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Sundance film fest returns after 2 virtual editions
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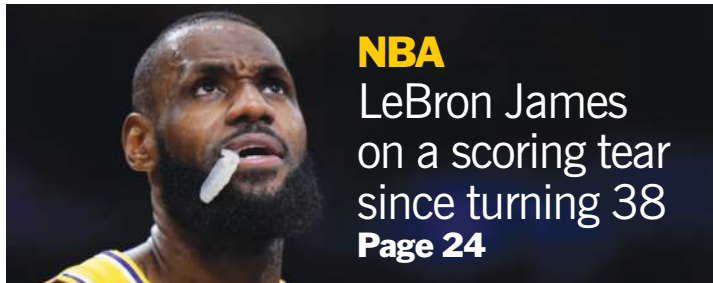


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Ukraine helicopter crash kills interior minister, others
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STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Marines now using body scanners to measure fat

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps has begun shipping more than 250 new biometric machines around the globe as part of a new policy to measure body composition standards more accurately before labeling a Marine overweight, according to the service's Training Command.

Under the new policy, which went into effect Jan. 1, Marines who exceed weight standards and fail a body fat assessment taken with a measuring tape will be evaluated with a body scan before being sent to the body composition program or being discharged from the service, according to an August announcement about policy change.

The Marine Corps concluded after a yearlong study done in collaboration with the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine that the scan, which is conducted on a bioelectrical impedance analysis machine, can detect the percentage of body fat that a person has more accurately than the tape test.

The study evaluated the Marines' body composition standards, which resulted in policy changes, and included allowing women to have one more percentage of body fat than previous standards and allowing exemptions to weight standards based on physical fitness test scores.

SEE SCANNERS ON PAGE 5

92%

The accuracy of the tape test in measuring body fat, according to a Marine Corps study.



ALEXANDER BURNETT/U.S. Army

U.S. paratroopers assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division wait for the arrival of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a combined training event with their Polish allies in Nowa Deba, Poland, in February.

Report: Army bears budget burden

Advocates say service funding isn't enough to modernize its forces due to demands

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Army carries the lion's share of the U.S. military's operational burden but isn't funded well enough to keep up with the demand, according to a new report from Army advocates that argues the service hasn't been this squeezed since the early days of the Vietnam War.

During the past two years, the Army has been responsible for 75% of the U.S. joint force's support for Ukraine and 80% of the National Guard's COVID response and border security missions at home, former acting Army Secretary John E. Whitely wrote in a report released this month by the Association of the U.S. Army.

Meanwhile, the Army carried out more than half of U.S. Combatant Command's global requirements during the same period and represented two-thirds of the Joint Staff's readiness requirements.

The service did that with less than 50% of the total military force and 28% of the military's service department budget, according to

Whitely's report, "Underfunding the Army has Risky Implications."

"The Army does not control these demands; they are external requirements placed on the Army," Whitely wrote. "These outsized, external requirements have significant implications for force

SEE BURDEN ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

United Airlines posts \$843M profit to end 2022

Associated Press

United Airlines reported fourth-quarter profit and revenue higher than Wall Street expectations and gave a bullish 2023 forecast that assumes people will keep traveling despite inflation and concern about the economy.

After the stock market closed Tuesday, United said it earned \$843 million in the quarter.

The Chicago-based airline said it is seeing strong demand for flights extending into the new year, which will help the company cover expect-

ed increases in labor costs as it negotiates new union contracts.

United predicted that its first-quarter earnings per share will easily top analysts' expectations. Its stock rose modestly, less than 2%, in after-market trading.

The report from United comes on the heels of upbeat comments by its closest rivals, Delta Air Lines and American Airlines.

Officials with all three carriers said consumers are still booking travel despite concern about the economy — tech companies in par-

ticular have been laying off workers — and high inflation.

Airline tickets are contributing to inflation. In December, they cost 28.5% more than a year earlier, according to government figures. United passengers paid on average 25.5% more per mile than a year ago, and 20.8% more than in late 2019.

Those higher fares are due to strong demand and a limited number of flights as airlines continue to rebuild operations that were slashed after the pandemic devastated air travel.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	1,238.39
Euro costs (Jan. 19)	\$1.06	Switzerland (Franc)	.9220
Dollar buys (Jan. 19)	0.8982	Thailand (Baht)	33.04
British pound (Jan. 19)	\$1.21	Turkey (New Lira)	18.7746
Japanese yen (Jan. 19)	125.00		
South Korean won (Jan. 19)	1,204.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3770		
Britain (Pound)	1.2275		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3386		
China (Yuan)	6.7739		
Denmark (Krone)	6.8915		
Egypt (Pound)	29.5810		
Euro	.9265		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8173		
Hungary (Forint)	367.44		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4036		
Japan (Yen)	128.35		
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3053		
Norway (Krone)	9.8724		
Philippines (Peso)	54.65		
Poland (Zloty)	4.35		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7559		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3207		

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

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	4.33
3-month bill	4.68
30-year bond	3.66

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

Experts urge metallic filters

Some suggest other branches follow Army's lead, replace legacy aircraft parts

By **DOUG G. WARE**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. armed forces could increase troop safety, improve readiness and save money in the long term by swapping out paper hydraulic filters in military planes and helicopters for metal ones, according to some experts who have studied the equipment.

For decades, military aircraft have used paper hydraulic filters made with glass fiber or cellulose media. The purpose of the filters is to remove contamination particles from hydraulic fluid, which is the life blood of all planes and helicopters that allows pilots to move flight controls such as flaps, elevators and ailerons.

While the Pentagon generally has had no serious issues with the paper legacy filters, some experts say there is a safer and more efficient option — filters with stainless steel media that do a better job of cleaning the vital mechanical fluid.

The robust metal media filters, as they're called, have been studied for decades and the Army began using them about 15 years ago. So far, data shows they have brought some benefits and improvements compared to the paper filters.

"It's incredibly successful," said Matthew Boenker, president of Boenker Aerospace and a principal civilian engineer in the Army who helped persuade the service to begin using them.

Boenker said the Army began to move toward the metal filters after a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed in Texas in the late 1990s. Investigators later stressed to the Army and Boeing, the maker of the Chinooks, the importance of hydraulic fluid maintenance and its cleanliness in aircraft systems.

About a decade later, the Army began shifting to the metal filters.

Since the switch, the metal filters in Army aircraft have helped to reduce component failures tenfold, according to Army data. Further, Boenker said there was a dramatic drop in hydraulic pump failures — from almost 300 with the legacy filters to just 25 with the metal ones — during 36,000 flight hours in operation.

Jeffrey Mothersbaugh — an application engineer at the steel-wire manufacturing company Bekaert, which makes the media part of the metal filters — said the newer ones can be qualified for many vehicles, including planes, helicopters, nuclear submarines and ground vehicles.

Mothersbaugh said sometimes dirty paper filters can stay in an aircraft for years before the indicator finally pops up and alerts technicians that they need to be replaced. During that time, he said, contaminants and particulate matter can cycle around and around in the hydraulic system as they're caught by the paper filter and re-released into the fluid when they're dislodged by aerodynamic forces. The metal filters hold onto the particles better, Mothersbaugh said.

While the Army has been using metal filters, the other branches are studying the differences to determine whether they should switch too.

When it comes to cost, the legacy filters are less expensive and typically go for less than \$100. The metal varieties cost hundreds of dollars each. That means switching filters could save the military money over time, but the initial cost would be significantly higher with the robust filters.

Is it worth it? Experts in the other services are studying that ques-



SHANE KLESTINSKI/U.S. Army

Soldiers conduct daily maintenance and pre-flight inspections on a CH-47F Chinook helicopter at Opa-locka, Fla.

tion.

"We are envious of those results [in the Army]," said Robert Ware, a structural failure analyst with the Air Force Research Laboratory who has studied the issue. "We were a little bit skeptical and wanted to verify some of them independently."

Ware said the Air Force recently conducted a side-by-side comparison of the paper and metal filters at an independent test house in North Carolina. That data, he said, would certainly be part of any discussion about changing filters in the Air Force.

"One of the last things you want to do is switch over lock, stock and barrel so quickly that you leave yourself vulnerable to new issues you didn't know about," he added.

"One of the big questions with [the hydraulic fluid] is, how clean is clean enough?" asked Matthew Bozzuto, a mechanical equipment and subsystems integrity program tech expert at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. "Because there's a cost to it. There's a cost to the filters, there's a cost to qualifying components for aircraft to use them, the testing that's involved."

If the paper filters already clean

hydraulic fluid to an acceptable level, is it worth the extra cost to move over to the metal filters?

"Cleaner is better, but there's probably a point of diminishing return there somewhere," Bozzuto said.

Some of the longer-term savings will come in maintenance costs, Boenker and Mothersbaugh said. For example, the Army is saving more than \$4 million in maintenance costs for every 100 flight hours with the metal filters, they said.

Nearing retirement after almost 40 years as a civilian engineer in the Army, Boenker suggested part of the reason why all the branches haven't made the switch to metal filters could be economic. Maintenance in the military involves a lot of money and employs a lot of people, he said, so switching to a more reliable filter might make a large impact in that area. It's an opinion that Ware said is probably true — at least to a small degree.

"Some of the depot commodity folks are trying to keep units on the shelf without necessarily going after the cause of why they came to the shelf in the first place," he said. "They are rewarded for a certain metric that may

not be ... what's best for the service, for the operator, for the taxpayer."

"I don't think it's all just cynicism," Bozzuto added. "If the benefits are there, [the metal filters] are going to be used. I think everybody is cautiously optimistic more than they are having their mind already made up."

Another reason why the other branches haven't switched might be because some key people in the decision-making process simply are unaware of the data. Making the change to metal filters would involve a lot of people and a lot of departments in the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

Boenker said the Pentagon should revisit its filtration standard and officially recommend the metal filters in all vehicles where they make the greatest difference. The Pentagon's filtration specification, for the most part, is "totally obsolete and worthless," he said.

Mothersbaugh said he was hopeful that the Air Force's comparison tests on both filters in North Carolina would make some progress on the issue.

"I hope things really get moving because of that, finally," he said.

Austin to visit S. Korea, Philippines amid regional concerns

By **DOUG G. WARE**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has scheduled a trip to the Indo-Pacific region in a move to strengthen relations with key allies in the face of growing influence from regional powers China and North Korea, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's top spokesman,

told reporters that Austin will travel to South Korea and the Philippines in the coming weeks.

Ryder didn't specify the travel dates, but he said the trip is a calculated move to bolster defense partnerships with both countries.

"This upcoming trip is a reaffirmation of our deep commitment to working in concert with allies and partners to chart our shared vision to preserve a free and open Indo-

Pacific," Ryder said.

The Defense Department, White House and other branches of President Joe Biden's administration have underscored the importance of supporting U.S. allies in the region — particularly with China continuing to assert control over parts of the South China Sea and North Korea carrying out missile tests. Additionally, Beijing continues to claim ownership of

Taiwan and has sought new relationships in the Indo-Pacific.

For example, China caused some alarm last year when it struck a new security agreement with the Solomon Islands, an island nation that lies not far off the coasts of northeast Australia and Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific.



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin

PACIFIC

Troops intercept drone flying near THAAD base

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — U.S. forces were involved in stopping an unauthorized drone flying Tuesday near a military outpost that hosts a missile-defense system, an Eighth Army spokesman said.

U.S. and South Korean troops detected an unmanned aerial vehicle flying near Forward Operating Site Carroll, near Camp Carroll in Seongju County, roughly 130 miles south of Seoul, Eighth Army spokesman Lt. Col. Neil Penttila wrote in an email Wednesday to Stars and Stripes.

The troops “swiftly acted to deny its entry” and an investigation is ongoing, he said.

The site houses a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, also known as THAAD. The

United States deployed the anti-missile battery to South Korea in 2017 as a defense against threats from North Korea, U.S. Forces Korea said at the time.

A U.S. soldier at the site spotted the drone at 12:54 p.m. Tuesday, according to a Yonhap News report the next day that cited South Korean military officials. The U.S. military used a jamming system to intercept the drone, causing it to possibly crash, the officials reportedly said. A search for the drone was underway Wednesday but military officials do not believe it originated in North Korea, according to Yonhap’s report.

South Korea’s military is attuned to drone incursions after North Korea sent five of them into the country’s airspace on Dec. 26. The South scrambled fighter jets and deployed helicopters to north-

ern Seoul and the western coast, where the drones were spotted.

None of the drones were captured and at least one is believed to have returned to North Korea, the Ministry of National Defense said last month.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time apologized for failing to capture any of the drones and said it was difficult tracking them due to their small size.

The South Korean military also responded to reports Dec. 27 of a possible drone near Seongmo Island in the northeast. Incheon city issued an automated text alert, Yonhap reported on the same day, but hours later the South Korean military determined the object was a flock of birds.

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Okinawa survivors group calls on Japan to build peace as military presence grows

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — A group of survivors of World War II combat on Okinawa issued a statement recently opposing Japan’s military buildup in the Nansei Islands to counter China’s increasing military presence in the South and East China seas.

Moto zen gakuto no kai, or “group of all the ex-students who participated in the war,” expressed fears that Okinawa may again be drawn into war as Japan sites missile batteries and builds new bases throughout the Nansei chain, the group’s secretary, Seisaburo Miyagi, 94, told Stars and Stripes at his Naha home Wednesday. The Nansei chain includes Okinawa and stretches from Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan’s four main islands, to near Taiwan.

In 1945, students from 21 teachers’ schools, junior high schools and girls’ schools in Okinawa prefecture were ordered into wartime service, according to a report Tuesday in the Mainichi newspaper.

The survivors’ group called on Japan to “directly talk with neighboring countries and regions and strive to build peace with diplomacy while emphasizing the war-renouncing Constitution of Japan, based on remorse and lessons learned from its war of aggression,” according to the Jan. 12 statement.

The group said Japan’s military buildup is raising tensions in the region and resembles the run-up to World War II, according to the statement.

The 82-day Battle of Okinawa began on April 1, 1945. More than 14,000 Americans, about 110,000 Japanese troops and at least 140,000 Okinawan civilians were killed during or after the fighting.

Moto zen gakuto no kai was founded in 2018 by the remaining members of Japan’s former student corps, who were compelled to support military operations and nurse wounded soldiers in the war’s waning days, Miyagi said. Nearly 2,000 of them died in the fighting.

Its members have worked to educate others about the costs of war, the statement said.

A students’ memorial was erected in March 2017 at



KEISHI KOJA/Stars and Stripes

A memorial to students killed in the Battle of Okinawa was erected at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park in Itoman city in March 2017.

Okinawa Peace Memorial Park in Itoman city, Miyagi said. He said the group has 24 board members, but he did not know how many survivors are left in the group.

The Chinese military presence is increasing in the seas east of the island chain and around Taiwan with naval drills, overflights and transits of key, narrow straits that give way to the Pacific Ocean.

In response, Japan has deployed troops to Yonaguni Island, about 70 miles off Taiwan’s eastern coast, Miyako Island and two spots on Amami Oshima.

Bases are being built on Ishigaki Island, roughly 150 miles east of Taiwan, and on Mageshima, 20 miles south of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan’s four main islands.

Japan’s Ministry of Defense has also announced plans to place a surface-to-air missile unit on Yonaguni, joining Amami Oshima, Miyako and Ishigaki as sites for surface-to-air missile defense. The Ishigaki battery may be operational by April 1.

Tokyo approved a record defense budget last month of about \$51.4 billion for fiscal year 2023 that emphasized counterstrike capabilities and strengthened standoff air and missile defense.

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JEREMY STILLWAGNER/Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Army UH-60L Black Hawk flies over Tokyo Bay near Yokohama, Japan, on Tuesday.

First Flight over Tokyo Bay returns in full for 1st time since pandemic

By JEREMY STILLWAGNER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — An aerial armada of helicopters and tilt-rotor aircraft from the U.S. Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force took its 42nd annual lap around Tokyo Bay on Tuesday, a tradition called First Flight.

About two dozen aircraft left Camp Zama, headquarters of U.S. Army Japan, and Japan’s Camp Kisarazu around 2:15 p.m., flew in formation over Kanagawa prefecture, including the cities of Yokohama and Kawasaki, crossed to the east side of Tokyo Bay and returned home by 3:45 p.m.

The commander of U.S. Army Japan, Maj. Gen. Joel Vowell, took in the view from one of two Army UH-60L Black Hawks. The Ground Self-Defense Force sent most of the aircraft, including MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotors and long-body CH-47 Chinook helicopters, and led the way.

“This is a symbol of starting the new year for two reasons,” Vowell told Stars and Stripes after the flight. “It’s a symbol of good luck working together, and just like the first jump for the paratroopers, it wishes a safe start to the new year.”

The annual flight, which began in 1981, also provides practice for soldiers working through a language barrier to coordinate flights involving aircraft from both countries, said Lt. Col. Courtney Kiluk, commander of U.S. Army Aviation Battalion Japan.

“Making these partnerships, these relationships, with our Japanese counterparts is one of the best experiences you’re going to get in the Army,” she said after the flight. “I don’t think there’s a better aviation experience in the Army than U.S. Army Japan.”

The flight was the first in three years in which aircraft numbers were not limited by COVID-19. The pandemic put a damper on

many joint exercises by the Army and its Japanese counterparts, Vowell said.

“Last year when we did this, it was very constrained,” he said. “There was no face to face and so there were some video calls and telephone calls, and it was harder to do the coordination up front.”

