-day IL, retroactive to April 13. Transferred RHP Alex Reyes to the 60-day IL.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Recalled RHP Elvis Peguero from Nashville (IL). Placed RHP Gus Varland on the 15-day IL.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Recalled RHP Luis F. Ortíz from Lehigh Valley (IL). Optioned RHP McKinley Moore to Lehigh Valley.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed LHP Rob Zastryzny on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Yohan Ramirez from Indianapolis (IL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Sent RHP Joe Musgrove to Lake Elsinore (CAL) on a rehab assignment. Recalled RHP Reiss Knehr and C Brett Sullivan from El Paso (PCL). Optioned 3B Brandon Dixon and RHP Domingo Tapia to El Paso.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

EDMONTON OILERS — Signed D Cam Dineen to a one-year, two-way contract.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Signed F Michael McCarron and Kiefer Sherwood to one-year contracts.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Signed G Tyler Brennan to a three-year, entry-level contract.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

HOUSTON DYNAMO — Claimed D Chase Gasper off waivers.



STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

England's Matt Fitzpatrick watches his drive off the 17th tee Sunday during the final round of the RBC Heritage in Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Fitzpatrick wins on 3rd extra hole

BY PETE IACOBELLI <i>Associated Press</i>	
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Matt Fitzpatrick's earliest memories of Harbour Town were as a spectator wondering if Tiger Woods would play the RBC Heritage.	the hole. Spieth's attempt from 26 feet away rolled past and Fitzpatrick tapped in for the victory.
He was always disappointed, since Woods only played once at Hilton Head, in 1999, when Fitzpatrick was 4 years old.	Fitzpatrick felt the shot was true from the moment he struck it. He wasn't sure how close it came, but got an idea when he spotted his family cheering wildly.
"I remember saying to my dad, 'Is Tiger (Woods) going to be here?'" he recalled.	"I knew it was good because my mom and my girlfriend were jumping up and down," he said.
Now, Fitzpatrick's got a sweeter memory at the Pete Dye layout he played as a child on vacations.	Fitzpatrick won \$3.6 million from the elevated purse of \$20 million in the sixth designated event of the year on the PGA Tour, topping a field that included seven of the world's top 10 players.
Fitzpatrick defeated defending champion Jordan Spieth on the third playoff hole on Sunday, stuffing his approach in close on the par-4 18th to secure his first victory since the U.S. Open last June.	Fitzpatrick trailed Spieth by two with five holes to play, but made birdies on the 15th and 16th holes to tie for the lead at 17-under.
"I think I can retire now," joked the 28-year-old Englishman, who uses a Harbour Town-style lighthouse headcover. "This is one I really wanted."	The third-round leader by one shot, Fitzpatrick closed with a 3-under 68 and matched Spieth at 17-under 267. Spieth had his second straight 66.
Fitzpatrick hit 9-iron to within 1 foot on the closing lighthouse hole to set up the winning birdie.	Patrick Cantlay, grouped with Fitzpatrick and Spieth, was third after a 68 left him at 16-under. Cantlay lost this title in a playoff to Spieth a year ago.
Fitzpatrick had to sweat out a couple of prime chances by Spieth on the first two extra holes. Spieth raised his putter in triumph before watching his 12-foot birdie putt catch the right edge and spin out the first time the pair played the 18th. Then Spieth's 9-foot birdie attempt ran out of steam on the right edge at the 17th hole.	"Another close call here," Cantlay said.
"I felt every putt he hit was going to go in," Fitzpatrick said.	Xander Schauffele was another stroke behind after a 66. Sahith Theegala shot 65 and Hayden Buckley a 67 to tie for fifth at 14-under.
Spieth still doesn't understand how the that first playoff putt didn't drop.	Scottie Scheffler, No. 2 in the world, shot 70 and was tied for 11th at 12-under. Masters champion Jon Rahm ended with a 68 and was tied for 15th before taking a well-earned week off.
"I think if I hit the same putt 10 times, it does in eight," Spieth said.	Fitzpatrick carried a one-shot lead into the final round, but watched as Spieth made four birdies in the opening six holes to share the lead.
"It should go left at the very end there on the grain. It just wasn't meant to be."	Fitzpatrick played a stretch of nine holes in 1 over as Spieth looked ready to pull away. But Spieth made bogey on the par-3 14th while Fitzpatrick answered with consecutive birdies on the 15th and 16th.
There was no doubt about the final hole as Fitzpatrick, from 187 yards out, hit the front of the green and watched the ball settle next to	

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	14	2	.875	—
New York	10	6	.625	4
Toronto	10	6	.625	4
Baltimore	9	7	.563	5
Boston	8	8	.500	6
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	10	6	.625	—
Cleveland	9	7	.563	1
Chicago	6	10	.375	4
Detroit	5	9	.357	4
Kansas City	4	12	.250	6
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	9	6	.600	—
Seattle	8	8	.500	1½
Los Angeles	7	8	.467	2
Houston	7	9	.438	2½
Oakland	3	13	.188	6½
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	12	4	.750	—
New York	10	6	.625	2
Miami	8	8	.500	4
Philadelphia	6	10	.375	6
Washington	5	11	.313	7
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	11	5	.688	—
Chicago	8	6	.571	2
Pittsburgh	9	7	.563	2
St. Louis	7	9	.438	4
Cincinnati	6	9	.400	4½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	9	7	.563	—
Los Angeles	8	8	.500	1
San Diego	8	9	.471	1½
San Francisco	5	9	.357	3
Colorado	5	11	.313	4