As coronavirus restrictions eased, coordinating exercises with the Japanese armed forces became easier, Vowell said.

“It’s caused us to be less interoperable,” he said.

The military often uses the word “interoperability” to describe the ability of a country’s armed forces to use another country’s training methods and military equipment.

“I’m proud that we’ve mostly moved past that and we’re getting back to that normalcy that we need to be able to understand how we can support missions, fight and train together,” Vowell said.

Meeting mission requirements has also become easier as the pandemic restrictions recede, he said.

“This battalion is punching way above their weight,” Vowell said. “The missions they support throughout the year extend beyond just Japan. They fly missions to Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia, so the aviation unit does a lot more than just support and stay interoperable with Japan.” The aviation battalion flies missions throughout the Pacific in helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

“Our reach is unbelievable, but it’s because these guys work so hard every single day,” Kiluk said. “The Army will teach you how to be a pilot or a crew chief and those are skills that you can take beyond your Army career, but there’s no other place like this.”

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MILITARY

Burden: Army operations take up most of budget

FROM PAGE 1

levels, readiness, the Army budget and modernization.”

The burden on Army forces has resulted in a budget that skews heavily toward supporting operations — about \$139 billion for 2023. That absorbs about 80% of Army spending, which means less is available to upgrade and modernize weaponry for future fights, the report says.

The gap between the Army's operational burden and its comparatively smaller budgetary share hasn't been as large since 1964, just before major U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, the report says.

“And the challenge is worse than these data suggest,” wrote Whitely, saying overall buying power is declining while demand is increasing.

The report contends that some of the imbalance is connected to a view in Washington that ground forces will play a smaller role in future warfare, which will slant more toward space, cyber and missile-centric combat that is predominantly focused on air, space and seas.

That view isn't new. It aligns with predictions from various policymakers and strategists stretching back a century as each war experienced the effects of technological advances.

“In this view, investing enough in this new technology will allow us to win the next war without the agony of ground combat, and it provides a simple budget strategy:



HEDIL HERNANDEZ/U.S. Army National Guard

U.S. soldiers assigned to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, dismount a Bradley Fighting Vehicle during an exercise at Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland, on July 6. A report released this month by the Association of the U.S. Army says that funding isn't keeping up with the Army's operational burden.

cut the Army to fund technology investments for the rest of DoD,” the report said.

But if attempts to predict what the next war will look like are fraught and usually wrong, at least one thing has been consistent: the outsized demand for ground forces, according to the report.

“Over the past 80 years, when the United States has gone to war,

the Army has played the predominant role in combat,” Whitely wrote.

From World War II through Korea, Vietnam and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army provided about 60% of the deployments and averaged about 70% of wartime fatalities, the report states.

The Russian war in Ukraine re-

inforces the central role land forces have when it comes to controlling territory.

However, the White House's 2023 budget submission, in relative terms, “shrinks the Army to its smallest funded level since 1940,” a situation exacerbated by a significant recruiting crisis, the report says.

Whitely recommends Congress

prioritize Army modernization efforts, increase soldier end-strength as recruiting rebounds and ensure funding accounts for the relevancy of land forces in future contingencies, including planning for potential conflict with China in Taiwan.

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Scanners: Marine Corps finds tape test is not always accurate, wants accountability

FROM PAGE 1

Gen. David Berger, commandant of the Marine Corps, said the study was a “milestone in understanding the health and performance” of Marines.

“Ultimately, this is about war-fighting. We need to find the most practical, accurate and unbiased method of measuring body composition to maintain a healthy, ready force,” he said in a statement.

The Defense Department last year updated its policy on body composition standards, giving each service more freedom to tailor weight and body fat requirements to its troops and mission.

While the Marine Corps is the first to use technology beyond a tape measure, the Army, Navy and Air Force also made changes.

The Army, too, allows soldiers with high enough fitness test scores to be exempt from weight standards.

The Air Force announced this month a new body composition program that is not part of the service's fitness test. The new program uses an airman's waist-to-height ratio to measure for excess body fat. The change also applies to the Space Force and assessments begin in April.

The Navy hasn't made any major changes to its physical fitness and weight standards in recent years, except reducing the number of assessments required of sailors each year from two to one.

The Marines' study found the tape test is only about 92% accurate, so the new body scans are to add a new layer of verification, said Col. Eric Quehl, director of the policy and standards division at the Marine Corps Training and Education Command.

“You've got that 8% of Marines, and it varies whether it's male or female, who are either underestimated or overestimated. The tape is still good for most Marines, but

not everyone,” he said. “We need to hold people accountable. These BIA machines, I think, give everyone much more confidence that the institution is looking at advanced methods and technology to ensure that we are being as fair as possible.”

For the last two years, about 1% of Marines failed the services weight requirements and ended up in the program meant to get them back into regulation.

Following the announcement in August, the command began determining where to send the new machines, which are about the size of a regular scale, and then creating training materials so that units knew how to operate them. The challenge was reaching Marines working outside of the large installations, such as recruiters or those in the Reserve.

The Marine Corps will continue to study body composition with Marines stationed on Okinawa, Japan, Quehl said. The idea is to



ALEXANDER DEVEREUX/U.S. Marines

A Marine Corps recruit conducts pullups during the Physical Fitness Test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on Jan. 9.

try one day to move away from height and weight tables to focus only on the ideal balance of body fat and lean muscle.

“What is that ideal [amount of] body fat and how that's tied to performance? Not just the fitness test, but combat performance,” he said.

The continued research will also aim to identify unhealthy be-

haviors, such as lack of sleep and poor nutrition, Quehl said.

Meanwhile, Training Command will monitor the new policy with the body scanners to determine how the rollout is going and if leaders should make adjustments.

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MILITARY

DODEA survey asks for school evaluations

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Parents and students at Defense Department schools have the opportunity to share their opinions on the quality of education, areas needing improvement and other topics in an online, worldwide survey.

The Stakeholder Feedback Survey was launched Tuesday for parents and sponsors of children enrolled in DOD schools from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, the Department of Defense Education Activity announced this week. It will be available through Feb. 4.

Students in grades 4 to 12, school-level educators and support staff, both full- and part-time but excluding substitutes, will be surveyed in the coming weeks, DODEA officials said.

Feedback from the questionnaire “provides us with valuable information to direct our efforts at continuous improvement,” Thomas Brady, DODEA director, said in a statement.

The anonymous survey is voluntary and takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Topics include academic instruction; school psychological support services; whether parents feel welcomed and their children

feel cared for at their school; customer satisfaction; and diversity.

Most of the survey is multiple choice format. Some areas allow for a written response, such as whether one’s child has experienced bias or discrimination at school.

Parents are given the options of ‘A’ or ‘B’ when asked what grade they would give their child’s school.

Separate spaces are included for messages to school staff, district leadership and DODEA leadership.

The results will be available later this year on DODEA’s website, the agency said.

Carolyn Pickering, a parent with two students at DOD schools on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, said it’s important for parents to take the survey, particularly given the size of DODEA and the largely transient community it serves.

“Without feedback ... DODEA doesn’t know what grades they are earning and where to improve their organizational performance,” she said.

Pickering advised other parents to not only “think about today” but “about the registration process, how you were welcomed, how the transition went, how your ongoing interactions with the school are,

your child (or children’s) teachers, the curriculum, and everything and anything else.”

Respondents will receive a link to complete a survey using their DODEA Student Information System email address. Parents also can access the survey link at: <https://www.dodea.edu/datacenter/2023-sfs.cfm>.

Those with more than one child in school may fill out more than one survey.

The last survey seeking feedback from DODEA stakeholders was in 2021.

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Twitter: @stripesktown



SASHA AMBROSE/U.S. Navy

Michael Vallely, left, and Daniel Wondering shave titanium grommets on the engine bay door of an F/A-18E Super Hornet aircraft attached to Strike Fighter Squadron 136, aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush in the Adriatic Sea, on Dec. 16.

Navy completes ‘first-of-its-kind’ repairs at sea to Super Hornet

Stars and Stripes

A Navy fighter jet seriously damaged by an engine fire during routine flight operations in the Mediterranean Sea should be back in service sooner than expected due to “first-of-its-kind” repairs at sea, according to the service.

Repairs to the F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group included sections of the plane’s exterior, a door, engine bay and other components damaged by a right-side engine fire in August, the Navy said in a statement on Saturday.

The replacements and repairs completed Jan. 9 mark an important milestone, according to the statement. It took 33 days to do the work once parts and repair crews were flown aboard.



CHANDLER LUDKE/U.S. Navy

An F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft lands Sunday on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Bush in the Adriatic Sea.

Normally, the plane would have been inoperable for the remainder of the deployment and repaired after returning home, the Navy said.

The in-flight fire occurred Aug. 31 with the pilot relying on a single engine to safely land the jet on the carrier, the Navy said.

The service didn’t say if it had

determined the cause of the fire or if there were any injuries. It also didn’t say Wednesday if the jet is back in service.

The George H.W. Bush deployed to the Mediterranean in August, relieving USS Harry S. Truman, which had been in the region since December 2021.

Jury mostly backs cops in soldier traffic stop suit

By BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — A federal jury in Virginia on Tuesday found mostly in favor of two police officers who were sued by a U.S. Army lieutenant after he was pepper sprayed, struck and handcuffed during a traffic stop.

Video of the 2020 incident in the small town of Windsor got millions of views after Caron Nazario filed the federal lawsuit, highlighting fears of mistreatment among Black drivers and raising questions about reasonable police conduct.

The jury in federal court in Richmond found former Windsor police officer Joe Gutierrez liable for assault and awarded Nazario \$2,685 in compensatory damages, according to attorneys on both sides of the case.

The jury also awarded Nazario \$1,000 in punitive damages after Windsor police officer Daniel Crocker illegally searched Nazario’s SUV, the attorneys said. A federal judge already ruled last



WINDSOR (VA.) POLICE/AP

Lt. Caron Nazario is helped by an EMT after he was pepper-sprayed by Windsor police during a traffic stop in 2020.

year that Crocker was liable for the search.

The jury found in favor of Crocker and against Nazario’s claims of assault and battery and false imprisonment, the attorneys said. The jury found in favor of Gutierrez regarding the soldier’s claims of battery, false imprisonment and illegal search.

Navy training craft crashes in Ala., two pilots injured

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Two Navy pilots were treated for possible injuries Tuesday after ejecting from a training aircraft that crashed in southeastern Alabama.

The pilots ejected from a T-6B Texan II, a fixed-wing training aircraft, at about 10:50 a.m. The aircraft was assigned to Training Air Wing 5 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Fla., and crashed near Barin Naval Outlying Field near the town of Foley, Ala., according to Julie Ziegenhorn, spokeswoman for Whiting Field.

The two locations are about 60 miles apart.

Medical personnel were treating the pilots to assess potential injuries, she said. No other injuries were reported.

The cause of the incident is under investigation, Ziegenhorn said.

NAS Whiting Field has 10 active training fields with three separate and fully operational airfields, according to the base. It provides about 60% of all primary flight training for the Navy and all initial helicopter training for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

EUROPE

Helicopter crash kills Ukrainian officials

At least 14 people dead as aircraft slams into kindergarten near Kyiv

By MALAK HARB
Associated Press

BROVARY, Ukraine — A helicopter flying in the fog crashed Wednesday into a kindergarten in a residential suburb of the capital, Kyiv, killing Ukraine's interior minister and about a dozen other people, including a child on the ground, authorities said.

Interior Minister Denys Monastyrskyi, who oversaw the country's police and emergency services, is the most senior official killed since Russia invaded nearly 11 months ago. His death, along with two others from his ministry, was the second major calamity in four days to befall Ukraine, after a Russian missile struck an apartment building in the southeastern city of Dnipro, killing dozens of civilians.

There was no immediate word on whether the helicopter crash, which occurred on a foggy morning in Kyiv's eastern suburb of Brovary, was an accident or related to the war, but Ukrainian authorities immediately opened an investigation. No fighting has been reported recently in the capital region.

Ukraine's State Emergency Service said at least 14 people were killed, including nine aboard the helicopter, and a child on the ground. It said 25 people were injured, including 11 children. Early official reports gave differing numbers of casualties.

Kyiv regional Gov. Oleksii Kuleba told Ukrainian television that emergency services were still identifying remains and that the death toll could rise.

The Ukraine National Police

said the crash killed five Interior Ministry officials, one national police official and three crew members on the helicopter.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the crash as "a terrible tragedy" on a "black morning."

"The pain is unspeakable," he wrote on Telegram.

British Home Secretary Suella Braverman called the 42-year-old Monastyrskyi "a leading light in supporting the Ukrainian people during (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's illegal invasion." She said she was "struck by his determination, optimism and patriotism."

Monastyrskyi was in charge of police and emergency services that dealt with the consequences of Russian strikes and de-mining, political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko said.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Ihor Klymenko, the national police chief, has been appointed acting interior minister.

Monastyrskyi's deputy Yevhen Yenin and State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Yurii Lubkovich were among those killed, according to the National Police.

Senior Ukrainian officials routinely travel by helicopter at low altitudes and high speed during the conflict, increasing the inherent dangers associated with the flights. The tragedy may prompt Kyiv to institute a rule many countries and companies follow stating that top officials shouldn't fly on the same aircraft, Fesenko said.

The officials on the helicopter were due to visit Ukraine's north-



DANIEL COLE/AP

Workers pass the scene where a helicopter crashed in Brovary, Ukraine, on Wednesday.

eastern Kharkiv region, local police chief Volodymyr Tymoshko said, adding on Facebook that they were "not just leaders," but "friends who I respected."

At the crash scene, at least four bodies were covered by reflective sheets. Officials cleared charred, mangled wreckage lying against an apartment building and in a playground. Some walls were partly demolished and blackened.

A spokesperson for Ukraine's air force, Yurii Ihnat, told a television channel the helicopter was a French-manufactured Super Puma.

A French defense official said the helicopter was sold to Ukraine in 2019. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be identified, accord-

ing to ministry policy.

The Security Service of Ukraine is investigating, prosecutor general Andriy Kostin said. "For now, we are considering all possible versions of the helicopter crash accident," he said on Telegram.

The crash came at a particularly dark period in the war for Ukraine, just days after the Russian strike on the apartment building in southeastern Ukraine killed 45 people, including six children — the deadliest attack on civilians since the spring.

"Haven't had time to recover from one tragedy, there is already another one," said the deputy head of the Ukrainian presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko.

British Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak tweeted his condolences, adding that Ukrainians will continue to die as long as Putin "continues his needless war."

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who is facing pressure to send tanks to Ukraine, tweeted that the crash "shows once again the huge price that Ukraine is having to pay in this war."

Elsewhere in the country Wednesday, fighting continued around the city of Bakhmut and the nearby salt mining town of Solledar, according to Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko.

A total of 14 cities and villages were shelled in the partially occupied eastern Donetsk region in the previous 24 hours, Ukraine's presidential office said. Two civilians were wounded.

Putin: Actions in Ukraine aimed to end 'war' raging since 2014

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Moscow's action in Ukraine was intended to stop a "war" that has raged in eastern Ukraine for many years.

Speaking at a meeting with veterans, Putin said Moscow had long sought to negotiate a settlement to the conflict in Ukraine's Donbas, an eastern industrial region where Russia-backed separatists have battled Ukrainian forces since 2014.

"Large-scale combat operations involving heavy weapons, artillery, tanks and aircraft haven't stopped in Donbas since 2014," Putin said. "All that we are doing today as part of the special military operation is an attempt to stop this war. This is the meaning of our operation — pro-

tecting people who live on those territories."

Putin insisted again that Russia tried to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the separatist conflict before sending in troops, and said "we were just duped and cheated."

He described Ukraine's east as Russia's "historic territories," adding that Moscow conceded their loss after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union but had to act to protect Russian speakers there.

Putin has explained his decision to send troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 by citing a need to protect Russian speakers, as well as to pursue the "demilitarization" and "denazification" of Ukraine to prevent the neighboring country from posing a threat to Russia. Ukraine and its Western allies have rejected the ra-

tionale as a cover for an unprovoked act of aggression.

Putin attended the meeting with veterans during a visit to St. Petersburg for the 80th anniversary of the Red Army breaking the Nazi siege there on Jan. 18, 1943.

The blockade of the city, which was then called Leningrad, lasted nearly 900 days and was only fully lifted in January 1944, marking one of the bloodiest pages of World War II. About 1 million people died in Leningrad during the siege, most of them from starvation.

Putin on Wednesday laid a wreath at the city's Piskaryov memorial cemetery, where 420,000 civilian victims of the siege and 70,000 Soviet soldiers were buried. He also put flowers in a section where his brother, who died as a child during

the siege, was buried in a mass grave.

Putin said once that his mother was declared dead and was about to be taken for burial when his father, who had just come home on a visit from the frontlines, managed to ward off a funeral team at the last moment and helped her recover.

Putin's father, who was badly wounded in fighting for Leningrad, died in 1999 at age 88, and his mother died the previous year at 86.

Putin on Wednesday also visited a defense factory in St. Petersburg, where he promised workers more social benefits and draft deferments. He said the "courage and heroism of our soldiers" and defense industry efforts would secure Russia's victory.

Speaking energetically but fre-

quently clearing his throat, Putin said Russia produces three times as many air defense missiles as the United States.

Also Wednesday, Russia's diplomat said the nation will achieve its objectives in Ukraine despite a "hybrid war" waged by the West against Moscow.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the goals of Moscow's "special military operation" in Ukraine are "determined by Russia's core legitimate interests" and will be fulfilled.

"There must be no military infrastructure in Ukraine that poses a direct threat to our country," Lavrov said, adding that Moscow also intends to make sure the rights of ethnic Russians in Ukraine were protected.

EUROPE



IAN VEGA-CEREZO/U.S. Army

The U.S. is training roughly 100 Ukrainian troops at Fort Sill, Okla., on the Patriot missile system.

DOD: Ukrainians at Fort Sill to train on Patriot missile system

By DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Roughly 100 Ukrainian troops have arrived in the United States to begin training on how to operate and maintain the Patriot missile system to help Ukraine fight off Russian aerial attacks, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the top Pentagon spokesman, said last week that it was decided the Ukrainian troops would train at the Army's Fort Sill in Oklahoma, which is where American service members also train to use the Patriot system.

"Those troops have arrived at Fort Sill and have begun their training," Ryder told reporters Tuesday at the Pentagon. "That training will last for several months."

Fort Sill is about 80 miles southwest of Oklahoma City near the town of Lawton. Built in 1869, the base is home to the Army's Air Defense Artillery School and Field Artillery School.

The Pentagon said last month that it was sending one Patriot battery to Ukraine to help repel Rus-

sian aerial attacks, some of which have targeted civilian infrastructure. Germany has promised to send one of their Patriot systems and the Netherlands said it will "join" the efforts.

Ryder said 100 troops are needed to operate the missile system, and there are presently no plans to bring a second group of Ukrainian troops to Fort Sill to train on the Patriot system. He said German military officials will train the Ukrainians on how to use its Patriot battery.

U.S. personnel have already been training Ukrainian troops in Germany to handle other military equipment, and the Pentagon previously promised to create the Security Assistance Group Ukraine in Germany to handle weapons shipments and personnel training for the Ukrainian military. The Pentagon began expanding the training there this week to include Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Defense Department officials have said the Patriot system will give Ukraine "critical long-range capability to defend its airspace." The surface-to-air missile system was added to the U.S. arsenal in

the 1980s and is available in several variants. The Patriot is the primary missile system used by the Army, and various versions have been sold to other countries including Germany, Poland and Israel.

The Pentagon's announcement Tuesday came on the same day that Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met for the first time with his Ukrainian counterpart in southeastern Poland near its border with Ukraine.

Army Col. Dave Butler, a spokesman for Milley, said the general met with Ukrainian Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi at an undisclosed Polish base, and both felt that it was important to meet face to face.

Milley and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin will travel to Germany this week to participate in a meeting of the Ukraine Contact Group — a collection of defense officials from about 50 nations that work to assess what Ukraine needs to defend itself from Russian forces.

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NATO prodded to be prepared for 'long haul'

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Russia is preparing for an extended war so NATO must get ready "for the long haul" and support Ukraine for as long as it takes, the alliance's deputy secretary general told military chiefs from across Europe on Wednesday.

Speaking at the opening of the military chiefs' meeting in Brussels, Mircea Geoana said NATO nations must invest more in defense, ramp up military industrial manufacturing and harness new technologies to prepare for future wars.

As Russia's war on Ukraine nears the one-year mark, NATO chiefs are expected to discuss how allies can expand the delivery of weapons, training and support to Ukraine in the coming months, and how they can further shore up their own defenses.

"We have no indication that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's goals have changed," said Geoana, noting that Russia has mobilized more than 200,000 additional troops. "So we must be prepared for the long haul. 2023 will be a difficult year and we need to support Ukraine for as long as it takes."

Separately on Wednesday, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Ukraine's Western backers will gather this week to discuss ways to supply heavier and more advanced weapons to help the war-ravaged country in its fight against Russia.

The so-called Ukraine Contact Group will meet at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Thursday and Friday. It consists of about 50 top defense officials, including U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who work to coordinate military contributions to Ukraine.

"The main message there will be: more support, more advanced support, heavier weapons and more modern weapons," Stoltenberg said Wednesday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "This is a fight for our values, this is a fight for democracy, and we just have to prove that democracy wins over tyranny and oppression."

U.S. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met quietly on Tuesday with Ukraine's chief military officer, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, at an undisclosed location in southeastern Poland, near the Ukrainian border. And he is expected to relay Zaluzhnyi's concerns to the other military leaders at the meeting.

Army Col. Dave Butler, Milley's spokesman, said the chairman planned to describe to the NATO chiefs "the tactical and operational conditions on the battlefield and what the military needs are for that."

Adm. Rob Bauer, the chair of the NATO Military Committee, told the gathering of chiefs on Wednesday that the alliance must continue to transform to meet future fights.

"The war has also shown us that you have to be able to fight tomorrow's battles, as well as yesterday's battles, today," said Bauer, who is with the Royal Netherlands Navy. "Modern warfare is just as much about bits and bots as it is about mud and blood."

He noted that about a year ago, the NATO Russia Council held its last meeting.

"Back then we were still able to sit around the same table," he said, adding that now, after Russia's brutal invasion and war in Ukraine, "the world is a different place."

Netherlands says it will send Patriot assistance to Ukraine

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Tuesday that his country plans to "join" the U.S. and Germany's efforts to train and arm Ukraine with advanced Patriot defense systems.

Rutte signaled the Netherlands' intentions at the start of a White House meeting with President Joe Biden. The Dutch defense minis-

try said that Rutte's announcement came after Ukraine had asked the Netherlands to provide "Patriot capacity."

"We have the intention to join what you are doing with Germany on the Patriot project," Rutte told Biden. "I think that it's important we join that."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly address that the Netherlands had

agreed to send Ukraine a Patriot battery. "So, there are now three guaranteed batteries. But this is only the beginning. We are working on new solutions to strengthen our air defense," Zelenskyy said.

Rutte, who said he also spoke with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday about the potential assistance, was more vague about the commitment in his public comments. He told Dutch

broadcaster NOS that his government is in talks about what exactly it can contribute. The Dutch military has four Patriot systems, one of which is not in service, according to the defense ministry.

"The idea is not only training, but also equipment," Rutte told NOS. He added that the Dutch military is now reviewing "what exactly we have, how can we ensure that it works well with the

American and German systems."

He added during a forum at Georgetown University that the decision was a recognition that "we all have to do more" as Ukraine enters a critical phase in the war.

The Patriot is the most advanced surface-to-air missile system the West has provided to Ukraine to help repel Russian aerial attacks.

NATION

Wrecked houses, roads paint Calif. scene after storms

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Key roads remained closed and officials estimated thousands of homes were seriously damaged in California as weeks of wild weather that flooded roads, collapsed hillsides and toppled countless trees finally became calm Tuesday.

Tallying the damage will take time, but the number of houses and other structures that will be red-tagged as uninhabitable could be in the “low thousands,” said Brian Ferguson, spokesperson for the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

The damage is spread across 41 of California’s 58 counties, Ferguson said.

In unincorporated Santa Barbara County, after more than 60 inspections at properties that sustained damage from mudslides and downed trees, four homes were red-tagged and 32 were yellow-tagged as needing extensive repairs, said Kelsey Buttitta, the county’s communications manager.

“Also we’re seeing a lot — a lot — of damage when it comes to roads,” she said, estimating that more than a dozen are fully closed.

“Some roads are completely washed away.”

There is no estimated reopening date for State Route 154, a key north-south artery in the county that is inundated with mud and rocks, Buttitta said.

Nine atmospheric rivers since late December caused power outages, flooding, levee breaks, washouts and landslides nearly statewide. At least 20 people were killed.

Light rain and snow showers lingered Tuesday in some areas across California, but the skies were finally largely clear.

A shot of precipitation from a quick system was predicted for Wednesday or Thursday, followed by a dry period, the National Weather Service said.

Forecasters cautioned that although the midweek rainfall will be light, it could be enough to cause problems because the state is so saturated.

Flood warnings remained in effect for the Salinas River in Monterey County and parts of Mariposa and Merced counties in the Central Valley.

Officials in Ventura County said it could take up to three weeks to



JESSICA CHRISTIAN/AP

Barricades block off a crumbling section of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, Calif., on Tuesday after weeks of strong storms that slammed the region, causing erosion, flooding and major damage to homes and roads.

clear the only road into the remote canyon community of Matilija in the Los Padres National Forest near Ojai.

Repairs could take six months. More than 70 residents were evacuated by helicopter, but a handful have refused to leave, according to the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office.

“Towering piles of rock and mud reach over 40 feet tall in some locations, blocking access to roadways and leaving residents isolated to the canyon,” the sheriff’s office said in a weekend statement.

To the north in Berkeley, eight homes were red-tagged after a sodden hillside collapse Monday,

sending mud onto properties, including one belonging to Marjorie Cruz. No injuries were reported.

“You can’t describe what it’s like to wake up in the morning and look outside your door and see this horror come through,” Cruz told NBC Bay Area. “We’ve had enough rain for now and a long time to come.”

The amount of rain and snow across the state has been staggering.

The San Francisco “water year” to date — since Oct. 1, 2022 — has recorded 21.75 inches of rain, making it the sixth-wettest water year on record, the National Weather Service said.

The amount of water in the snowpack covering the Sierra Nevada and other mountain ranges is more than 250% of normal to date and 124% of the April 1 average, when the pack is normally at its peak, according to the state Department of Water Resources.

President Joe Biden is planning to travel to California’s central coast on Thursday to visit areas that have been devastated by the extreme weather. The White House said in a statement Monday that the president would meet first responders and state and local officials, survey recovery efforts and assess what additional federal support is needed.

Attorney: Husband looked online for ways to dispose body

Associated Press

QUINCY, Mass. — The husband of a Massachusetts woman who has been missing since New Year’s Day went online to look up ways to dismember and dispose of a body, and clothes and other items belonging to the woman with her DNA were found at a trash processing facility, a prosecutor said at his arraignment Wednesday on murder and other charges.

Not guilty pleas were entered on behalf of Brian Walshe, 47, and he was held without bail in Quincy District Court. He did not speak except to tell the judge he understood the charges.

Walshe was already in custody and being held on \$500,000 bail after pleading not guilty to misleading investigators searching for Ana Walshe, whose body has not been found. His attorney, Tracy Miner, did not contest bail but in the past has said her client has cooperated with investigators.

The prosecutor also said in court that someone fitting Brian Walshe’s description was seen on surveillance video disposing of

what appeared to be heavy trash bags.

Ana Walshe, 39, was reportedly last seen leaving their home in the affluent coastal community of Cohasset south of Boston in the early morning hours of Jan. 1, purportedly to take a ride-hailing vehicle to Logan International Airport for a flight to Washington, authorities said. But police have found no indication that she either took a vehicle or boarded any flight out of Logan recently.

Authorities have searched the family’s home, a wooded area near the home, a trash processing facility in Peabody north of Boston, and a condo complex where Walshe’s mother lives.



Brian Walshe

She was reported missing Jan. 4 by her employer in Washington, where the couple has a home and to which she often commutes during the week for work at a real estate company, authorities said.

Authorities have searched the family’s home, a wooded area near the home, a trash processing facility in Peabody north of Boston, and a condo complex where Walshe’s mother lives.

Microsoft lays off 10,000 workers as tech world faces continued job cuts

Associated Press

Microsoft is cutting 10,000 workers, almost 5% of its workforce, in response to what it described as “macroeconomic conditions and changing customer priorities.”

The company said in a regulatory filing Wednesday that it had just notified employees of the layoffs, some of which will begin immediately.

The company said it will also be making changes to its hardware portfolio and consolidating its leased office locations.

The layoffs represent “less than 5 percent of our total employee base, with some notifications happening today,” CEO Satya Nadella said in an email to employees.

“While we are eliminating roles in some areas, we will continue to hire in key strategic areas,” Nadella said. He emphasized the importance of building a “new computer platform” using advances in artificial intelligence.

He said customers that were accelerating their spending on digi-

tal technology during the pandemic are now trying to “optimize their digital spend to do more with less.”

“We’re also seeing organizations in every industry and geography exercise caution as some parts of the world are in a recession and other parts are anticipating one,” Nadella wrote.

Other tech companies have also been trimming jobs amid concerns about an economic slowdown. Amazon and business software maker Salesforce earlier this month announced major job cuts as they prune payrolls that rapidly expanded during the pandemic lockdown.

Amazon said that it will be cutting about 18,000 positions. It’s the largest set of layoffs in the Seattle company’s history, although just a fraction of its 1.5 million global workforce.

Facebook parent Meta is laying off 11,000 people, about 13% of its workforce. And Elon Musk, the new Twitter CEO, has slashed the company’s workforce.

Nadella made no direct mention of the layoffs on Wednesday when he put in an appearance at the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting happening this week in Davos, Switzerland.

When asked by the forum’s founder Klaus Schwab on what tech layoffs meant for the industry’s business model, Nadella said companies that boomed during the COVID-19 pandemic are now seeing “normalization” of that demand.

“Quite frankly, we in the tech industry will also have to get efficient, right?” Nadella said. “It’s not about everyone else doing more with less. We will have to do more with less. So we will have to show our own productivity gains with our own sort of technology.”

Schwab also asked Nadella about employee loyalty to Microsoft. Nadella said workers “should think of Microsoft as a platform to be able to connect with our mission to achieve what’s core to them. I think that’s the social equation.”

NATION

Pricing slowdown raises hopes of inflation relief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wholesale prices in the United States rose 6.2% in December from a year earlier, a sixth straight monthly slowdown and a hopeful sign that inflation pressures will continue to cool.

The latest year-over-year figure was down from 7.3% in November and from a recent peak of 11.7% in March. On a monthly basis, the government said Wednesday that its producer price index, which measures costs before they reach consumers, dropped 0.5% from November to December.

The producer price data can provide an early sign of where consumer inflation might be

headed. The data reflects the prices that are charged by manufacturers, farmers and wholesalers, and it flows into an inflation gauge that the Federal Reserve closely tracks: The personal consumption expenditures price index.

Rising evidence has suggested that inflation across the economy is easing after having reached a four-decade peak last summer. At the consumer level, inflation also cooled in December for a sixth straight month to 6.5% compared with a year earlier, from 7.1% in November.

An acceleration in workers' wages has been slowing, too, which could further help control



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Wholesale prices of products like these auto parts at a car repair shop only rose 6.2% in December.

inflation. In December, average wage growth in the United States was up 4.6% from 12 months earlier, compared with a recent peak of 5.6% in March.

Over the past year, the Fed has rapidly raised its key interest rate

in an aggressive drive to cool borrowing and spending and tame inflation, which began surging more than a year and a half ago.

The Fed's rate hikes have, in turn, led to higher borrowing costs for consumers and business-

es. The average mortgage rate is still nearly twice its level a year ago, though it has dipped in recent weeks. Loan costs for auto purchases, credit cards and a range of business borrowing are up sharply, too.

Art professor sues after firing over Prophet Muhammad images

By MARGARET STAFFORD

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Attorneys for an adjunct art professor said Tuesday that she is suing the Minnesota university which dismissed her after a Muslim student objected to depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in a global art course, while the university admitted to a "misstep" and plans to hold public conversations about academic freedom.

In her lawsuit, Erika López Prater alleges that Hamline University — a small, private school in St. Paul — subjected her to religious discrimination and defamation, and damaged her professional and personal reputation.

"Among other things, Hamline, through its administration, has referred to Dr. López Prater's actions as 'undeniably Islamophobic,'" her attorneys said in a state-

ment. "Comments like these, which have now been published in news stories around the globe, will follow Dr. López Prater throughout her career, potentially resulting in her inability to obtain a tenure track position at any institution of higher education."

In Minnesota, a lawsuit can be started by serving a summons and a complaint to the party being sued. Attorneys for López Prater said the lawsuit was served to Hamline University on Tuesday and will soon be filed in court.

Hamline University President Fayneese Miller and Ellen Waters, the Board of Trustees chair, released a joint statement Tuesday saying that recent "communications, articles and opinion pieces" have led the school to "review and re-examine our actions."

"Like all organizations, sometimes we misstep," the statement

said. "In the interest of hearing from and supporting our Muslim students, language was used that does not reflect our sentiments on academic freedom. Based on all that we have learned, we have determined that our usage of the term 'Islamophobic' was therefore flawed."

The statement did not address the lawsuit, but said the university strongly supports academic freedom, which should co-exist with support for students. The university plans to hold two public conversations in coming months — one on academic freedom and student care, and another on academic freedom and religion.

Last October, López Prater showed the 14th-century painting depicting the Prophet Muhammad in a lesson on Islamic art. For many Muslims, visual depictions

of the Prophet Muhammad violate their faith, which López Prater knew.

According to the lawsuit, López Prater's course syllabus included a note that students would view images of religious figures, including the Prophet Muhammad. The syllabus also included an offer to work with students uncomfortable with viewing those images.

She also warned the class immediately before showing the depiction of the Prophet Muhammad. She said in media interviews last week that her goal was to teach students about the "rich diversity" of attitudes toward such imagery.

López Prater has said she and the department chair were discussing her teaching a new course, but after the student's complaint she was told "her ser-

VICES were no longer needed."

The lawsuit alleges that instead of Hamline recognizing that López Prater showed the images with a proper academic purpose, the university chose to impose the student's religious view that no one should ever view images of the prophet on all other students and employees.

At a news conference last week organized by supporters of López Prater's firing, the student who filed the complaint said she had never seen a depiction of the Prophet Muhammad until the October class.

"It just breaks my heart that I have to stand here to tell people that something is Islamophobic and something actually hurts all of us, not only me," said Aram Wedatalla, president of Hamline's Muslim Student Association.