Sunday's games	
N.Y. Yankees 2, Minnesota 0	
N.Y. Mets 4, Oakland 3, 10 innings	
Boston 2, L.A. Angels 1	
St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 4, 10 innings	
Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 1	
Arizona 5, Miami 0	
Seattle 1, Colorado 0	
Chicago Cubs 3, L.A. Dodgers 2	
Washington 7, Cleveland 6	
Baltimore 8, Chicago White Sox 4	
Atlanta 5, Kansas City 4	
Milwaukee 1, San Diego 0	
Philadelphia 14, Cincinnati 3	
Texas 9, Houston 1	
San Francisco at Detroit, ppd.	
Monday's games	
L.A. Angels at Boston	
Cleveland at Detroit	
Tampa Bay at Cincinnati	
San Francisco at Miami	
Texas at Kansas City	
Arizona at St. Louis	
Toronto at Houston	
Pittsburgh at Colorado	
Chicago Cubs at Oakland	
Milwaukee at Seattle	
Atlanta at San Diego	
N.Y. Mets at L.A. Dodgers	
Philadelphia at Chicago White Sox, ppd.	
Tuesday's games	
Philadelphia (Falter 0-2, TBD) at Chicago White Sox (Giolito 0-1, TBD)	
Cleveland (Battenfield 0-0) at Detroit (Rodriguez 0-2)	
Tampa Bay (TBD) at Cincinnati (Lodolo 2-0)	
San Francisco (Wood 0-0) at Miami (Cabrera 0-1)	
Baltimore (Kremer 0-0) at Washington (Gray 0-3)	
L.A. Angels (Suarez 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 0-0)	
Minnesota (Gray 2-0) at Boston (TBD)	
Texas (Eovaldi 1-2) at Kansas City (Keller 2-1)	
Arizona (Jameson 2-0) at St. Louis (Montgomery 2-1)	
Toronto (Bassitt 1-2) at Houston (Urquidí 1-0)	
Pittsburgh (Velasquez 1-2) at Colorado (Urena 0-2)	
Chicago Cubs (Stroman 2-1) at Oakland (Waldichuk 0-2)	
Milwaukee (Rea 0-0) at Seattle (Glibert 1-1)	
Atlanta (Strider 1-0) at San Diego (Snell 0-2)	
N.Y. Mets (Megill 3-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 2-1)	

ROUNDUP

Cole has majors' 2nd complete game

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole pitched a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts for his fourth career shutout and the second complete game in the majors this season, leading the New York Yankees to a 2-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Sunday.

DJ LeMahieu homered and hit an RBI single for the Yankees, who earned a split of the four-game series after putting slugger Giancarlo Stanton on the injured list with a hamstring strain before the game. New York has won or split its first five series for the first time since 2010, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

Cole (4-0) lowered his ERA to 0.95 in four starts, finishing off the Twins on 109 pitches in 2 hours, 7 minutes. He got the final nine outs on just 25 pitches and retired former Astros teammate Carlos Correa on a fly ball to end it.

“I think it’s just old school, but we had our work cut out for us today,” Cole said of the rare complete game. “We were facing a great team, a great pitcher, so, just more satisfied with the win.”

It was Cole’s seventh career complete game and his first shutout since July 10, 2021, at Houston. The only other complete game in the big leagues this year was also a shutout against Minnesota, when reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Sandy Alcantara threw a three-hitter for Miami in a 1-0 win on April 4 that lasted 1 hour, 57 minutes.

It was Cole’s second double-digit strikeout game this season and 44th since the start of the 2019 season — most in the majors. He tied Ron Guidry for the team record with his 23rd double-digit strikeout game since signing with New York following the 2019 season.

“It’s special,” Cole said. “Ron’s such a good person and a great human and a great Yankee. So anytime you’re mentioned with him it’s pretty special.”

Mets 4, Athletics 3 (10): Pete Alonso tied the score in the ninth inning with his major league-leading eighth home run, and visiting New York beat struggling Oakland to complete a three-game sweep.

Eduardo Escobar scored the go-ahead in the 10th on a wild pitch by Sam Moll (0-2). Francisco Lindor and Tommy Pham also homered for the Mets, who won their fourth straight.

Brandon Nimmo made two diving catches in center field, including one that saved the game in the ninth. David Robertson pitched out of trouble in the 10th for his fourth save.

Red Sox 2, Angels 1: Garrett Whitlock threw seven innings of



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Yankees starting pitcher Gerrit Cole, right, celebrates with catcher Jose Trevino, left, after closing the ninth inning against the Minnesota Twins to record a complete game shutout on Sunday in New York.

one-run ball and Justin Turner hit a two-run homer to give host Boston a win over Los Angeles in a game that lasted just under two hours.

Los Angeles star Shohei Ohtani had his 36-game on-base streak halted; it had been the longest in MLB.

Whitlock (1-1) allowed three hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Ryan Brasier got the final three outs for his first save — including striking out Mike Trout and getting Ohtani to fly out.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 4 (10): Tommy Edman hit an RBI single in the 10th inning to give host St. Louis a win over Pittsburgh to salvage a split of the four-game series.

With runners on first and second and one out, Nolan Gorman drove in Paul Goldschmidt with a tying double. Lars Nootbaar was walked intentionally by Wil Crowe (0-1) and rookie Jordan Walker struck out before Edman singled back up the middle.

Nootbaar hit a two-run homer for the Cardinals, and Nolan Arenado, Willson Contreras and Gorman each had two hits.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 1: Shane Bieber pitched six effective innings in his fourth straight win, and visiting Tampa Bay avoided a three-game sweep by Toronto.

Christian Bethancourt hit a three-run homer to help the Rays rebound from their first two losses of the season. Yandy Díaz reached four times, and Josh Lowe had two hits and three RBIs.

McClanahan (4-0) allowed one run and four hits. He struck out six

and walked two.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 0: Zac Gallen pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning in visiting Arizona’s win over Sandy Alcantara and Miami.

Corbin Carroll homered for Arizona, and Pavin Smith and Christian Walker also had two hits apiece.

Gallen (2-1) retired his first 13 batters before Bryan De La Cruz singled with one out in the fifth. Gallen struck out seven in 6⅓ innings and walked none. Kevin Ginkel then got four outs before Kyle Nelson finished a four-hitter.

Mariners 1, Rockies 0: Luis Castillo retired his first 18 batters, Jarred Kelenic hit an RBI single and host Seattle completed a three-game sweep.