Federal government to investigate nursing home abuse of antipsychotics

By AMANDA SEITZ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government said it will begin a targeted crackdown on nursing homes' abuse of antipsychotic drugs and misdiagnoses of schizophrenia in patients.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is launching investigations this month into select nursing homes, aimed at verifying whether patients have been properly diagnosed with the psychiatric disorder.

Evidence has mounted over

decades that some facilities wrongly diagnose residents with schizophrenia or administer antipsychotic drugs to sedate them, despite dangerous side effects that could include death, according to the agency.

"No nursing home resident should be improperly diagnosed with schizophrenia or given an inappropriate antipsychotic," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement Wednesday. "The steps we are taking today will help prevent these errors and give families

peace of mind."

Some facilities may be dodging increased scrutiny around gratuitous use of antipsychotic medications by coding residents as having schizophrenia, even when they do not show signs of the extremely rare disorder, a government report last year found. Less than 1% of the population is believed to have schizophrenia, which is marked by delusions, hallucinations and disordered thinking.

In 2012, the federal government began tracking when nursing

homes use antipsychotics on residents — doing so can impact the facility's quality rating in a public database — but only for those who have not been diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Antipsychotics for those nursing home residents has dropped to under 20% in recent years, according to federal data.

A November report from the HHS Office of the Inspector General, however, revealed that the number of residents reported as having schizophrenia without a corresponding diagnosis skyrocket-

eted between 2015 and 2019, with 99 nursing homes in the country reporting that 20% or more of their residents have the disorder.

"The number of unsupported schizophrenia diagnoses increased and in 2019 was concentrated in relatively few nursing homes," the report concluded.

CMS will start targeted audits to ask nursing homes for documentation of the diagnoses in the coming days, focusing on nursing homes with existing residents who have been recorded as having schizophrenia.

NATION

US will not seek death penalty in Walmart shooting

By JAKE BLEIBERG
AND MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

Federal prosecutors will not seek the death penalty for a man accused of fatally shooting nearly two dozen people in a racist attack at a West Texas Walmart in 2019.

The U.S. Department of Justice disclosed the decision not to pursue capital punishment against Patrick Crusius in a one-sentence notice filed Tuesday with the federal court in El Paso.

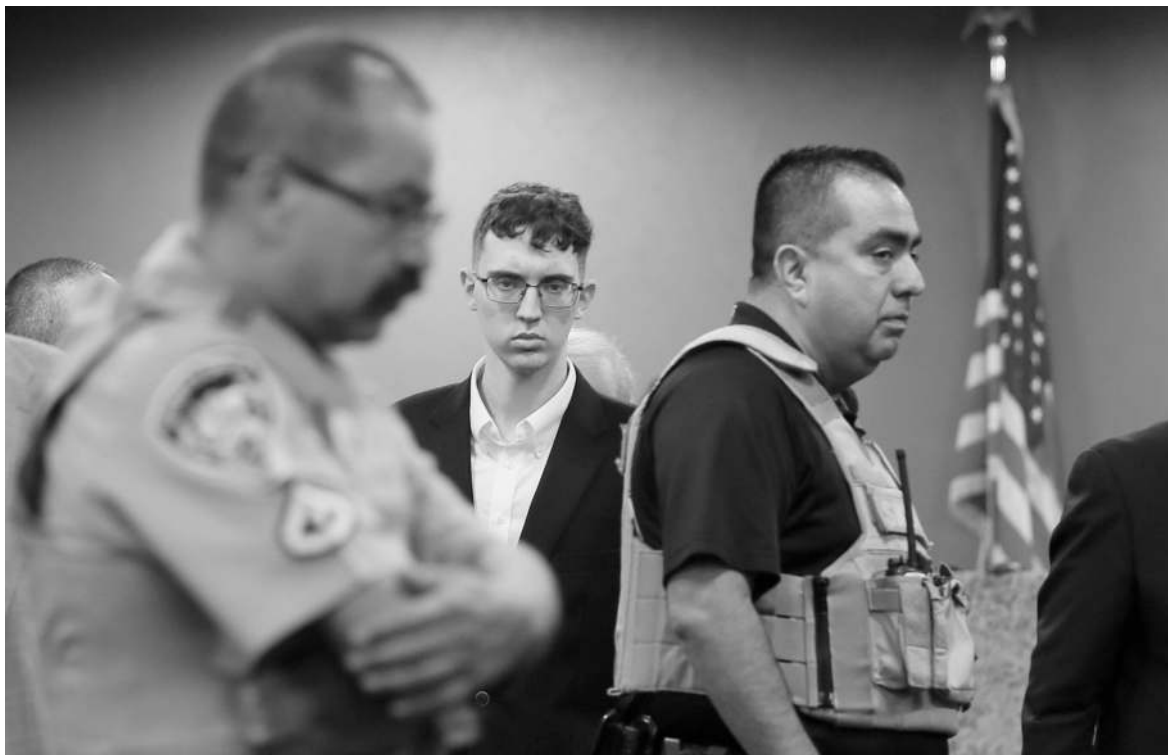
Crusius, 24, is accused of targeting Mexicans during the Aug. 3 massacre that killed 23 people and left dozens wounded. The Dallas-area native is charged with federal hate crimes and firearms violations, as well as capital murder in state court. He has pleaded not guilty.

Federal prosecutors did not explain in their court filing the rea-

son for their decision, though Crusius still could face the death penalty if convicted in state court.

The prosecutors' decision could be a defining moment for the Justice Department, which has sent mixed signals on policies regarding the federal death penalty that President Joe Biden pledged to abolish during his presidential campaign. Biden is the first president to openly oppose the death penalty and his election raised the hopes of abolition advocates, who have since been frustrated by a lack of clarity on how the administration might end federal executions or whether that's the objective.

The decision comes weeks after Jaime Esparza, the former district attorney in El Paso, took over as U.S. attorney for West Texas. Esparza said when he was district attorney that he would pursue the death penalty in Cru-



BRIANA SANCHEZ, EL PASO (TEXAS) TIMES/AP

El Paso Walmart shooting suspect Patrick Crusius, center, pleads not guilty during his arraignment on Oct. 10, 2019, in El Paso, Texas.

sus' case. A spokesman for Esparza's office referred questions to the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., where another spokesman declined to comment.

Crusius surrendered to police after the attack, saying, "I'm the shooter," and that he was targeting Mexicans, according to an arrest warrant. Prosecutors have

said he published a screed online shortly before the shooting that said it was "in response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas."

Lawyers for Crusius did not immediately respond to requests for comment. His case is set for trial in federal court in January 2024.

Although the federal and state cases have progressed along par-

allel tracks, it is now unclear when Crusius might face trial on state charges.

The district attorney who had been leading the state case, Yvonne Rosales, resigned in November over accusations of incompetence involving hundreds of cases in El Paso and slowing down the case against Crusius.

Shooter stood over mom and baby, killed both

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A shooter stood over a 16-year-old mother clutching her 10-month-old baby and pumped bullets into their heads in a brazen attack in a central California farming community that left six dead at a home linked to drugs and guns, a sheriff said Tuesday.

Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux said the teenager was fleeing the violence early Monday when the killers caught up to her outside the home in Goshen, a central California community of about 3,000 residents in the agricultural San Joaquin Valley, and shot the young mother and her child "assassination-style."

The other four victims ranged from 19 to 72 years old, including a grandmother who was shot as she slept. Their autopsies are expected to be completed later in the week.

Authorities said they were searching for two suspects and offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to their arrests.

"None of this was by accident," Boudreaux said during a news conference Tuesday. "It was deliberate, intentional and horrific."

Boudreaux walked back his earlier comments to reporters that the attack was likely a cartel hit, saying that investigators are also looking into whether it was gang violence.

"I am not eliminating that possibility," the sheriff said. "These people were clearly shot in the head and they were also shot in places where the shooter would know that a quick death would occur ... This is also similar to high-ranking gang affiliation and the style of executions that they commit."



RON HOLMAN, THE TIMES-DELTA/AP

Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux speaks during a news conference Tuesday, in Visalia, Calif., about the victims from a shooting the day before that left six people dead in Goshen.

Law enforcement is familiar with the home, the sheriff said, citing gang activity there that "has routinely occurred in the past" without giving any specifics. He added that not everyone who was shot was a drug dealer or gang member — and said that among the victims believed to be innocent are the teen, her grandmother, and of course, the baby.

The sheriff's department on Tuesday identified the victims as: Rosa Parraz, 72; Eladio Parraz Jr., 52; Jennifer Analla, 49; Marcos Parraz, 19; Alissa Parraz, 16; and Nycholas Parraz, 10 months.

Boudreaux said "there was no reason" for the shooters to kill the young mother and her child.

"I know for a fact this 10-month-old baby was relying on the comfort of his mother. There was no reason for them to shoot that baby, but they did," he said.

Samuel Pina said Alissa was his granddaughter and the baby, Nycholas, was his great-grandson.

"I can't wrap my head around what kind of monster would do this," he told The Associated Press on Monday.

Utah man who killed family faced abuse investigation

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah man who police say fatally shot his wife, her mother and their five kids before turning the gun on himself had been investigated two years prior for child abuse, but local police and prosecutors decided not to criminally charge him, new records released Tuesday show.

Police records obtained by The Associated Press shed light on warning signs and a previous police investigation into a violent pattern of behavior Michael Haight exhibited toward his family.

Authorities said they were aware of previous problems in the home but didn't elaborate during a news conference following the Jan. 4 killings in the small town of Enoch, citing an ongoing investigation.

In a 2020 interview with authorities, Macie Haight, the family's eldest daughter, detailed multiple assaults, including one where she was choked by her father and "very afraid that he was going to keep her from breathing and kill her."

The child abuse investigation followed an Aug. 27, 2020, police call from a non-family member reporting potential child abuse. Macie, then 14, told investigators that her father's violence started in 2017 and had included choking and

shaking, including a recent incident where he grabbed her by the shoulders and banged her into a wooden piece along the back of the couch.

Two years later, police found eight bodies at the family's home, including Macie's. The murder-suicide rocked Enoch, an 8,000-person, southern Utah town on the outskirts of Cedar City where neighbors and members of the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints described the Hights as a loving family.

Police believe Haight, 42, carried out the shootings two weeks after his wife had filed for divorce and just days after her relatives say he took guns from the house that could have been used to stop him.

Enoch Police didn't respond Tuesday to a request for comment about why charges were not filed. The Iron County Attorney's office said in a statement Tuesday that their office had been called in 2020 and determined there was insufficient evidence to pursue charges against Haight.

"Although specifics are not articulated, this conclusion was likely based on an inability to prove each element of the offense(s) beyond reasonable doubt and/or statute of limitations barriers," the statement said.

SCIENCE

Scientists are moving species to save them

BY CHRISTINA LARSON
AND MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

In a desperate effort to save a seabird species in Hawaii from rising ocean waters, scientists are moving chicks to a new island hundreds of miles away.

Moving species to save them — once considered taboo — is quickly gaining traction as climate change upends habitats. Similar relocations are being suggested for birds, lizards, butterflies and even flowers.

Concerns persist that the novel practice could cause unintended harm the same way invasive plants and animals have wreaked havoc on native species.

But for the Tristram's storm petrels on northeastern Hawaii's Tern Island, which is just 6 feet above sea level, the relocation of about 40 chicks to artificial burrows more than 500 miles away on Oahu could offer new hope. The species is considered vulnerable to extinction, and the goal is for the young petrels return to their new home when old enough to breed.

"Tern Island is washing away," said biologist Eric VanderWerf of the nonprofit Pacific Rim Conservation. "Climate change is causing a greater need for this — for taking a species outside its known historical range."

A pending change to the U.S. Endangered Species Act by the Biden administration would make it easier to relocate some of the most imperiled species to places where they've not previously been recorded.

In response, state wildlife officials and scientists have suggested moving a portion of some species struggling with climate change, including Key deer of southern Florida, the Karner blue butterfly of the Midwest and Northeast, desert flowers in Nevada and California and the St. Croix ground lizard in the Virgin Is-

lands.

Republicans in western states — including Montana, New Mexico and Arizona — are against the proposal, saying it could wreak ecological havoc as "invasive species" get purposefully introduced.

The proposal, which federal officials expect to finalize in June, reflects a "fundamental shift in the way we think of species protection and conservation," said University of Notre Dame biologist Jason McLachlan.

The issue goes beyond endangered species, McLachlan said, and raises questions about what should be considered "native" now that shifting temperatures are pushing some species to higher elevations or toward the planet's poles.

Comparable temperature shifts in the past occurred over millennia, but the present one is happening over just decades and is drastically upending ecosystems. "Eventually we're going to have to start thinking about it in ways that will make people — including me — uncomfortable," he said. "To say this species is OK and this species is not OK, that's asking a lot of human beings."

To save storm petrels, VanderWerf said, scientists need to act before populations have crashed. "In 30 years, these birds will certainly be rare, if we don't do something about it," he said.

Relocation of species outside historical ranges is still a rarity, but U.S. wildlife officials have identified numerous threatened and endangered plants and animals already being affected by climate change: glacial stoneflies in Montana, emperor penguins in Antarctica, the Mt. Rainier ptarmigan, the saltmarsh sparrow of the Atlantic coast and numerous birds of Hawaii.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesperson Karen Armstrong said there are no current propos-



L. YOUNG, PACIFIC RIM CONSERVATION/AP

Wildlife workers relocate Tristram's storm petrels on Hawaii's Tern Island on March 29. Scientists are making a dramatic effort to save the birds in Hawaii by moving them to an island they never had inhabited.

als to establish new populations of those particular species. "In the future, some species' ranges may shift due to climate change, or their current habitats might become unsuitable due to invasive species encroachment," Armstrong said in an email. "We view experimental population establishment outside of their historical ranges as a potential tool for their management and conservation."

One plan now being considered by U.S. wildlife officials concerns birds native to Guam, where kingfishers were decimated by brown tree snakes accidentally brought to the island around 1950 on military cargo ships.

The last 29 wild Guam kingfishers were captured in the 1980s and have been bred in captivity to buy time. Under a pending proposal, nine kingfishers would be released back into the wild beginning this year on Palmyra Island, more than 3,600 miles away.

If a relocation is successful, the kingfishers would become one of the few species ever upgraded from "extinct in the wild" to "critically endangered."

The hope is that the Guam kingfisher, also known locally as sihek, will eventually be returned to their native island, if the tree snake is controlled, said Erica Royer, a bird expert at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, D.C.

"This kind of intensive management is necessary for us to have a reasonable shot at holding onto some species," said Don Lyons with National Audubon Society's Seabird Institute.



AMANDA BOYD, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE/AP

A wildlife worker holds a Tristram's storm petrel chick in April 2019 in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Hawaii.

Yet the potential danger — and scientific debate — lies in what humans can't predict. Humanity has been moving species around for centuries, often inadvertently and sometimes causing great harm.

Examples abound: Asian carp have spread through rivers and streams across the U.S. Starlings from Europe destroy crops and drive out songbirds. Zebra mussels from Eurasia decimate native populations. And kudzu vines from Japan planted to stabilize soils have spread to dozens of states where they choke out other plants.

Scientist Mark Schwartz at the University of California, Davis said he was initially skeptical of

moving species for conservation when biologists began discussing the idea about a decade ago. The rapid rate of extinctions more recently has him thinking that sitting idle could be a costly error.

"Many, many species" must be moved or could go extinct, said James Watson, a conservation scientist at the University of Queensland in Australia, where increasingly severe, climate-fueled wildfires have forced conversations on relocations. Unprecedented fires three years ago likely destroyed the last habitats of some endangered species, he said.

"We've already played Russian roulette with the climate, we're already on that ski run — we might as well take some more risks."



MIKE GROLL/AP

A Karner Blue butterfly sits on a leaf after it was released at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission in Albany, N.Y., in July 2015. State officials and scientists have suggested moving a portion of some species struggling with climate change like the Karner blue butterfly.

WORLD

US, Chinese officials meet to talk economy, prevent conflict

Associated Press

ZURICH — U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met on Wednesday with her Chinese counterpart and pledged an effort to manage differences and “prevent competition from becoming anything ever near conflict” as the two nations try to thaw relations.

Yellen’s first face-to-face meeting with Vice Premier Liu He in Zurich is the highest-ranking contact between the two countries since their presidents agreed last November during their first in-person meeting to look for areas of potential cooperation.

Liu said he was ready to work together to seek common ground between China and the U.S.

A U.S. Treasury readout of their meeting says the two agreed that the U.S. and China would cooperate more on issues around financing for battling climate change and would both work to support “developing countries in their

clean energy transitions.”

The meeting comes as the U.S. and Chinese economies grapple with differing but intertwined challenges on trade, technology and more.

Yellen, in opening remarks in front of reporters, told Liu: “While we have areas of disagreement, and we will convey them directly, we should not allow misunderstandings, particularly those stemming from a lack of communication, to unnecessarily worsen our bilateral economic and financial relationship.”

She said the two countries “have a responsibility to manage our differences and prevent competition from becoming anything even near conflict.”

Both economies have their challenges. The Chinese economy is reopening after a COVID-19 resurgence killed tens of thousands of people and shuttered countless businesses. The U.S. is slowly re-

covering from 40-year-high inflation and is on track to hit its statutory debt ceiling. The debt issue is of keen interest to Asia, as China is the second-largest holder of U.S. debt.

The World Bank reported last week that the global economy will come “perilously close” to a recession this year, led by weaker growth in all the world’s top economies.

“High on the list is debt restructuring,” said Josh Lipsky, senior director of the Atlantic Council’s GeoEconomics Center Lipsky of Wednesday’s talks. Several low-income countries are at risk of debt default in 2023 and many of them owe large sums to China.

“Leaders have been trying for two years to get some agreement and avoid a wave of defaults but there’s been little success and one reason is China’s hesitancy. I expect Yellen to press Liu He on this in the meeting,” Lipsky said.

UK nurses stage new walkout, no end in sight for strike wave

Associated Press

LONDON — Thousands of nurses in Britain walked out Wednesday in a new protest over pay, with no end in sight to a wave of strikes that has piled pressure on the U.K.’s overburdened public health system.

Two 12-hour strikes on Wednesday and Thursday affect about a quarter of hospitals and clinics in England. Emergency care and cancer treatment will continue, but appointments and procedures are likely to be postponed.

Nurses, ambulance crews, train drivers, airport baggage handlers, border staff, driving instructors, bus drivers and postal workers have all walked off their jobs in recent months to demand higher pay amid a cost-of-living crisis.

Inflation in the U.K. hit a 41-year high of 11.1% in October, driven by sharply rising energy and food costs, before easing slightly to 10.5% in December.

The nurses’ union has been seeking a pay raise of 5% above inflation, though it has said it will accept a lower offer. The Conserva-

tive government argues that double-digit public sector pay increases will drive inflation even higher.

“Unaffordable pay hikes will mean cutting patient care and stoking the inflation that would make us all poorer,” Health Secretary Steve Barclay said.

The government has also angered unions by introducing a bill that will make it harder for key workers to strike by setting “minimum safety levels” for firefighters, ambulance services and railways that must be maintained during a walkout.

The Royal College of Nurses union has announced two more strike days next month, when disruption across the economy looks set to intensify. Feb. 1 is shaping up to be the most disruptive day yet, with walkouts by teachers, train drivers, civil servants and university staff.

The GMB union said Wednesday that 10,000 ambulance call handlers, paramedics and other staff will strike on Feb. 6 and 20 and March 6 and 20.



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man sues over fingers lost during protest

NC CHARLOTTE — If Kyre Mitchell needs a reminder of the Charlotte protests arising from the 2020 murder of George Floyd, he need look no further than his right hand — specifically where his middle and ring fingers used to be. Mitchell blames police and the City of Charlotte for what's missing.

Just before midnight on May 30, 2020, a “flashbang” grenade thrown by a police officer into an uptown bottleneck of Floyd protesters and bystanders detonated in Mitchell's right hand as he attempted to throw it away, his new federal lawsuit claims.

The explosion blew off parts of two of his right fingers and severely burned the others as well as his palm.

Mitchell, a 29-year-old Charlotte-area artist, dancer and photographer, says the pain from the injuries continues to this day. Their complaint, filed in federal court this month, accuses police and the City of Charlotte of more than a dozen federal and state violations of Mitchell's rights, including freedom of speech and assembly. It also accuses the defendants of assault and battery, unlawful seizure, excessive force and conspiracy, among other claims.

Lawmakers again propose moving primary

PA PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania is a hugely important political battleground, but it hasn't traditionally mattered much in presidential primaries.

That's because the state votes so late. It holds its presidential primary on the fourth Tuesday in April, long after many states have voted. Despite being one of the biggest swing states in the nation, the nomination for the country's biggest political office is largely decided before Pennsylvania voters go to the ballot box.

Legislation introduced last week in the state House and Senate would move Pennsylvania's primary up a month to the third Tuesday in March from the fourth Tuesday in April. It would make the state's primary date the same as Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio. Currently Pennsylvania votes the same day as Delaware, Maryland and Rhode Island.

If passed, Pennsylvanians in 2024 would vote on March 19 instead of April 23. The primary would revert to the third Tuesday in May every year without a presidential election.

Ex-teacher rejects plea in child porn case

MS OXFORD — A former high school teacher in northeast Mississippi has rejected a plea deal on charges that he sexually exploited



ED MURRAY/TNS

Part of the projection

Marycella Mularz touches the projected aquarium during Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Day at the Newark Museum of Art, in Newark, N.J., on Monday. Visitors can color a fish on paper and then have it scanned and it swims in the projected aquarium.

children.

Federal court records show Toshemie Wilson of Okolona rejected a plea agreement last week and fired his defense attorneys. Court papers don't reflect the nature of the plea agreement.

The 47-year-old Wilson was indicted in July on 10 counts of sexual exploitation of children, all of which took place when he was teaching at Amory High School. Wilson is accused of photographing or making videos of nine minors between 2006 and 2016. Officials have said he targeted students in the high school's technology club, giving them cash or drugs to perform sex acts alone or with a blow-up doll.

U.S. District Judge Debra Brown on Friday gave Wilson 30 days to hire a new lawyer or request a public defender.

School district to employ gun-detecting dog

NV RENO — Washoe County School District students will start seeing new additions to security on campuses this spring — including a gun-detecting dog.

A dog being trained to sniff out firearms will join school police officers in a few months, the Reno Gazette-Journal reported.

The urgent need for new safety measures was magnified last week when a first-grader in Newport News, Va., shot his teacher.

The wounded teacher reportedly remains hospitalized in stable condition.

“We can all say after seeing

what happened in Virginia last week that it has never been more important to keep our focus on gun safety,” Superintendent Susan Enfield said at a recent board meeting.

The funding to cover the gun-detecting canine came from a grant, said school district Police Chief Jason Trevino. Officials are currently searching for dog handlers.

Body of man missing since Hurricane Ian found

FL FORT MYERS — The remains of a man who was reported missing after Hurricane Ian hit Florida's Gulf Coast last year have been recovered from a sunken sailboat, sheriff's officials said.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office said Sunday that the remains were identified as James “Denny” Hurst, 72, who was last known to be aboard the sailboat “Good Girl” as the category 4 storm hit the region in late September.

The boat was recovered Friday afternoon in the Matanzas Pass area of Fort Myers Beach, Sheriff Carmine Marceno said in a social media post.

Hurst had told his family he planned to ride out the storm on the boat, officials said.

Record homeless deaths in Seattle area

WA — A record 310 homeless people died in the Seattle area last year, highlighting the region's struggle to house

the thousands of people living on its streets.

The 310 deaths in King County surpassed the previous record of 195 homeless deaths set in 2018, the Seattle Times reported, and marked a 65% jump over 2021.

“That's just appalling,” the paper quoted Chloe Gale, policy and strategy vice president for REACH, the largest homelessness outreach provider in Seattle, as saying.

Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell said it underscore his administration's urgent need to get more people indoors.

Fentanyl-related overdoses accounted for more than half of the deaths. Many people had a combination of fentanyl and other drugs such as meth or cocaine in their system, the paper reported, citing records from the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

Driver plows through patio, 2 sent to hospital

NC CHARLOTTE — At least three people were injured when a man plowed through a restaurant patio with a pickup truck, North Carolina police say.

Fayetteville police said they responded just after midnight on Sunday to Mikotos after a truck drove through the restaurant's outdoor seating area and shots were fired.

Officers learned that there had been an “altercation” among customers, the department said in a Facebook post. One man, who appeared to be impaired, then left

the patio and entered a pickup truck, police said.

Police said the driver then intentionally drove the truck into the seating area, hitting several diners. The driver then reversed, striking the patrons a second time.

Shots were fired at the truck, and the driver fled, police said.

Officials: Death row inmate dies in prison

TN NASHVILLE — A Tennessee inmate on death row died of apparent natural causes Monday, authorities said.

James Dellinger, 71, was pronounced dead at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville, the Tennessee Department of Correction said in a news release.

A medical examiner will determine the exact cause of death, the statement said.

Dellinger was convicted of first-degree murder in the 1992 shooting death of Tommy Griffin, 24, in Blount County. Dellinger was sentenced to death in 1996.

According to court records, Griffin went drinking at a Maryville bar with Dellinger and Gary Wayne Sutton, who was also convicted in the killing. Griffin was arrested for public intoxication, but Dellinger and Sutton bailed him out later that night. Gunshots were heard a short time later along the Little River and Griffin's body was found there three days later.

From wire reports

FACES

The reel thing

Sundance Film Festival set to make return to mountains after staging 2 virtual editions

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Randall Park made a pact with himself some years ago that he wouldn't attend the Sundance Film Festival if he didn't have a project there. The "Fresh Off the Boat" star never imagined that his first time would be as a director and not as an actor.

His adaptation of "Shortcomings," Adrian Tomine's graphic novel about three young-ish Asian Americans finding themselves in the Bay Area, is among the films debuting in competition at the festival, which begins Thursday night in Park City, Utah.

"Sundance is the pinnacle to me," Park said. "I still can't believe we're going."

Park is just one of hundreds of filmmakers putting finishing touches on passion projects and making the sojourn to Park City, looking to make a splash at the first in-person edition of the storied independent film festival in two years.

Festivalgoers will see some unexpected turns from stars, like Jonathan Majors as an amateur bodybuilder in "Magazine Dreams," Emilia Clarke as a futuristic parent in "Pod Generation," Daisy Ridley as a cubicle worker in "Sometimes I Think About Dying" and Anne Hathaway as a glamorous counselor working at a youth prison in 1960s Massachusetts in "Eileen."

"Bridgerton" star Phoebe Dynevor also breaks out of her corset leading the contemporary adult thriller "Fair Play" as an ambi-

tious woman working at a high-stakes hedge fund with a boyfriend played by Alden Ehrenreich. Sundance will be her first film festival ever and she's especially excited that it's with one of the best scripts she's ever read.

"It's quite a polarizing one," Dynevor said. "I can't wait to see how everyone responds to it."

The slate of more than 100 films premiering around the clock over 10 days are as diverse as ever. There are three films about Iranian women ("The Persian Version," "Joonam" and "Shayda"), stories about transgender sex workers ("The Stroll," "KOKOMO CITY"), indigenous people ("Twice Colonized," "Bad Press"), women's rights and sexuality ("The Disappearance of Shere Hite") and the war in Ukraine ("20 Days in Mariupol," a joint project between The Associated Press and PBS "Frontline.")

As always, there are intimate portraits of famous faces, like Michael J. Fox, Little Richard, Stephen Curry, Judy Blume, the Indigo Girls and Brooke Shields.

Lana Wilson ("Miss Americana") directed the much-anticipated Shields documentary "Pretty Baby," in which Shields reflects on her experiences from child model to teen superstar and beyond, including her complex relationship with her mother, Andre Agassi and the time Tom Cruise publicly criticized her for taking antidepressants.

"I kept coming back to this idea of agency and of her slowly gain-



SUNDANCE INSTITUTE/AP

Justin H. Min, left, and Sherry Cola star in "Shortcomings," directed by actor Randall Park. The graphic-novel adaptation will make its debut Thursday at the Sundance Film Festival.

ing agency first over her mind, then over her career and then over her identity," Wilson said.

If the past two years have proved anything, it's that Sundance doesn't need its picturesque mountainside location to thrive. After all, it was at a virtual edition that the festival hosted the premiere of "CODA," which would become the first Sundance movie to win best picture at the Oscars. "Summer of Soul," another virtual Sundance premiere, also won best documentary last year, and both are getting encore, in-person screenings this year.

Even so, the independent film community — from the newcomers to the veterans — has felt the lack of the real thing.

There is, after all, a certain magic about seeing a new film from an unknown in the dead of winter at 7,000 feet elevation wondering, as the lights go down in a cinema overflowing with puffy coats, if you might just be among the first to witness the debut of the next

Ryan Coogler or Kelly Reichardt.

Erik Feig, the founder and CEO of Picturestart, joked that he's been going to the festival for "a billion years." It's where he saw "Thirteen" and hired Catherine Hardwicke to direct "Twilight," and, years later, "Whiplash," beginning a relationship with Damien Chazelle that would lead to "La La Land." Sundance also is where he saw "Napoleon Dynamite" and "Little Miss Sunshine" for the first time, too, and others that "feel iconic and have been part of the cultural zeitgeist forever. That moment of discovery was at Sundance."

This year, his company has a new comedy that could enter that canon of Sundance discoveries: "Theater Camp," a heartfelt satire of the musical theater world set at a crumbling upstate New York summer camp (AdirondACTS). The film is a collaboration of longtime friends Molly Gordon, Nick Lieberman, Ben Platt and Noah Galvin.

Tatum could play Swayze role in redo of hit 'Ghost'

BY NARDINE SAAD
Los Angeles Times

Channing Tatum's production company is planning to remake the seductive 1990 romantic drama "Ghost."

"We actually have the rights," the "Magic Mike XXL" star-producer let slip in a Vanity Fair interview published Tuesday.

The "Bullet Train" actor and "Dog" star and director, 42, added that he could potentially play the late Patrick Swayze's role in the supernatural thriller, which was written by Bruce Joel Rubin and directed by Jerry Zucker.

Swayze, who died in 2009, played New York investment banker Sam Wheat, who is killed and returns as a ghost to solve his own murder. In his afterlife, he tries to more fully express his love for his girlfriend, played by Demi Moore, through a reluctant medium, played by Whoopi Goldberg in an Oscar-winning turn.

The summer release solidified Swayze as an actor and a heart-throb and forever associated a sensual clay-throwing scene with the art of pottery. The runaway hit grossed nearly \$218 million at the domestic box office and \$288 million internationally, placing it among the highest-grossing films of 1990.

According to Vanity Fair, Tatum's production company, Free Association, is trying to put together the remake and will make changes to move away from some problematic stereotypes associated with the original film.

Representatives for Tatum and Free Association did not immediately respond to the Los Angeles Times' requests for comment.

The actor will be onscreen next in the Feb. 10 release "Magic Mike's Last Dance," reteaming with "Magic Mike" director Steven Soderbergh for the last installment of the stripper saga that was based on Tatum's early career as an exotic dancer.



AP

Channing Tatum, above, could be re-creating a clay-throwing scene made iconic by Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in 1990, but it isn't set in stone.

Snoop Dogg, Estefan, Sade reach Songwriters Hall

From wire reports

Snoop Dogg, Gloria Estefan, Sade, Jeff Lynne, Glen Ballard, Teddy Riley and Liz Rose have been chosen to join the Songwriters Hall of Fame, a class that includes the writers of hits such as "Man In the Mirror," "Drop It Like It's Hot" and "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You."

The seven songwriters from the class of 2023 will be inducted at a gala June 15 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City.

Snoop Dogg, whose hits include "Drop It Like It's Hot" and "Gin & Juice," will join such rappers as Missy Elliott and Jay-Z in the hall. Estefan is credited for popularizing Latin rhythms with crossover smashes like "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You" and "Let's Get Loud."

The inductees include soul-jazz vocalist Sade, whose 1980s soft rock hits include "Smooth Operator" and "The Sweetest Taboo," and Lynne, of ELO, who penned "Mr. Blue Sky" and "Evil Woman."

Ballard helped write Alanis Morissette's monster 1995 album "Jagged Little Pill" and was involved in the recording and writing of



Snoop Dogg



Estefan



Sade

several Michael Jackson albums, including "Thriller," "Bad" and "Dangerous."

Riley, the singer, songwriter and producer, is credited with creating New Jack Swing and its top anthems like Bobby Brown's "My Prerogative" and Keith Sweat's "I Want Her." Rose co-wrote many songs with Taylor Swift, including "You Belong With Me," "Teardrops on My Guitar" and "White Horse."

Nominees who will have to wait include The Doobie Brothers, R.E.M., Heart, Blondie, Bryan Adams, Patti Smith and Steve Winwood.

The Songwriters Hall of Fame was established in 1969 to honor those creating popular music. A songwriter with a notable catalog of

songs qualifies for induction 20 years after the first commercial release of a song.

Inductees include Carole King, Paul Simon, Billy Joel, Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora, Elton John and Bernie Taupin, Brian Wilson, James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty, Lionel Richie, Bill Withers, Neil Diamond and Phil Collins.

Other news

■ A tweet from actor Jeremy Renner suggested he is out of the hospital after being treated for serious injuries from a snow plow accident. In response to a Twitter post Monday about his TV series "Mayor of Kingstown," Renner tweeted that other than the brain fog that remains, he is very excited to watch the next episode with his family at home. Authorities in Nevada say Renner suffered serious chest injuries when he was run over by his own plow while helping free a relative's car on a road near Lake Tahoe on New Year's Day. The 52-year-old Oscar nominee also plays Hawkeye in Marvel's "Avengers" movies.

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Germany must not hesitate sending tanks to Ukraine

BY GEORGE F. WILL

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON

Eighty years ago, the hinge of history swung just north of Ukraine. There, the outcome of World War II in Europe was determined in the largest tank battle ever, a boiling cauldron in what was called the Kursk salient. Raging from July 5 to Aug. 23, 1943, the clash between German and Soviet forces involved what military historian John Keegan termed “tank armadas,” a total of about 6,000 tanks and 2 million troops. After this, Germany never again had the strategic initiative on the Eastern Front, where, 10 months before D-Day, attrition guaranteed Adolf Hitler's defeat.

Today, the outcome of the first major European war since 1945 might turn on tanks, particularly German Leopard 2s. German tanks sealing the defeat of a Russian aggression: History teaches a dark sense of irony.

Every war must end, and this one will end as most do, with less than justice done. But more justice will be done if Ukraine is ascendant when the end comes. Writing in the Financial Times, Lawrence Freedman, author of “Command: The Politics of Military Operations from Korea to Ukraine,” argues that “the only way to persuade Russia that it cannot succeed in its war of conquest is for Ukraine's armed forces to liberate much more territory. This requires a significant boost to the next offensive.” Which requires tanks.