Kelenic extended his hitting streak to a career-best 10 games and played outstanding defense in right field, including a diving catch in the eighth inning that saved a run.

Castillo (1-0) struck out the side in the second and fanned eight over the first six innings before Jurickson Profar led off the seventh for the Rockies with a soft single to left-center. Castillo permitted two hits and struck out nine in seven innings. Justin Topa worked a one-hit eighth.

Cubs 3, Dodgers 2: Patrick Wisdom homered for the third straight game, Cody Bellinger also went deep and visiting Chicago took two of three in the series.

Wisdom and Bellinger connected back-to-back in the sixth inning. Drew Smyly (1-1) allowed one run and four hits in 5⅓ innings.

Nationals 7, Guardians 6: Host Washington tied the game on a reviewed call in the eighth inning and Joey Meneses followed with a go-ahead RBI single two batters later for a win over Cleveland that averted a three-game sweep.

Jeimer Candelario and Luis García homered for Washington, which snapped a four-game skid. Washington starter Patrick Corbin allowed four runs, two of them earned, in six innings. Mason Thompson (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Kyle Finnegan handled the ninth for his third save.

Orioles 8, White Sox 4: Cedric Mullins had three hits and four RBIs, including a tiebreaking single in his team’s three-run eighth inning, and visiting Baltimore rallied for the win in the rubber game of the weekend series.

Braves 5, Royals 4: Vaughn Grissom hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the ninth, Ozzie Albies homered and visiting Atlanta beat Kansas City for the series sweep.

Brewers 1, Padres 0: Wade Miley pitched seven sharp innings and Devin Williams escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth, helping visiting Milwaukee beat Yu Darvish and San Diego.

Phillies 14, Reds 3: Visiting Philadelphia bounced back from one of its worst losses of the early season with a drubbing of Cincinnati to earn a split of their four-game series.

Rangers 9, Astros 1: Marcus Semien hit a grand slam to cap a six-run seventh inning as visiting Texas won a series in Houston for the first time since July 2018.

AUTO RACING/HOCKEY

Larson gets past Logano, finally solves Martinsville

BY STEVE REED
Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Kyle Larson never thought he would tame the half-mile, paperclip-shaped track at Martinsville Speedway.

And then came Sunday.

Larson passed Joey Logano with 29 laps to go and went on to win his second Cup Series race of the season.

It was the 21st career Cup Series win for Larson and 15th in the past three seasons for the 2021 Cup champion.

Larson has struggled mightily at Martinsville in the past.

In his previous 17 races here, he had only three top-five finishes and never finished better than third.

"I never, ever would have thought I would have won here," Larson said. "This place has been so tough on me and just does not suit my driving style at all. ... I just can't believe it."

Because of his lack of past success at the track, Larson joked that he doesn't have room picked out

for where to keep the 6-foot tall grandfather clock awarded to the winner.

Larson said the clock immediately becomes one of his most prized possessions, because it serves as a reminder of how hard he has worked to win at a track where he never felt comfortable.

"I've left here just mad. I've hated this place, and I've wished it would flood," Larson said with a laugh. "I wished a lot of bad things on this place."

Logano, who was forced to begin the race in the back of the field after his crew found a leak in his water tank prior to the start, finished second, followed by Martin Truex Jr., Denny Hamlin and Chase Briscoe.

Logano was thrilled with his result, knowing he didn't have the car to hold off Larson late in the race on a restart.

"We got lapped twice and at one point I would have been happy to finish on the lead lap," Logano said with a laugh.

His luck changed when he stayed on the track and caught a

timely yellow caution flag, helping him suddenly land in the top five and in contention to win.

"There are days when you are mad about second place, but today is not one of those," Logano said.

Chase Elliott, voted NASCAR's most popular driver the past five years, finished 10th in his first race since breaking his leg in a snowboarding accident that forced him to miss six weeks.

He ran in the mid-20s for most of the race before closing strong.

"It was warm and I have been sitting on a couch for six weeks, so that probably hurt me more than anything," Elliott said.

Polesitter Ryan Preece dominated early, leading the first 136 laps before a speeding penalty on pit row sent him to the back of the field. He never challenged again.

Kevin Harvick, the winner of the second stage, was running near the front for most of the day until his right front tire went down due to a broken rim with 53 laps to go. Harvick had been seeking his 61st career Cup Series victory and first since last August.

Kirkwood claims first IndyCar win

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — As Kyle Kirkwood crossed the finish line for his first career IndyCar win, his new race strategist urged him to soak up the sights and sounds of victory.

It nearly brought the 24-year-old to tears.

"A first win, it's a big deal for any driver. I guarantee even Mario Andretti, all the wins he's had, he still remembers the first one," said Bryan Herta, who was moved to Kirkwood's strategist one race ago.

"This is just as important milestone because it's one thing to be a guy who people think can win in IndyCar. It's something else to be somebody who has won in IndyCar."

Kirkwood held off teammate Romain Grosjean on the downtown streets of Long Beach to give Andretti Autosport a 1-2 finish Sunday at the most prestigious street course race in the United States. Coincidentally, team owner Michael Andretti scored his first career win at Long Beach in 1986 and Mario Andretti won three IndyCar races there and in 1977 became the only American driver to win a Formula One race on American soil when the grand prix was an F1 event.

"This is such a special race, I grew up watching it, and to win here is such a dream come true. The next best race to win, outside of this one, is Indianapolis," Kirkwood said. "And the feeling I got, it was like trying to hold tears back in the car, which is something I never really felt before."

Kirkwood won the first pole of his career on Saturday and then parlayed it into his first career victory in a breakthrough for Andretti Autosport. The team showed at last month's season-opener that it had clearly made massive offseason strides, but all four Andretti drivers were crashed out of the race.

Then at Texas two weeks ago, three of the four Andretti drivers crashed with Kirkwood's car damaged in a pit lane incident with Alexander Rossi.

It was maddening for Michael Andretti, who had



JAE C. HONG/AP

Kyle Kirkwood celebrates during the victory ceremony after winning the IndyCar Grand Prix of Long Beach on Sunday in Long Beach, Calif.

such hope for a turnaround after the organization managed only two wins.

"That's what we needed, that's the medicine we needed," Andretti said. "It was very frustrating but we knew we had fast cars and we just kept our heads down and knew if we just kept going, we'd get the results."

Kirkwood was challenged mid-race by defending Long Beach winner Josef Newgarden, but reclaimed the lead when the Team Penske driver pitted for new tires. Kirkwood stayed out for a handful more laps and was able to make his stop for tires and get back on track before Newgarden could reclaim the lead.

Newgarden dropped to sixth and Kirkwood's primary challengers over the closing laps were Grosjean and Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson of Chip Ganassi Racing.

But neither got close enough to make an attempt at the pass for the win, and Kirkwood celebrated his first win with Andretti. Grosjean at the end of the race actually seemed to be protecting Kirkwood's lead from Ericsson.



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Hilary Knight holds the cup as she and teammates celebrate beating Canada for the gold medal at the women's world championships.

Knight's hat trick leads US to gold

BY JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

BRAMPTON, Ontario — For all the focus on the United States' young and retooled roster, it was who else but Hilary Knight — the team's most experienced and accomplished star — who played a pivotal role in securing her nation's 10th women's world hockey championships gold medal and first in four years.

The 33-year-old Knight scored three times, including the go-ahead goal with 3:10 left in regulation, in a 6-3 win over Canada, and on their cross-border rival's home soil in suburban Toronto on Sunday.

Apologizing for her voice being hoarse from a celebration that featured the Americans singing a rousing rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," Knight broke into a smile and said, "Yeah, it's been a while."

The Americans overcame three one-goal deficits and the sting of losing the past three gold-medal meetings against Canada — the past two world championships and the 2022 Beijing Winter Games — to reclaim gold for the first time since a 2-1 shootout win over Finland in 2019.

"It's hard to beat Canada. It's hard to beat Canada in Canada, right? So we definitely felt like an underdog," Knight added. "People are always rooting against us, but somehow we persevere and it feels sweeter that way."

Caroline Harvey had a goal and assist, and Abbey Murphy and Cayla Barnes, with an empty-net goal, also scored. The Americans scored four unanswered goals in the third period. Aerin Frankel stopped 24 shots.

With a U.S. roster featuring five players making their tournament debuts, Knight scored twice in the span of 27 seconds to capitalize on a two-player advantage with the game tied at 3.

With Brianne Jenner off for

tripping and Claire Thompson penalized 1:11 later for delay of game, Knight snapped in a shot from the mid-slot to beat Ann-Renee Desbiens high on the glove side. Knight made it 5-3 by deflecting in Harvey's shot from the left point. As for her first goal, Knight tied the score at 2 by converting a 2-on-1 break with Amanda Kessel 8:30 into the second period.

Jenner scored twice and added an assist, and Marie-Philip Poulin had a goal and assist for Canada, which settled for its ninth silver medal, to go along with 12 golds and one bronze. Desbiens stopped 16 shots in losing her first tournament game in 17 career starts.

"I think we're in a little bit of disbelief now. Not that we don't know the opponent is a great hockey team, but we believe so fully in our group," Jenner said.

"I think there's a lot of moments in that game. You know, I think it'd be easy to put blame elsewhere. But I think we have to look at ourselves," Jenner added. "I mean we've got to figure out a way to hold those leads."

The U.S. hasn't defeated Canada with a gold medal on the line since the 2018 Winter Games in South Korea. Otherwise, Canada and the U.S. have met in the world tournament's 21 other gold-medal games.

"They definitely had our number for a few years, so this one feels a little extra special," Kessel said. "I've been on the other side of it where you're just winning, winning, winning. And you kind of have their number and it's a confidence thing. So I think this was huge for us."

The U.S. finished with a tournament-leading 43 goals, and bounced back from a 4-3 shootout loss to Canada in the preliminary round. And they beat a veteran-laden Canadian team that featured a majority of players who have been together since winning in Beijing.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

First round	
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Boston vs. Florida	
Monday:	at Boston
Wednesday:	at Boston
Friday:	at Florida
Sunday:	at Florida
x-Wednesday, April 26:	at Boston
x-Friday, April 28:	at Florida
x-Sunday, April 30:	at Boston
Carolina vs. N.Y. Islanders	
Monday:	at Carolina
Wednesday:	at Carolina, AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Thursday CET; 8 a.m. Thursday JKT
Friday:	at N.Y. Islanders
Sunday:	at N.Y. Islanders
x-Tuesday, April 25:	at Carolina
x-Friday, April 28:	at N.Y. Islanders
x-Sunday, April 30:	at Carolina
New Jersey vs. N.Y. Rangers	
Tuesday:	at New Jersey
Thursday:	at New Jersey
Saturday:	at N.Y. Rangers
Monday, April 24:	at N.Y. Rangers
x-Thursday, April 27:	at New Jersey
x-Saturday, April 29:	at N.Y. Rangers
x-Monday, May 1:	at New Jersey
Toronto vs. Tampa Bay	
Tuesday:	at Toronto, AFN-Sports2, 1:30 a.m. Wednesday CET; 8:30 a.m. Wednesday JKT
Thursday:	at Toronto
Saturday:	at Tampa Bay
Monday, April 24:	at Tampa Bay
x-Thursday, April 27:	at Toronto
x-Saturday, April 29:	at Tampa Bay
x-Monday, May 1:	at Toronto
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Edmonton vs. Los Angeles	
Monday:	at Edmonton
Wednesday:	at Edmonton
Friday:	at Los Angeles
Sunday:	at Los Angeles
x-Tuesday, April 25:	at Edmonton
x-Thursday, April 27:	at Los Angeles
x-Saturday, April 29:	at Los Angeles
x-Monday, May 1:	at Edmonton
Dallas vs. Minnesota	
Monday:	at Dallas
Wednesday:	at Dallas, AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 10:30 a.m. Thursday JKT
Friday:	at Minnesota
Sunday:	at Minnesota
x-Tuesday, April 25:	at Dallas
x-Friday, April 28:	at Minnesota
x-Sunday, April 30:	at Dallas
Colorado vs. Seattle	
Tuesday:	at Colorado, AFN-Sports2, 4 a.m. Wednesday CET; 11 a.m. Wednesday JKT
Thursday:	at Colorado
Saturday:	at Seattle
Monday, April 24:	at Seattle
x-Wednesday, April 26:	at Colorado
x-Friday, April 28:	at Seattle
x-Sunday, April 30:	at Colorado
Vegas vs. Winnipeg	
Tuesday:	at Vegas
Thursday:	at Vegas
Saturday:	at Winnipeg
Monday, April 24:	at Winnipeg
x-Thursday, April 27:	at Vegas
x-Saturday, April 29:	at Winnipeg
x-Monday, May 1:	at Vegas