Ukraine's allies have been sensibly, but perhaps excessively, worried about provoking Vladimir Putin by crossing this or that “red line” that the Russian president might

have drawn in his opaque mind. Since the Russian invasion began 11 months ago, however, about 3,000 Ukrainian soldiers have received training from the U.S. Army in Europe. Contingents of approximately 500 Ukrainian soldiers are training in Germany on the use of armored fighting vehicles. Other Ukrainian soldiers are heading to Fort Sill, Okla., about 5,800 miles from Kyiv, for training on the Patriot missile defense system.

The “Oklahoma front” in this U.S.-NATO proxy war with Russia is another step in the Biden administration's delicate incrementalism: The step warns Putin to not anticipate a ceiling on U.S. and NATO material support for Ukraine, short of direct involvement.

And prudence does not mean erring on the side of anachronistic assessments of the Russian menace. Historian Antony Beevor in Foreign Affairs reminds us:

“After 1945, the Red Army's achievements in winter warfare gave it a fearsome reputation in the West. It was not until the Soviet Union's ill-planned invasion of Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1968—the Warsaw Pact forces lacked maps, food supplies, and fuel—that Western analysts first began to suspect that they might have overestimated the Soviets' warfighting abilities.”

A day after France said earlier this month that it was sending Ukraine armored vehicles that some analysts call “light tanks,” President Joe Biden announced the dispatch to Ukraine of armored combat vehicles. He did so in a joint statement with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who also pledged to send such vehicles. Yet Scholz seems reluctant to provide Ukraine with Germany's Leopard 2 tanks, of which there are an esti-

mated 2,000 in 13 other European armies. Why hoard these when Ukrainians are eager to use a small fraction of them in the fight against Russia, the only clear and present danger confronting Europe's militaries?

Ukraine says it needs 300 more tanks for an effective offensive. Britain is said to be planning to send a squadron of 14 Challenger 2 tanks: A spokesman for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak says “battle tanks could provide a game-changing capability.” Poland, which has agreed to a \$1.4 billion purchase of 116 U.S. Abrams main battle tanks, says it will send about 14 Leopard 2 tanks but will do so “as part of the building of an international coalition.” So, much depends on Germany shedding its hesitancy regarding tanks for Ukraine, which should not suffer today because Germany is haunted by what very different Germans did three generations ago, before and after Kursk.

Astonishingly, some congressional Republicans, being parsimonious where this is least virtuous, profess alarm about the cost of aid to Ukraine. In 2022, this was 0.09% of the United States' gross domestic product.

Eighty years ago, the Soviet Union ground down German forces, using the U.S. lend-lease material, including 183,000 trucks received by the summer of 1943. U.S. lives were saved on the Western Front by U.S. Studebakers on the Eastern Front. Today, sustaining Ukraine's punishment of Russia's criminality will radically reduce the threat of future aggression from the only nation motivated by delusions to precipitate a large European war. Purchasing this reduction with the currency of tanks would be a historic bargain.

Dear special counsels: Please follow James Comey's lead

BY HENRY OLSEN

The Washington Post

The two special counsels separately investigating the improper possession of classified documents by President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump have difficult tasks in determining whether to recommend criminal charges against the two men.

Fortunately, they have a good example they can follow: Then-FBI Director James Comey's decision in 2016 not to recommend charges for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

In case that episode has mercifully escaped your memory, here's a recap: When Clinton served as secretary of state, she used a private email server in her home to handle official business, despite federal records rules. The FBI was charged with investigating the matter, and then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced that she would accept whatever recommendations Comey and his team made to avoid any appearance of partiality.

Comey's decision not to recommend criminal charges for Clinton brought howls from Republicans. It was suspect, given the significant amount of evidence that she had mishandled classified materials. But it was surely the correct political decision for all concerned. Comey released that evidence to the public and criticized Clinton for her handling of the emails, giving the American people the knowledge they needed to assess for themselves her indiscretion. This meant that the public—not the courts—would decide Clinton's fate.

That is surely the best way forward in both the Biden and Trump cases. To the average person, Trump's violation looks essentially the same as Biden's. Indicting Trump but not Biden would create a political uproar. But Biden's status as a sitting president precludes him from charges, per long-standing Justice Department policy, and naming him as an unindicted co-conspirator would also inflame the people. Looking to the law to settle what is essentially a political dispute might be sound jurisprudence, but it would be detrimental to our democracy.

This is why both special counsels should follow the Comey precedent. They can thoroughly investigate the cases and publicly detail what they found. They can also note the degree of culpability for each man and then let voters decide how important these facts are as they decide whether to elect them in 2024.

Some might say this would violate the rule of law, but that's not so. The fundamental basis for the rule of law is that it replaces the rule of people. People can be prejudiced, especially when their interests are at stake. James Madison highlighted the importance of this doctrine in Federalist 10, in which he wrote, “no man is allowed to be a judge in his own cause; because his interest would certainly bias his judgment.” Similarly, no one who holds the fate of a presidential candidate in their hands is immune from that temptation to act in the interests of their party, regardless of their status as an “independent” special prosecutor.

This is especially true in these cases,

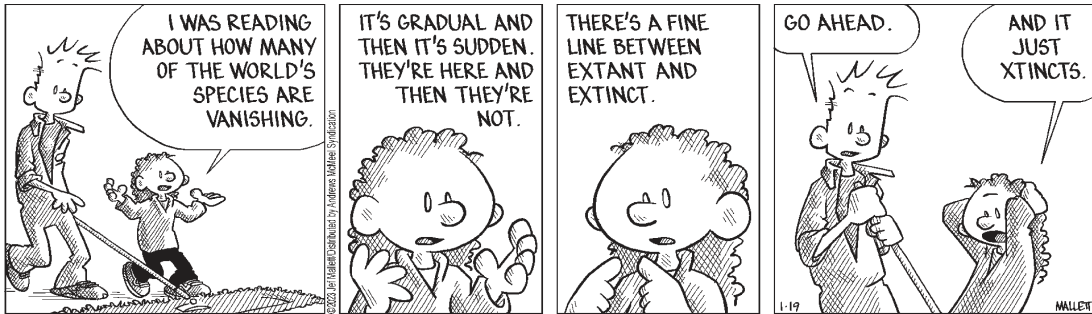
which are essentially process crimes. No one contends that either man intended harm to the nation, nor has it been established that any harm resulted from the removal of classified documents from secure areas. It might be true that an average person caught in possession of such documents would go to jail, but it's also true that such individuals have less need of such materials and live in less secure surroundings. Moreover, the threat of imprisonment can disincentive others from taking classified documents. But there's little need to put a former president through the wringer to disincentivize future former presidents from doing the same thing.

Establishing a “Comey rule” would not mean that former presidents are above the law. To borrow an example from Trump, if he shot someone on Fifth Avenue, the public interest in punishing him would be clear, and there would be no question over the prosecutor's motives. Similarly, if an investigation found, for example, that Biden used his son Hunter as a cover to sell perceived access to the vice presidency (no such evidence has been found), then the public's interest would override any political concerns of prosecution.

But that's simply not the case in either case being investigated by the special counsels. In democracies, the people rule. The special prosecutors should present their cases to voters, and they can decide these men's fates.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

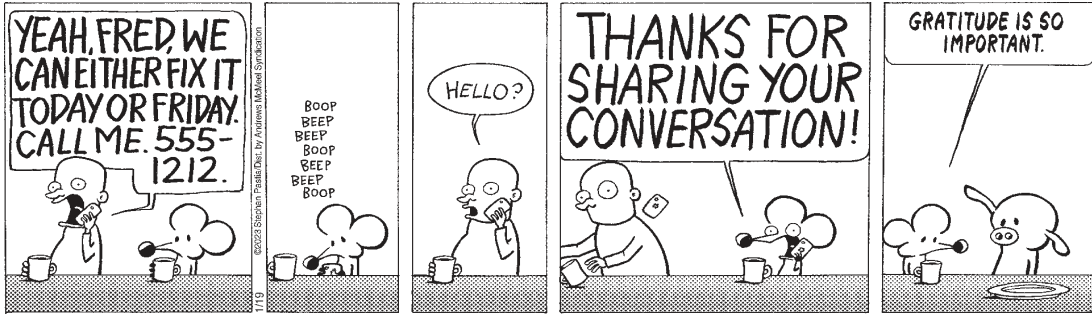
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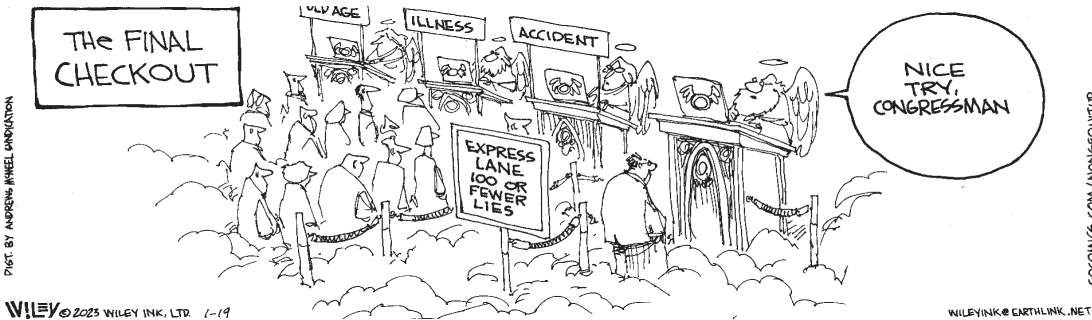
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



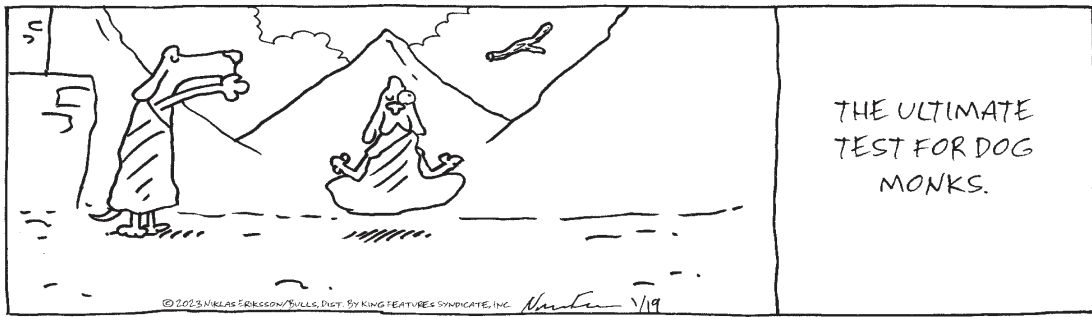
Non Sequitur



Candorville



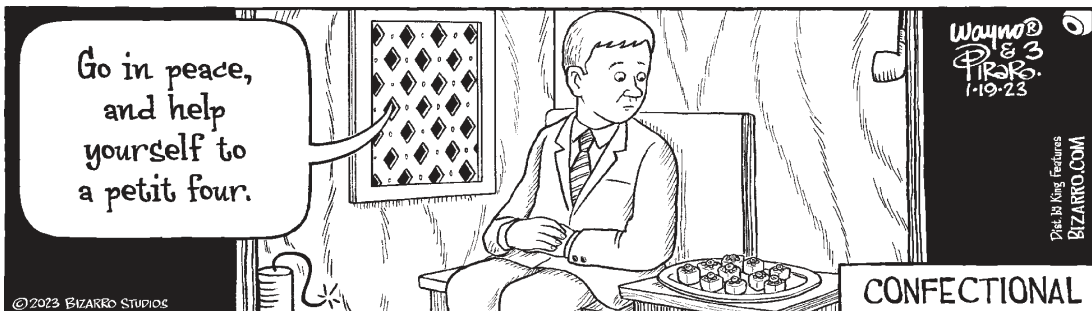
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



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					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Lowly worker
- 5 Nashville venue
- 9 Napkin's perch
- 12 Russian river
- 13 Mortgage again, for short
- 14 "— Blue?"
- 15 Tiered bakery buy
- 17 Triumphed
- 18 Size up
- 19 Philosopher John
- 21 Penny (Abbr.)
- 22 Military award
- 24 Actor's quest
- 27 Joke
- 28 Lavish party
- 31 In the style of
- 32 Acapulco gold
- 33 Zodiac animal
- 34 Church furniture
- 36 Hosp. areas
- 37 "SNL" segment
- 38 Silly goose
- 40 "I see"
- 41 Stanley of "Big Night"
- 43 Vent covers
- 47 — loss
- 48 "Tomb Raider" heroine
- 51 One for the road?
- 52 Dutch cheese
- 53 Diminutive suffix
- 54 Fill in — blank

- 55 Tennis match parts
- 56 Take it easy

DOWN

- 24 Knock
- 25 Flamenco cheer
- 26 Mowing, and the like
- 27 Hoodlum
- 29 — chi
- 30 911 responder
- 35 Bracketed word
- 37 Unselfish one
- 39 Frasier's brother
- 40 Lob's path
- 41 Diplomacy
- 42 Nevada neighbor
- 43 Whale groups
- 44 Convention freebie
- 45 New newts
- 46 Dele undoer
- 49 Sports drink suffix
- 50 Squealer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1-19

CRYPTOQUIP

EQ EQZQ KMTSWJ M AKMY
 MINCY IC SHVSWJ WMZZNE
 LKQHTQL, ICY S ANCHVW'Y
 JQY M ENZV SW HQVJQ-ESLQ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER CAVEMEN WANTED TO GET OUT AND HAVE A REALLY GREAT TIME, DID THEY GO CLUBBING?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals G

SCOREBOARD/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST

Buffalo 100, Bowling Green 71

SOUTH

Alabama 78, Vanderbilt 66
Belmont 80, Murray St. 65
Houston 80, Tulane 60
Kentucky 85, Georgia 71
Mississippi 70, South Carolina 58
NC State 78, Georgia Tech 66
North Carolina 72, Boston College 64
Richmond 64, Rhode Island 57
Tennessee 70, Mississippi St. 59
VCU 83, UMass 55
Wake Forest 87, Clemson 77

MIDWEST

Akron 69, Cent. Michigan 51
Ball St. 71, W. Michigan 70
Creighton 73, Butler 52
Dayton 68, Davidson 61
Florida St. 84, Notre Dame 71
Iowa St. 78, Texas 67
Kansas St. 83, Kansas 82, OT
Kent St. 77, E. Michigan 63
N. Illinois 81, Miami (Ohio) 77
S. Illinois 78, Evansville 70
Toledo 90, Ohio 75
Valparaiso 76, Ill.-Chicago 66
Wisconsin 63, Penn St. 60

SOUTHWEST

Baylor 81, Texas Tech 74

FAR WEST

Air Force 82, Wyoming 74
Boise St. 77, Nevada 62
New Mexico 77, San Jose St. 57
Utah St. 75, UNLV 71

Men's AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday's games

No. 3 Purdue at Minnesota
No. 5 UCLA at Arizona St.
No. 6 Gonzaga vs. Loyola Marymount
No. 11 Arizona vs. Southern Cal
No. 18 Coll. of Charleston at Monmouth (NJ)

No. 23 Rutgers at Michigan St.
No. 24 FAU at UTSA

Saturday's games

No. 2 Kansas vs. No. 14 TCU
No. 4 Alabama at Missouri
No. 5 UCLA at No. 11 Arizona
No. 6 Gonzaga at Pacific
No. 7 Texas at West Virginia
No. 8 Xavier vs. Georgetown
No. 9 Tennessee at LSU
No. 10 Virginia at Wake Forest
No. 12 Iowa St. at Oklahoma St.
No. 13 Kansas St. vs. Texas Tech
No. 16 Auburn at South Carolina
No. 17 Miami at Duke
No. 18 Coll. of Charleston at Northeastern

No. 19 Clemson vs. Virginia Tech
No. 20 Marquette at Seton Hall
No. 21 Baylor at Oklahoma
No. 22 Providence vs. DePaul
No. 24 FAU at UTEP
No. 25 Arkansas vs. Mississippi

Sunday's games

No. 1 Houston vs. Temple
No. 3 Purdue vs. Maryland
No. 15 UConn vs. Butler

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST

Tulsa 69, Temple 57
UConn 103, Seton Hall 58
Villanova 76, Xavier 38

SOUTH

Tulane 64, UCF 50

MIDWEST

Chicago St. 108, Olivet 50

Women's AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday's games

No. 1 South Carolina at Vanderbilt
No. 2 Ohio St. vs. Northwestern
No. 3 LSU vs. Arkansas
No. 7 Notre Dame at Clemson
No. 11 Maryland at Wisconsin
No. 12 Virginia Tech at Pittsburgh
No. 13 Duke at No. 17 North Carolina
No. 14 Michigan at Rutgers
No. 16 Gonzaga at Pacific
No. 20 NC State vs. Miami

Friday's games

No. 4 Stanford vs. No. 8 Utah
No. 9 UCLA at Washington
No. 22 Villanova at Creighton
No. 23 Oregon at Oregon St.
No. 24 Colorado at California,

Saturday's games

No. 5 UConn vs. Butler
No. 15 Oklahoma vs. Oklahoma St.
No. 16 Gonzaga at Saint Mary's (Cal)
No. 18 Iowa St. vs. Kansas

Sunday's games

No. 1 South Carolina vs. Arkansas
No. 4 Stanford vs. No. 24 Colorado
No. 7 Notre Dame vs. Virginia
No. 8 Utah at California
No. 9 UCLA at Washington St.
No. 11 Maryland at Nebraska
No. 12 Virginia Tech vs. Wake Forest
No. 13 Duke vs. Syracuse
No. 17 North Carolina vs. Georgia Tech
No. 19 Arizona at Arizona St.
No. 20 NC State at Louisville
No. 21 Illinois at Northwestern
No. 25 Texas at Baylor

AP SPORTLIGHT

Jan. 19

1937 — Nap Lajoie, Tris Speaker and Cy Young are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in the second year of voting.