Vegas' Eichel ends personal drought

BY MARK ANDERSON
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Until now, Jack Eichel has only watched the NHL playoffs, which has given him some idea of the intensity that comes once the 16-team tournament begins.

But the eight-year veteran who has played in 476 regular-season games won't really know what it will feel like until he skates onto the T-Mobile Arena ice Tuesday night.

That's when the Las Vegas Golden Knights, who own the home ice advantage in the Western Conference playoffs, open their seven-game, first-round series against the Winnipeg Jets.

"He's waited a long time for this," Knights coach Bruce Cassidy said.

Eichel played his first six seasons with the Buffalo Sabres, who drafted him second overall in 2015. He scored at least 24 goals in each of his first five seasons, signed an eight-year, \$80 million contract in October 2017 and, exactly a year later, was named team captain.

But Eichel's time in Buffalo ended on a sour note after he and the club disagreed on how to treat his neck injury. Eichel insisted on artificial herniated disk replacement, a type of surgery that had never been performed on an NHL player, which was why the Sabres didn't green-light the procedure.

With both sides dug in and Eichel sidelined, the Sabres stripped him of his captaincy in September 2021 after he failed a physical. They finally granted his wish to leave, trading him to the Golden Knights that November. Vegas promised Eichel he would have his desired procedure.



GEORGE WALKER IV/AP

Vegas Golden Knights center Jack Eichel, left, hasn't played in the postseason in his eight seasons in the NHL. That will change Tuesday night when the Golden Knights open the playoffs against Winnipeg.

Now after two seasons, the Knights are in the playoffs and Eichel was first on the team with 66 points and second with 27 goals. His former team missed the postseason for the 12th season in a row, the NHL's longest current dry spell.

A measure of vindication for Eichel?

"I think everyone can probably look at it and say it was a good decision to do what I did," Eichel said. "Having other players get (the procedure), people feel more confident in it. I'm thrilled to be a part of this organization. Looking back at when they first traded for me, it says a lot

about the way that they went about things in giving me the freedom to pursue what I wanted to do medically.

"I feel really good about that, but it seems like a long time ago. I've kind of put it in the rear-view mirror and tried to focus on the present."

Cassidy has put Eichel in a little bit of a different role, asking him to focus more on defense and play fewer minutes because of the talent around him.

Eichel had a plus-26 rating this season, second-best on the Knights and easily a career high.

"He's one of our best defensive

centers," Cassidy said. "He closes as quick as any center on our team. Whether you're a plus-minus guy or not, his metrics have to back all that up. He cares about defense. That part of the challenge was accepted easily for Jack. I think the biggest challenge for him was the minutes. He probably wanted more, which I don't blame him.

"We'll see how that translates in the playoffs. His minutes may go up. Things are magnified. You may have to move people around more. I hope not. It means our team's functioning if they're all playing similar amounts."

Devils hoping Palat regains Stanley Cup magic

BY TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — When the New Jersey Devils signed Ondrej Palat to a five-year, \$30 million contract in the offseason, it was with the hope they would be right where they are now — in the NHL playoffs for the first time in five seasons.

Coach Lindy Ruff will have Palat at his disposal when the series against the rival New York Rangers opens Tuesday at the Prudential Center.

Sure, former No. 1 overall picks Jack Hughes and Nico Hischier, star defenseman Dougie Hamilton and emerging goaltender Vitek Vanecsek are going to have major roles in the best-of-seven battle. But when it comes to the playoffs, Palat — Pally, as he is referred to by teammates — is money.

The former Tampa Bay forward played 138 postseason games with the two-time champions, and had 48 goals and 46 assists. Those 94 points are 119th overall in NHL playoff history.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

New Jersey Devils left wing Ondrej Palat waves to fans after a video tribute against the Lightning on March 19 in Tampa, Fla.

What's more remarkable is Palat has had only one 20-plus goal season since his first full one with the Lightning in 2013-14.

"I think he puts himself in position to succeed in the playoffs," Ruff said after practice on Satur-

day. "I think when you get to the right place enough times and you do the right things enough times, you can take advantage of it, and he has."

The 32-year-old from the Czech Republic had an injury-hampered

first season in New Jersey. He needed groin surgery a month into the season and didn't return until early January. Overall, Palat played in 49 games and had eight goals and 15 assists. The game total was his lowest since spending the majority of the 2012-13 season in the AHL and playing in just 14 NHL games.

"Obviously, I want to have more goals, more points," Palat said. "But we're in playoffs, the real season starts."

Palat said he never heads into a postseason game thinking he needs a goal or two. He's role guy, willing to play on any line and in any situation. He has a job to do and he does not feel any pressure.

"Like I said, I was going to play the same way, help the team in any way," he said. "So if it's scoring goals, maybe scoring goals, if it's blocked shots, make blocked shots or things like that. I'll just do whatever it takes for the team to win."

The Devils' roster is full of players who have never appeared in a playoff game. Hughes, who

had a career season with 43 goals and 99 points, tops a list that includes Dawson Mercer (27 goals). Hischier (31) and Jesper Bratt (32 goals) have five or fewer games of playoff experience.

Palat told the young crew two things about the playoffs: Enjoy it and realize now that being in it, they can win Lord Stanley's Cup.

It won't be easy. While Tampa Bay got close to winning it all in three of Palat's first six postseasons, they didn't actually do it until his seventh and eighth seasons. They lost to the Colorado Avalanche in the Stanley Cup Final last year.

Palat said a lack of postseason experience can be an issue.

"I would probably lie if I said it wasn't, you know," he said. "Took us eight years or seven years in the playoffs, then we finally got into the finals and then we won and then we won the second. But it took us a lot of years to win. And it's not easy. You know, somebody never wins. It's hard, it's a hard trophy to win."

NBA PLAYOFFS

Injuries: Heat's Herro suffers a broken hand

FROM PAGE 24

Conference's No. 1 seed.

The Bucks went on to lose 130-117 to Miami with the Heat winning despite Herro breaking his right hand apparently while diving for a loose ball late in the first half. The starter was obviously hurting in front of the Miami bench at the end of the second quarter.

The Heat disclosed the severity of his injury at halftime. Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said Herro, seen with a cast on his hand after the game, won't play Game 2 on Wednesday night and the Heat will figure out what to do next.

"I got the same diagnosis that you all heard," Spoelstra said.

Morant came into Sunday's first-round Western Conference series with his right hand already bandaged after being hurt in a win that clinched the No. 2 seed for the Grizzlies for a second straight season.

Then he drove to the basket against the 6-foot-10 Davis with 5:48 left with Memphis trailing the Lakers 105-101. His right hand appeared to bend the wrong direction as he hit the court. Morant writhed in pain, then ran toward the Grizzlies' bench letting out a yell near midcourt before sprinting to the locker room.

Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said X-rays were negative and the Grizzlies will do further testing taking this injury one day at a time.

"I'm not the medical expert," Jenkins said.

Morant said he's doubtful for Game 2 on Wednesday night with Memphis down 0-1 following a

128-112 loss.

"Tough man, especially with everything I've been through pretty much this season," said Morant, who was suspended by the NBA for eight games in March after livestreaming himself holding a gun at a Denver-area strip club.

The guard who set the Grizzlies' single-season scoring record averaging 26.2 points a game wants to play. Memphis already is without center Steven Adams because of an injured knee and reserve big man Brandon Clarke tore an Achilles tendon in March.

"Another incident where that's pretty much in jeopardy," said Morant, who missed the final three games of Memphis' semifinals loss to eventual champ Golden State last season with an injured knee.

Pain level and how effective he can be will decide if Morant can play.

"I feel like I can go out there and be somewhat myself, I'll be playing," Morant said. "If not, I don't want to do anything to hurt the team."

The Clippers survived their opener by beating No. 4 seed Phoenix 115-110 without eight-time All-Star guard Paul George, who's been sidelined by sprained right knee since late March.

Lakers coach Darvin Ham may have been the happiest coach after sending Davis to the locker room with 1:15 left in the second quarter to make sure the medical team started working on the eight-time All-Star immediately.

"Just happy he's OK," Ham said.



BRANDON DILL AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis recovered from a stinger early in Sunday's playoff game against the Grizzlies in Memphis. He returned in the third quarter to lead the Lakers past the Grizzlies.



MORRY GASH/AP

The Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler drives past the Bucks' Jrue Holiday during the first half of Game 1 of their first-round playoff series Sunday in Milwaukee. Butler finished with 35 points and 11 assists.

Heat roll past top-seeded Bucks in opener on road

Scoreboard

First round	
Best-of-seven; x-if necessary	
Eastern Conference	
Boston 1, Atlanta 0	
Boston 112, Atlanta 99	
Tuesday: at Boston	
Friday: at Atlanta	
Sunday, April 23: at Atlanta	
x-Tuesday, April 25: at Boston	
x-Thursday, April 27: at Atlanta	
x-Saturday, April 29: at Boston	
Philadelphia 1, Brooklyn 0	
Philadelphia 121, Brooklyn 101	
Monday: at Philadelphia	
Thursday: at Brooklyn	
Saturday: at Brooklyn	
x-Monday, April 24: at Philadelphia	
x-Thursday, April 27: at Brooklyn	
x-Saturday, April 29: at Philadelphia	
Miami 1, Milwaukee 0	
Sunday: Miami 130, Milwaukee 117	
Wednesday: at Milwaukee	
Saturday: at Miami	
Monday, April 24: at Miami	
x-Wednesday, April 26: at Milwaukee	
x-Friday, April 28: at Miami	
x-Sunday, April 30: at Milwaukee	
New York 1, Cleveland 0	
New York 101, Cleveland 97	
Tuesday: at Cleveland, AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. Wednesday CET; 8:30 a.m. Wednesday JKT	
Friday: at New York	
Sunday, April 23: at New York	
x-Wednesday, April 26: at Cleveland	
x-Friday, April 28: at New York	
x-Sunday, April 30: at Cleveland	
Western Conference	
Sacramento 1, Golden State 0	
Sacramento 126, Golden State 123	
Monday: at Sacramento	
Thursday: at Golden State	
Sunday, April 23: at Golden State	
x-Wednesday, April 26: at Sacramento	
x-Friday, April 28: at Golden State	
x-Sunday, April 30: at Sacramento	
L.A. Clippers 1, Phoenix 0	
Sunday: L.A. Clippers 115, Phoenix 110	
Tuesday: at Phoenix, AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. Wednesday CET; 11 a.m. Wednesday JKT	
Thursday: at L.A. Clippers	
Saturday: at L.A. Clippers	
x-Tuesday, April 25: at Phoenix	
x-Thursday, April 27: at L.A. Clippers	
x-Saturday, April 29: at Phoenix	
L.A. Lakers 1, Memphis 0	
Sunday: L.A. Lakers 128, Memphis 112	
Wednesday: at Memphis	
Saturday: at L.A. Lakers	
Monday, April 24: at L.A. Lakers	
x-Wednesday, April 26: at Memphis	
x-Friday, April 28: at L.A. Lakers	
x-Sunday, April 30: at Memphis	
Denver 1, Minnesota 0	
Sunday: Denver 109, Minnesota 80	
Wednesday: at Denver	
Friday: at Minnesota	
Sunday, April 23: at Minnesota	
x-Tuesday, April 25: at Denver	
x-Thursday, April 27: at Minnesota	
x-Saturday, April 29: at Denver	

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks didn't have their best player around for the full game. The Miami Heat did.