1972 — Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers becomes the youngest player elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame at 36. Yogi Berra and Early Wynn are also elected.

1992 — John Cook is the first golfer in PGA history to chip in on two consecutive holes to win a playoff after he edges Gene Sauers in the Bob Hope Classic.

2004 — Colorado's Milan Hejduk scores

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Tuesday's scores

EAST

Princeton 3, Providence 2, OT
American International 2, Army 1, OT

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Sent INF Lewis Diaz outright to Norfolk (IL).

BOSTON RED SOX — Traded RHP Connor Seabold to Colorado in exchange for a player to be named later and cash considerations. Named Shawn Smith general manager, Florida operations.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Brandon Herbold on a minor league contract.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Claimed RHP J.B. Bukauskas off waivers from Arizona. Designated OF Alberto Rodriguez for assignment. Signed INFs Gustavo Beltran, Alexander Garcia, OF Jean Gutierrez, and RHPs Jeter Martinez, Jose Romero and Dylan Wilson to reserve/futures contracts.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS — Agreed to terms with SS Richie Martin on a minor league contract.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHP Nate Hadley on a minor league contract.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Activated RHP James Naile, OF Alec Burleson and RHP Jake Woodford. Agreed to terms with INFs Taylor Motter, Juniel Querecuto and OF Oscar Mercado on minor league contracts.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WRs Cortez Broughton and Dezmon Patmon to the practice squad. Released WR Tanner Gentry and LB Joe Giles-Harris from the practice squad. Recalled F Peyton Krebs from Rochester (AHL). Loaned G Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen to Rochester.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Designated RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire and TE Jody Fortson to return to practice from injured reserve. Signed RB Jerriion Ealy to the practice squad. Released DE Daniel Wise from the practice squad.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed WR Tyrie Cleveland to the practice squad.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed WR Anthony Miller to a one-year contract.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed C Joey Hunt to a reserve/futures contract.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANNERS — Signed Ts Dylan Cook, Justin Skule and Grant Hermanns, CBs Don Gardner and Duron Lowe, WR Kaylon Geiger, DL Mike Greene, RB Patrick Laird and OLBs Hamilcar Rashed and Charles Snowden to reserve/futures contracts.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed OL John Legue to a reserve/futures contract.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled LW Joonas Koppanen from Providence (AHL).

BUFFALO SABRES — Recalled F Peyton Krebs from Rochester (AHL). Loaned G Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen to Rochester.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled G Jaxson Stauber from Rockford (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled C Rasmus Kupari from Ontario (AHL).

MONTREAL CANADIENS — Recalled RW Rem Pitlick and F Rafael Harvey-Pinard from Laval (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned C Ryan Carpenter to Hartford (AHL).

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Assigned D Connor Corcoran from Henderson (AHL) to Savannah (ECHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

COLUMBUS CREW — Named Kwame Ampadu and Yoann Damet assistant coaches, Jules Guegen assistant coach and fitness coach, Maxime Chalier video performance coach and Phil Boerger goalkeeper coach.

LOUDOUN UNITED FC — Signed M/D Kwame Awuah.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES — Signed D Tommy Thompson to a one-year contract.

National Women's Soccer League

WASHINGTON SPIRIT — Re-signed D Anna Heiferty to a two-year contract.

COLLEGE

BAKER — Named Miguel Regalado head football coach.

GEORGIA TECH — Named Buster Faulkner football offensive coordinator, Kevin Sherrer co-defensive coordinator, Norval McKenzie running backs coach, Josh Crawford receivers coach, Geep Wade offensive line coach and Marco Coleman defensive line coach.

on a penalty shot 59 seconds into overtime to give the Avalanche a 5-4 victory over Tampa Bay. It's the third time an NHL game ended on a penalty shot in overtime.

2005 — LeBron James becomes the youngest player (20 years, 20 days) in NBA history to record a triple-double, with 27 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in Cleveland's 107-101 win over Portland.

2014 — Russell Wilson throws a 35-yard touchdown pass on fourth down and Seattle's top-ranked defense forces two late turnovers, lifting the Seahawks into their second Super Bowl with a 23-17 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Source: Blown NIL deal costs Florida QB recruit

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida quarterback recruit Jaden Rashada requested a release from his national letter of intent Tuesday night after a \$13 million name, image and likeness deal fell through, a person familiar with the situation said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because neither side has publicly acknowledged the pending split.

Rashada's future had been in doubt since he failed to enroll at Florida last week, sending signals that something was amiss. He flipped his commitment from Miami to Florida in mid-November and formally signed with the Gators on Dec. 21.

But his arrival in Gainesville was contingent on a four-year, \$13 million NIL deal he signed with the Gator Collective, according to the person. The Gator Collective is an independent fundraising arm that disburses money to student-athletes in all sports. The financial backing fell through, however — the Gator Collective terminated the binding agreement — and left Florida coach Billy Napier to scramble to try to get Rashada to campus.

It was a messy situation to say the least, one that could have long-term ramifications for Napier and



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Florida head coach Billy Napier watches from the sideline during the first half of a game against Vanderbilt on Nov. 19 in Nashville, Tenn.

the Gators. Rashada's representatives still could file a lawsuit against the Gator Collective and maybe the athletic department.

Rashada, a California high school star, returned home to the San Francisco suburb of Pittsburg instead of enrolling.

The 6-foot-4, 185-pounder completed 60.1% of his passes last season for 5,275 yards, 59 touchdowns and 18 interceptions. A five-star prospect by 247Sports and ranked No. 2 at his position by ESPN, Rashada picked Miami over Florida in June. He changed his mind amid the Hurricanes'

disappointing season.

The Gators badly needed help at the all-important QB position. They lost Anthony Richardson to the NFL Draft and dismissed backup Jalen Kitna following his arrest on child pornography charges. They also had Emory Jones and Carlos Del Rio-Wilson transfer last spring.

Florida has since signed Wisconsin transfer Graham Mertz to compete for the starting job alongside Jack Miller. The Gators are currently trying to land former LSU quarterback Walker Howard.

Police: Fatal Georgia crash caused by excessive speed

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

Georgia football player Devin Willock was not wearing a seat belt when he was ejected from the vehicle in a weekend crash that killed him and a recruiting staff member, police said.

A police report released Tuesday listed excessive speed on a road with a 40 mph limit as one of the primary causes of the crash.

The wreck occurred at 2:45 a.m. Sunday in Athens, less than two miles from the university campus. A few hours earlier, the Bulldogs held a parade through town and a ceremony at Sanford Stadium honoring their second straight national championship.

The 20-year-old Willock, an offensive lineman for the Bulldogs, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the vehicle, 24-year-old recruiting analyst Chandler LeCroy, died shortly after being taken to a hospital.

Two other people were in the car, including offensive lineman Warren McClendon, who had just announced Saturday he will enter the NFL Draft.

Like LeCroy, McClendon was wearing a shoulder and lap restraint while seated in the right front passenger seat, police said. He sustained only minor injuries, which the report from Athens-Clarke County

police described as a laceration in the middle of his head.

Another member of the Georgia football staff, Victoria Bowles, was hospitalized with multiple, serious injuries. She was sitting in the backseat with Willock and not wearing a seat belt, the report said.

Police investigators said the 2021 Ford Expedition "failed to negotiate a left curve, resulting in the vehicle striking the curb with its front passenger tire and leaving the roadway on the west shoulder."

The SUV struck a Georgia Power pole and another utility pole, slicing them in half, before striking a tree on the rear passenger quarter panel. That sent the vehicle spinning in a clockwise direction before it slammed into another tree on the driver's side — where both LeCroy and Willock were sitting.

"This caused the vehicle to rotate counter-clockwise prior to achieving final rest against an apartment building," the report said, adding that a vehicle parked in front of a unit also was struck by the out-of-control SUV.

The report said no alcohol or drug test was conducted on LeCroy, though the investigation was continuing. Investigators did not give an estimated speed, nor did they know the driver's condition at the time of the crash.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	43	34	5	4	72	166	94
Toronto	45	27	11	7	61	152	121
Tampa Bay	42	28	13	1	57	152	122
Florida	46	21	20	5	47	152	158
Buffalo	43	21	19	3	45	163	150
Detroit	43	18	17	8	44	134	149
Ottawa	43	19	21	3	41	126	139
Montreal	45	19	23	3	41	120	163

Metropolitan Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Carolina	44	27	9	8	62	141	120
New Jersey	44	29	12	3	61	156	116
N.Y. Rangers	45	25	13	7	57	144	120
Washington	47	24	17	6	54	150	133
Pittsburgh	43	22	15	6	50	139	130
N.Y. Islanders	45	23	18	4	50	136	124
Philadelphia	45	19	19	7	45	127	145
Columbus	44	13	29	2	28	111	172

Western Conference							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	45	26	12	7	59	156	119
Winnipeg	45	29	15	1	59	149	118
Minnesota	43	25	14	4	54	138	120
Nashville	44	21	17	6	48	122	128
Colorado	42	22	17	3	47	131	121
St. Louis	45	22	20	3	47	141	160
Arizona	44	14	25	5	33	119	161
Chicago	42	12	26	4	28	98	157

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	45	28	15	2	58	147	130
Seattle	44	26	14	4	56	161	139
Los Angeles	46	25	15	6	56	154	157
Edmonton	46	25	18	3	53	169	152
Calgary	45	21	15	9	51	143	136
Vancouver	43	18	22	3	39	150	173
San Jose	45	13	23	9	35	137	172
Anaheim	45	12	28	5	29	105	190

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

Tuesday's games
 Minnesota 4, Washington 2
 Montreal 4, Winnipeg 1
 Philadelphia 5, Anaheim 2
 Toronto 5, Florida 4, OT
 Nashville 2, Columbus 1
 Chicago 4, Buffalo 3, OT
 Edmonton 5, Seattle 2
 Arizona 4, Detroit 3, SO

Wednesday's games
 Pittsburgh at Ottawa
 Boston at N.Y. Islanders
 Colorado at Calgary
 Dallas at San Jose
 Tampa Bay at Vancouver

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

Friday's games
 Ottawa at Pittsburgh
 Colorado at Vancouver

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

Scoring leaders				
Through Wednesday				
	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	46	38	46	84
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	44	26	44	70
Nikita Kucherov, TB	42	17	45	62
David Pastrnak, BOS	43	35	27	62
Jason Robertson, DAL	45	29	31	60
Tage Thompson, BUF	43	32	27	59
Erik Karlsson, SJ	45	14	44	58
Matthew Tkachuk, FLA	43	22	34	56
Jack Hughes, NJ	44	29	26	55

ROUNDUP

Spurgeon's goals lift Wild over Caps

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Filip Gustavsson made the save of the game by seeing the puck out of the corner of his eye just before it went into the net. His Minnesota teammates scored three goals by making sure Washington goaltender Charlie Lindgren couldn't see the puck at all.

Captain Jared Spurgeon scored twice, fellow defenseman Jonas Brodin also had a goal with traffic in front of the net and the Wild beat the Capitals 4-2 on Tuesday night to extend their winning streak to three games. All three came with a big forward setting a screen in front of Lindgren: 6-foot-6 Jordan Greenway on Spurgeon's first goal, 6-2 Ryan Reaves on Brodin's and 6-2 Brandon Duhaime on Spurgeon's second.

"We had a lot of great screens, guys going to the net and creating havoc down there," Spurgeon said. "They're great screens. The goalie can't get out of the net and you cut the angles down and you can't see them as well. It's something we preach all the time."

As Gustavsson pointed out, it's hard for a goaltender to stop a shot he can't see. He made the highlight of the night on Marcus Johansson with under four minutes left, kicking the puck from one heel to the other with his skate blades while it was on the goal line and preventing it from crossing.

"I don't know how it didn't go in, but that's how it goes sometimes, I guess," Johansson said.

Gustavsson, who finished with 34 saves, did not do it accidentally.



Nick Wass/AP

Minnesota Wild defenseman Jared Spurgeon celebrates his goal with Minnesota Wild left wing Jordan Greenway during the second period against the Capitals on Tuesday in Washington.

"You need to stop it somehow," he said. "You just try and figure out how to move that part of your body."

Maple Leafs 5, Panthers 4 (OT): William Nylander scored his second goal of the game at 1:53 of overtime to lift host Toronto past Florida.

Nylander added an assist for a three-point performance and Auston Matthews, Dryden Hunt and Alexander Kerfoot also scored for Toronto.

Oilers 5, Kraken 2: Zach Hyman had a goal and two assists and

host Edmonton beat Seattle for its fourth consecutive victory.

Connor McDavid, Derek Ryan, Warren Foegele and Ryan McLeod also scored for the Oilers. Jack Campbell made 29 saves.

Coyotes 4, Red Wings 3 (SO): Nick Schmaltz and Nick Bjugstad scored on host Arizona's first two shootout attempts and the Coyotes beat Detroit to end a nine-game losing streak.

Predators 2, Blue Jackets 1: Kevin Lankinen made 39 saves and host Nashville beat Columbus.

Canadiens 4, Jets 1: Evgenii

Dadonov scored twice and Samuel Montembeault made 24 saves to help host Montreal beat Central Division-leading Winnipeg.

Flyers 5, Ducks 2: Kevin Hayes had his first career hat trick, Rasmus Ristolainen and Morgan Frost also scored and host Philadelphia rebounded from its worst loss of the season to beat Anaheim.

Blackhawks 4, Sabres 3 (OT): Seth Jones tied it with 56 seconds left in regulation and scored again 2:24 into overtime to lift host Chicago past Buffalo.

Flyers' Provorov cites religion for Pride boycott

By DAN GELSTON

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Flyers defenseman Ivan Provorov cited his Russian Orthodox religion as the reason he did not participate in pregame warmups when the team wore Pride-themed jerseys and used sticks wrapped in rainbow Pride tape.

The 26-year-old Provorov boycotted the pregame skate with his teammates before Tuesday night's game against Anaheim as the Flyers celebrated their annual Pride night in celebration and support of the LGBTQ+ community. He played nearly 23 minutes in Philadelphia's 5-2 victory.

"I respect everybody's choices," Provorov said after the game. "My choice is to stay true to myself and my religion. That's all I'm going to say."

Provorov declined to answer follow-up questions about his decision.

Flyers coach John Tortorella said Provorov "was true to himself and



Matt Slocum/AP

The Philadelphia Flyers' Ivan Provorov and the Anaheim Ducks' Max Jones collide during the third period Tuesday in Philadelphia.

to his religion."

"It's one thing I respect about Provy, he's always true to himself," Tortorella said.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, leader of Russia's dominant religious group, sent a strong signal last March justifying his country's

invasion of Ukraine — describing the conflict as part of a struggle against sin and pressure from liberal foreigners to hold "gay parades" as the price of admission to their ranks.

The jerseys and sticks were set to be auctioned off by the Flyers fol-

lowing the game, with proceeds going to the team's charity and its efforts to grow the game of hockey in diverse communities.

The Flyers also hosted a pregame skate for local LGBTQ+ youth. Flyers players James van Riemsdyk and Scott Laughton have been staunch supporters of the community and launched a program in support of local LGBTQ+ youth in the greater Philadelphia area.

Laughton said there would be more conversations ahead with Provorov, who moved from Russia to the United States as a teenager. He signed a six-year, \$40.5 million contract before the 2019 season and won the Barry Ashbee Trophy as the Flyers' outstanding defenseman in his rookie season, the youngest Philadelphia player to receive the honor.

"I don't hold anything against anyone," Laughton said. "It's nothing like that. It was an awesome night and I'm very happy we got a win on a night like this."

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Slowed by bad hip, Nadal loses

No. 1 seed out in second round, overshadowing wins by Gauff, Swiatek, Pegula

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal bowed his head during changeovers and rested his elbows on his knees, the very picture of resignation.

What already was a poor start to 2023, following a year marred by all manner of health issues, reached a low point at the Australian Open on Wednesday.

The defending champion and No. 1 seed at Melbourne Park, Nadal injured his left hip and lost to Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in the second round, abruptly ending his bid for a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam trophy.

"It's a tough moment. It's a tough day," said Nadal, a 36-year-old Spaniard. "I can't say that I am not destroyed mentally at this moment, because I would be lying."

He pulled up awkwardly at the end of a point late in the second set against the 65th-ranked McDonald.

Nadal was visited by a trainer on the sideline, then left the court for a medical timeout. Up in the stands, his wife wiped away tears. Nadal returned to play, but was clearly compromised and not his usual indefatigable self, saying afterward that he could not hit his backhand properly and could not run much, either.

But Nadal added that, as the reigning champion of the tournament, he did not want to leave the court via a mid-match retirement.

He said the hip had been bothering him for a couple of days, but it was never as bad as it became on Wednesday. Nadal was not sure exactly what the nature of the injury was, saying that he will have medical tests to determine if it has to do with a muscle, joint or cartilage.