That pretty much made the difference Sunday as the top-seeded Bucks saw their path toward a championship face an early obstacle.

Jimmy Butler had 35 points and 11 assists, and the Heat capitalized on Giannis Antetokounmpo's injury to beat the Bucks 130-117 on Sunday in an Eastern Conference playoff opener Sunday. Butler's dazzling performance enabled the Heat to withstand the exit of Tyler Herro, who broke his right hand while diving for a loose ball just before halftime.

"He's just a brilliant competitor," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He does it on both ends of the court. He has an innate feel for what's necessary during the course of a game. We needed obviously some offensive punch, some triggers, something to settle us all down, particularly when we found out Tyler was out. Jimmy was able to do it in a lot of different ways."

Now the Bucks wait to learn how long Antetokounmpo might be out because of a lower back bruise.

Antetokounmpo was driving to the basket with 4:13 left in the first quarter when he got fouled by Kevin Love and landed hard on his backside. The two-time MVP got up slowly, stayed in the game to take his free throws and then headed to the locker room about

2½ minutes later after picking up his second foul.

Although he returned to the game with 9:56 remaining in the second quarter, Antetokounmpo went to the locker room again with 8:33 left in the half and was ruled out for the rest of the game shortly afterward.

"There was an X-ray that was clear here," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We'll monitor him and see how he does, see how he wakes up, how he feels the rest of tonight and tomorrow."

The early departures of Antetokounmpo and Herro gave this game an unusual feel and forced both teams to adjust on the fly.

Nobody adapted better than Butler, who shot 15-for-27, leading the way as the Heat set a franchise scoring record for a playoff game and shot 59.5% from the floor.

"I just control what I can control in the end, play basketball the right way, no matter who's out there on the floor on my team or the opposing team," Butler said. "Stay aggressive. Make sure my guys get their shots. Defend as I'm supposed to defend and do whatever it takes to get my team the win."

The Heat also capitalized on a dramatic advantage from beyond the arc. The Heat were 15-for-25 and the Bucks 11-for-45 from three-point range.

Bam Adebayo had 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Heat.

Khriston Middleton scored 33 points and Bobby Portis had 21 for the Bucks.

NBA PLAYOFFS

ROUNDUP

Leonard's 38 propels Clippers past Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Kawhi Leonard had a great shooting night while Russell Westbrook had a horrible one.

Both players nonetheless had a huge impact for the Los Angeles Clippers in their 115-110 win over the Phoenix Suns in the teams' Western Conference playoff series opener on Sunday.

Leonard poured in 38 points, including two late three-pointers, while Westbrook was a menace everywhere except the scoring column. The veteran guard shot just 3-for-19 from the field, but finished with nine points, 10 rebounds, eight assists, three blocks and two steals.

"My whole career, I pride myself every season on doing everything," Westbrook said. "Whatever is needed of me to win the game, I'll do it."

That's exactly what happened in the final 30 seconds. Westbrook made a pair of free throws with 17.7 seconds left for a three-point lead, then blocked Devin Booker's layup attempt at the other end and swatted the ball off Booker to give the Clippers the ball with 10.1 seconds remaining.

Eric Gordon added 19 points and hit a late three that kept the Clippers ahead.

Kevin Durant scored 27 points for the Suns, who lost for the first time with him on the floor. Phoenix acquired the two-time NBA Finals MVP from Brooklyn in February, and injuries limited him to eight games — all Suns wins.

Devin Booker added 26 points for Phoenix, which will try to avoid falling into a 2-0 hole at home on Tuesday.

The Suns trailed 109-103 with 1:33 remaining but scored the next five points. The Clippers grabbed multiple offensive rebounds on the ensuing possession before Westbrook made his critical free throws.

"Making winning plays, getting deflections on balls, offensive rebounding, getting us into our sets — that is playoff basketball," Leonard said. "You might not have the best night shooting, but you've got to impact the game some type of way and he did that tonight."

Los Angeles led for much of the game until midway through the third quarter. Torrey Craig made back-to-back buckets, including one on a powerful fast-break dunk, to push Phoenix ahead 70-68, part of a 15-0 run that concluded with a



MATT YORK/AP

Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard shoots over Suns forward Torrey Craig during Game 1 of their first-round series on Sunday.

77-68 Suns lead.

The Clippers, led by Leonard's 12 points in the third, recovered to tie the game at 81-all heading into the fourth.

"They're going to make a run at home, we understood that," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "We built a lead, they made a run, and now we've got to keep our composure and be ready to fight back. I thought everyone who played tonight was great."

Leonard — a two-time Finals MVP playing his first playoff game since June 14, 2021 — did much of his damage from the mid-range, but moved behind the three-point arc in the game's late moments. He hit a three with 2:36 left and another at the 2-minute mark, finishing 13-for-24 shooting from the field.

The Clippers were missing eight-time All-Star Paul George. He sprained his right knee last month and it's unclear if he'll be able to play in this series.

Nuggets 109, Timberwolves 80: Jamal Murray overcame some early jitters to have 24 points and eight assists in his first playoff game since the 2020 NBA bubble as top-seeded Denver routed Minnesota.

"Murray was Murray," Wolves point guard Chris Conley said. "He's one of the better scorers, playmakers, from our position."

Michael Porter Jr., who scored 18 points in his first playoff game since missing last year's run with a bad back, said Murray used his time off after blowing out his left

knee in 2021 to improve his basketball IQ.

"I told him the other day I feel like he's better now than before the injury," Porter said. "I know he probably doesn't feel it, but just his overall game, his awareness, he had like a year off where he had to just watch."

Porter scored 18 points and Nikola Jokic added 13 points, 14 rebounds and a half dozen assists in 28 minutes as Denver snapped a five-game skid in playoff openers — and became the only higher seed to win on Sunday.

Both Porter and Murray started off slow offensively, so they turned up their defense, diving for loose balls and crashing the glass until they found their shooting touch.

"That was the game right there," Murray said. "It wasn't even offense. I think Mike and I struggled early and we were still playing defense. We were running the floor playing defense, boxing out, playing physical. Everybody made an impact."

Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 18 points. Karl-Anthony Towns, who was rounding into form after missing 52 games with a bad calf, missed 10 of his first 12 shots and finished with 11 points.

"It's the NBA. It's not forgiving. Just things happen," Towns said. "They did a great job, give them credit. They had a long week preparing for us and they got ready and you could tell on the court they knew our plays and knew what they're doing. So we've just got to come back ready for Game 2."

Hachimura's big second half helps LA beat Memphis

Lakers take home-court edge; Morant's status unclear for rest of series

By CLAY BAILEY
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rui Hachimura, LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers made an early statement in the wide-open Western Conference playoffs.

Hachimura scored a playoff career-best 29 points, including 21 in the second half, and James added 21 points and 11 rebounds as the seventh-seeded Lakers beat the No. 2 seed Memphis Grizzlies 128-112 on Sunday in the opening game of their series.

Memphis had the NBA's best home record at 35-6 but no longer has home-court advantage against L.A. Game 2 is Wednesday at FedExForum, and the Grizzlies have major concerns about star Ja Morant, who aggravated a right hand injury.

"We didn't execute the priorities of the game plan," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. "Get back. Execute half-court defense and get rebounds."

Austin Reaves added 23 points, including nine straight in the closing minutes as the Lakers pulled away. Anthony Davis had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and D'Angelo Russell, who scored only two points in the Lakers' play-in win over the Minnesota Timberwolves, finished with 19 points.

Hachimura missed only one of his nine shots in the second half, including making all five of his three-point attempts.

"The second half, we were in a good rhythm," Hachimura said. "We were sharing the ball and all the shots just came to me."

Reaves added: "Rui was huge (Sunday). His skillset is crazy. For us to get him with all the talent we have, it just brings another aspect to our team."

Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 31 points, while Desmond Bane scored 22. Morant had 18 points before leaving in the fourth quarter with the hand injury. The Grizzlies' leading scorer's availability for Game 2 is uncertain.

"I'm in a good bit of pain," Morant said. "My main focus was to be out there for my guys. Another incident where, you know, that's pretty much in jeopardy."

It was Hachimura from Japan who provided Los Angeles some



BRANDON DILL/AP

Lakers forward Rui Hachimura scored a career-high 29 points in Game 1 of a first-round series against the Grizzlies on Sunday.

breathing room in the third quarter, connecting on all four of his three-point attempts. Hachimura's only previous playoff experience was in 2021 with Washington, which lost a first-round series to Philadelphia. The Lakers acquired him from the Wizards in a midseason trade.

"He's multifaceted," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said of Hachimura. "He's strong. He has great hands. He can get out and run, go up top. Very, very athletic and can really put the ball in the hole as you saw today. Just encouraging him to be assertive, aggressive."

Los Angeles had to get through the play-in tournament this year after missing the playoffs in 2022. The Lakers were eliminated in the first round by the Phoenix Suns a year earlier.

Memphis finished with 51 wins, its second straight 50-victory season.

After the Grizzlies used a second-quarter burst to take a 65-59 lead into the break, the teams swapped leads through much of the second half, and Memphis still held a 101-100 advantage with 8:36 left.

But Hachimura made a 13-foot jumper, and Reaves nailed a three-pointer as the shot clock was expiring. Then, as Memphis got close again with about three minutes left, Reaves went on his individual scoring spree, and the Lakers closed out the game with the final 15 points.

SPORTS

First-time winner
Kirkwood gets initial IndyCar victory
in Long Beach » **Auto racing, Page 20**



NBA PLAYOFFS



MORRY GASH/AP

Bucks center Giannis Antetokounmpo lays on the court after being injured while driving to the basket during Sunday's first-round playoff game against Miami in Milwaukee.

Injuries already mounting

Stars getting hurt dims start of postseason

BY TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

Anthony Davis scared Los Angeles Lakers fans by grabbing at his right shoulder and saying he couldn't move his arm.

Luckily for the Lakers, Davis rebounded from a stinger and returned for the start of the third quarter. Yet injuries over the span of a couple of hours Sunday sidelined two-time NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, two-time All-Star Ja Morant and Tyler Herro, keeping them from finishing their playoff openers.

Injuries to some of the NBA's top stars has dimmed the start of this postseason with title hopes possibly fading just as quickly depending on how bad they're hurt.

"We'll monitor him and see how he does, see how he wakes up, how he feels," Milwaukee coach Mike

INSIDE

Leonard nets 38 points, leads Clippers past Durant, Suns
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Budenholzer said of Antetokounmpo.

Both Antetokounmpo and the Memphis Grizzlies' Morant were hurt on drives to the basket where each landed awkwardly.

Antetokounmpo came down hard on his backside after being fouled by Miami's Kevin Love. The Bucks' forward got up slowly with 4:13 left in the first quarter. He picked up his second foul about 2½ minutes later but played about 11 minutes for the Eastern

SEE INJURIES ON PAGE 22



BRANDON DILL/AP

Ja Morant, center, sits on the bench with his right hand bandaged during Memphis' 128-112 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Fitzpatrick edges Spieth on third extra hole » Golf, Page 18