"It's never over until it's over" type thing. He didn't even want to roll over and quit. He kept fighting until basically the end, even though he maybe didn't have all his game," said McDonald, a 27-year-old who won NCAA championships in singles and doubles for UCLA in 2016.

"I was in the locker room," McDonald said about the aftermath of the match, "and I was like, 'Hey, that's actually really big for me, because I haven't beaten someone of that caliber.'"

This is Nadal's earliest exit at any Grand Slam tournament since bowing out in the first round in Melbourne in 2016 against No. 45 Fernando Verdasco. That also made Verdasco the lowest-ranked player to defeat Nadal in Australia — until, of course, McDonald on Wednesday.

McDonald has never been past



DITA ALANGKARA/AP

No. 1 seed Rafael Nadal reacts during his second-round loss to Mackenzie McDonald at the Australian Open on Wednesday.

the fourth round at a major tournament. In his lone previous matchup against Nadal, at the 2020 French Open, McDonald won a total of just four games in a lopsided loss.

"He kicked my butt," McDonald recalled Wednesday.

This result overshadowed everything else going on in Melbourne, of course, on a day that persistent rain pushed back the start of play on all but the three courts with retractable roofs until after 5 p.m. local time.

That meant some players — most notably, No. 1 Iga Swiatek, No. 3 Jessica Pegula and No. 6 Maria Sakkari — won matches that put them in the third round before more than a dozen others even had contested a single point in the first round.

At night, 2022 French Open runner-up Coco Gauff got past 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the first head-to-head meeting between two of the sport's young stars.

"I know a lot of people were looking forward to that matchup," said Gauff, an 18-year-old American. "I'm glad we got the prime spot. I hope we delivered."

Twice Gauff was a point away from being pushed to a third set by Raducanu.

"I stayed calm when I needed to and made the serve when I needed to. Held when I needed to. I think that definitely comes with maturity," Gauff said. "I feel like in the past, I would have freaked out in that moment."

Instead, she steadied herself

against the 20-year-old Raducanu to reach the third round at Melbourne Park for the first time since 2020.

"Fans are eager to see a new face of the game," said the seventh-seeded Gauff, who was the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open last June.

"We're going to be playing each other many times in the future, as we're both young and coming," Raducanu said. "You know, like, we're going to be the next generation."

Seeded men who won included No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 7 Daniil Medvedev — the runner-up to Nadal last year and to Novak Djokovic in 2021 — No. 15 Jannik Sinner and No. 16 Frances Tiafoe.

"I told him, 'You're going to be in a position to win today. You can win today,'" Tiafoe said about fellow American McDonald. "Sort of seeing how he feels, I'm happy for Mackie. 'GOAT wins' don't come easy. Something to tell his grandkids one day, and you have to be happy for that guy."

A year ago, Nadal won the Australian Open for the second time to earn his 21st major championship, then raised his total to 22 — the most for a man — at Roland Garros.

He is currently ranked No. 2 but was the top seed at Melbourne Park because No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz is sitting out the Australian Open with a bad leg.

Nadal's body has betrayed him quite a bit recently.

He needed pain-killing injec-

tions for his left foot on the way to winning the French Open last June, pulled out of Wimbledon last July before the semifinals because of a torn abdominal muscle and also dealt with a problem with rib cartilage in 2022.

Nadal's exit drains the tournament of yet more star power. In addition to his absence and Alcaraz's, 2022 Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios pulled out because his left knee needs arthroscopic surgery, four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka is off the tour while she is pregnant, two-time major champ Simona Halep is serving a provisional doping ban and Venus Williams is hurt.

That is all on top of this: The 2023 edition of the Australian Open is the first Grand Slam tournament since Serena Williams and Roger Federer announced their retirements.

Nadal arrived in Melbourne with an 0-2 record this season, making him 1-6 dating to September, when he lost to Tiafoe in the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

Even during a first-round victory Monday, a four-setter against a cramping Jack Draper, Nadal never quite seemed to be at his chase-every-ball, put-every-high-spin-shot-on-target best. He looked, somehow, his age.

The same was the case from the outset against McDonald.

"I'm really happy with how I started that match. I thought I was playing really well, serving great, returning well, too," McDonald said. "So I was really taking it to him."

That is true. From the get-go, McDonald was on, Nadal was off.

The very first game served as something of a harbinger: McDonald broke for a 1-0 lead thanks to a trio of unforced errors by Nadal — two off his feared lefty forehand side.

Scoreboard

Wednesday

At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: AUD34,848,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
seedings in parentheses

Men's Singles

First Round

Denis Kudla, United States, def. Roman Safiullin, Russia, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (6), 6-3.
Enzo Couacaud, France, def. Hugo Delien, Bolivia, 6-4, 7-5, 6-0.

Second Round

Jannik Sinner (15), Italy, def. Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
Felix Auger-Aliassime (6), Canada, def. Alex Molcan, Slovakia, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Frances Tiafoe (16), United States, def. Junheng Shang, China, 6-4, 6-4, 6-1.

Mackenzie McDonald, United States, def. Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.

Karen Khachanov (18), Russia, def. Jason Kubler, Australia, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Lloyd Harris, South Africa, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

Yoshihito Nishioka (31), Japan, def. Dalibor Srvcina, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Daniil Medvedev (7), Russia, def. John Millman, Australia, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

Stefanos Tsitsipas (3), Greece, def. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2.

Francisco Cerundolo (28), Argentina, def. Corentin Moutet, France, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5.

Denis Shapovalov (20), Canada, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 7-5.

Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Botic Van de Zandschulp (32), Netherlands, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Sebastian Korda (29), United States, def. Yosuke Watanuki, Japan, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4.

Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, def. Christopher Eubanks, United States, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Women's Singles

First Round

Magda Linette, Poland, def. Mayar Sherif, Egypt, 7-5, 6-1.

Anastasia Potapova, Russia, def. Sloane Stephens, United States, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

Lucrezia Stefanini, Italy, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Irina-Camelia Begu (27), Romania, def. Elizabeth Mandlik, United States, 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2.

Laura Siegemund, Germany, def. Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Varvara Gracheva, Russia, def. Daria Kasatkina (8), Russia, 6-1, 6-1.

Zhang Shuai (23), China, def. Patricia Maria Tig, Romania, 6-1, 4-6, 6-0.

Nuria Parrizas Diaz, Spain, def. Beatriz Haddad Maia (14), Brazil, 7-6 (11), 6-2.

Second Round

Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, def. Camila Osorio, Colombia, 6-2, 6-3.

Maria Sakkari (6), Greece, def. Diana Shnaider, Russia, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Jessica Pegula (3), United States, def. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, 6-2, 7-6 (5).

Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, def. Petra Kvitova (15), Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.

Madison Keys (10), United States, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-3, 6-2.

Zhu Lin, China, def. Jil Teichmann (32), Switzerland, 6-2, 6-2.

Barbora Krejickova (20), Czech Republic, def. Clara Burel, France, 6-4, 6-1.

Kateryna Baindl, Ukraine, def. Caty McNally, United States, 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Jelena Ostapenko (17), Latvia, def. Anna Bondar, Hungary, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-0.

Cristina Bucsa, Spain, def. Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 2-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Coco Gauff (7), United States, def. Emma Raducanu, Britain, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, def. Kaja Juvan, Slovenia, 6-2, 6-1.

Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, def. Olivia Gaedeck, Australia, 6-2, 6-1.

Bernarda Pera, United States, def. Zheng Qinwen (29), China, 6-4, 6-4.

Victoria Azarenka (24), Belarus, def. Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, 6-1, 6-0.



DITA ALANGKARA/AP

Coco Gauff of the U.S. celebrates after defeating 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu in the second round on Wednesday.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Emotional Alabama earns 7th win in row

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Alabama coach Nate Oats reached out to Ray Lewis for advice on helping his fourth-ranked Crimson Tide play two days after a teammate was charged with capital murder.

Oats prayed with his players and shared a Bible verse suggested by the Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker, whose daughter attended Alabama recently. Then the Crimson Tide put their emotions aside Tuesday and focused on basketball for 40 minutes.

Freshman Brandon Miller scored 30 points and had 10 rebounds as Alabama beat Vanderbilt 78-66 for their seventh straight victory. Alabama didn't make players available after the game, and Oats said he didn't see much emotion before tipoff.

"I did see some guys break down postgame," Oats said. "I think they've been bottling some stuff up. We've got a job to do. We've got to get to the game. We got to the game and took care of business, and then it's almost like a big relief. The game's over, and we can let out a sigh of relief."

Reserve junior forward Darius Miles was charged Sunday. Investigators said Miles admitted to providing the handgun immediately before 23-year-old Jamea Harris was shot early Sunday near campus.

Vanderbilt coach Jerry Stackhouse crumpled the stat sheet when asked about what Alabama is dealing with, saying he couldn't "fathom that we even played this game." Stackhouse said he told his Commodores to appreciate the opportunity that someone they have competed against likely will never get again.

"Give them credit to be able to weather all of that stuff that's around them, to come out and perform the way they did tonight you know, hats off," Stackhouse said of Alabama. "They were the better team tonight."



JOHN AMIS/AP

Alabama players stand on the court during the national anthem before playing Vanderbilt on Tuesday in Nashville, Tenn.

No. 1 Houston 80, Tulane 60: Marcus Sasser highlighted a 23-point performance with seven three-pointers, and the visiting Cougars earned their ninth straight victory.

J'Wan Roberts scored 15, Jamal Shead added 14 points and Tramon Mark had 12 for Houston (18-1, 6-0 American Athletic Conference), which led for all but a 50-second span in the first half while preventing Tulane (12-6, 5-2) from taking over the top spot in the conference.

No. 12 Iowa State 78, No. 7 Texas 67: Jaren Holmes scored 21 points and the host Cyclones defeated the Longhorns.

Holmes hit seven of 13 shots, including two three-pointers, and Gabe Kalscheur added 16 points for Iowa State (14-3, 5-1 Big 12).

Christian Bishop scored 12 points to lead Texas (15-3, 4-2), which was undone by a second-half scoring drought that lasted nearly 4½ minutes.

No. 9 Tennessee 70, Mississippi State 59: Zakai Zeigler had 24 points and the visiting Vols made eight of nine three-pointers in the second half to pull away late to defeat the Bulldogs.

Julian Phillips had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Tennessee (15-3, 5-1 SEC).

Wake Forest 87, No. 19 Clemson 77: Tyree Appleby scored 24 points to help the visiting Demon Deacons end the Tigers' perfect start in Atlantic Coast Conference play.

Wake Forest (14-5, 6-2 ACC) won its fourth straight game and played from in front the entire way after the game's opening minute.

PJ Hall had 22 points and nine rebounds to lead Clemson (15-4, 7-1).

No. 21 Baylor 81, Texas Tech 74: Keyonte George scored 27 points to lead the visiting Bears to their third win in a row.

LJ Cryer added 18 points for Baylor (13-5, 3-3 Big 12), which returned to the AP Top 25 this week.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kansas State forward Keyontae Johnson blocks a shot by Kansas forward Jalen Wilson during the first half on Tuesday in Manhattan, Kan. Johnson helped the Wildcats upset the second-ranked Jayhawks.

Johnson, No. 13 K-State beat No. 2 Kansas in OT

BY DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State coach Jerome Tang grabbed a microphone and stood amid a sea of purple, moments after delirious fans had flooded the floor to celebrate the No. 13 Wildcats' 83-82 overtime win over second-ranked Kansas on Tuesday night.

"You have one court-storming," the Wildcats' first-year coach told them over the din. "After this, we expect to win."

Expectations are sure to soar in the Little Apple now.

After blowing a 14-point first-half lead, the Wildcats responded to every haymaker Kansas threw down the stretch. And when their game went to overtime, and players kept fouling out, Keyontae Johnson delivered for Kansas State, throwing down a go-ahead alley-oop dunk with 25 seconds left that ultimately proved to be the difference.

"In order to elevate," Johnson said later, "we have to beat teams like Kansas."

Johnson and Desi Sills finished with 24 points apiece, and Nae'Qwan Tomlin had 15 points and 10 boards, as the Wildcats (16-2, 5-1 Big 12) bounced back from a blowout loss to TCU by beating the Jayhawks for the first time since Feb 5, 2019.

Jalen Wilson tried to take over in overtime for Kansas, converting a three-point play, knocking down a three-pointer and making a pair of free throws for an 82-80 lead with just over a minute to go. But after Johnson made a free throw at the

other end, Wilson missed a deep three-pointer as the shot-clock expired to give the Wildcats another chance.

After a timeout, Markquis Nowell threw the lob that Johnson slammed down for an 83-82 advantage.

Kansas (16-2, 5-1) also called a timeout to set up its own finishing play, but normally sure-handed Dajuan Harris Jr. lost the ball in traffic, and the Jayhawks never got a chance to put up a potentially winning shot.

"If you told me we'd have the ball with a chance to win twice, that's something I'd probably sell out for," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "That last possession is one possession I probably wish we could take back."

Wilson played all 45 minutes and finished with a career-high 38 points for the Jayhawks. KJ Adams had 17 points and Gradey Dick had 16, though both missed the finish after fouling out.

Both teams had chances to win in the final 30 seconds of regulation.

Kansas had possession first with 23 seconds to go and the game tied at 72, only to watch Harris lose control near the midcourt line — much like he did at the finish to overtime. The Wildcats grabbed the loose ball and pitched it ahead to Johnson, but the star forward missed a wild shot at the rim just before the buzzer.

Johnson didn't miss when he got a winning chance in overtime.

It was the most anticipated Sunflower Showdown in years, drawing a capacity crowd that snaked

around Bramlage Coliseum hours before tipoff as it waited to get in. And it was the less-regarded Wildcats rather than the defending national champions that demonstrated early poise and precision.

Kansas State made its first five three-pointers and shot 52% from the field in the first half. It stuffed Wilson, the Big 12's top scorer, three times before he made a basket. And at one point, the Wildcats led by as many as 14 points.

Yet there's a reason the Jayhawks entered the night 29-5 in Bramlage Coliseum.

They always seem to deal with the pressure there.

Wilson finally got on track, scoring 12 in the first half, and Adams found success with floaters in the lane, pouring in 15 by the break. The Jayhawks eventually closed down the perimeter, forcing Kansas State to unsuccessfully drive to the basket, and they slowly trimmed away at their deficit, closing within 44-39 by halftime.

Despite foul trouble, the Jayhawks eventually made it all the way back, taking their first lead since the opening minutes at 59-57 with just under 8 minutes to go. But neither team was willing to give up down the stretch.

That's why 40 minutes wasn't enough to decide it.

"The great thing about basketball is we'll have another game in two days, three days. We can't dwell on this," Wilson said quietly. "We have another good team coming up and we'll see them again. That's the beauty of the Big 12."

NFL PLAYOFFS

Hurts to be 'full go' for Eagles against Giants

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — As the Eagles weathered a smidgen of adversity with a late-season losing streak, 76ers coach Doc Rivers stepped in to steady unease that Jalen Hurts & Co. were spiraling toward an early postseason exit.

"They're going to be in the Super Bowl. Relax," Rivers told reporters. "It's a guarantee."

Bold statement, Doc.

Rivers laughed as he made the prediction "with my limited football knowledge," but he knew enough to understand the team with the best record in the NFL played across the street.

But how far the Eagles go — and no one in the organization would be so foolish as to make such a bold prognostication as guaranteeing a Super Bowl berth — depends predominantly on Hurts.

And Hurts knows all eyes — and maybe a few rough shots on his banged-up shoulder — are on him.

"I've got a bounty on me every week I go out there," Hurts said Tuesday. "I'm going to go out there and just play my game."

Fans are clamoring to know if Hurts has recovered enough from a sprained right shoulder to play at full strength in an NFC divisional round game Saturday night at Lincoln Financial Field against the New York Giants.

"Full go," coach Nick Sirianni said Tuesday.

Hurts was not even listed on the Eagles' injury report.

Hurts and the Eagles (14-3) enjoyed the spoils of earning the No. 1 seed in the NFC and spent the week scouting — and snacking — while the Giants edged out a 31-24 win over the Minnesota Vikings.

The Giants were one of four potential opponents the Eagles could have played this week, and their game last weekend was on the big screen at Philadelphia's complex while Sirianni reviewed a potential game plan against their NFC East rival.

"We were preparing for the games and did a lot of work on the Giants that day," Sirianni said. "We

got it right there."

The Giants should know as well as any team how often Sirianni and the Eagles seemingly had everything go right. The NFC East champion Eagles already defeated the Giants twice, 48-22 on Dec. 11 at MetLife Stadium and 22-16 on Jan. 8 in the regular-season finale in Philly. Hurts, who returned for the finale after missing two games because of his bad shoulder, mostly ran a vanilla offense against the Giants' second-teamers.

Make it 3-0, and the Eagles will host the NFC championship game.

The Eagles went 14-1 in games Hurts started.

"He's better today than he was two weeks ago," Sirianni said. "He's continuing to get better and he feels good."

Hurts could have added protection against the Giants, with All-Pro right tackle Lane Johnson expected to return for the first time since he suffered a torn adductor in a Dec. 24 loss at Dallas. The only starter who might miss a playoff game is cornerback Avonte Maddox (toe), who has not played since he was hurt in the Dallas game.

Johnson was a limited participant in a walkthrough practice Tuesday and Maddox did not participate.

With the Phillies just three months removed from their unexpected run to the World Series, championship expectations have gripped the area. Just 80 miles north of the city in Bethlehem, Pa., the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts moved its "Alice in Wonderland" mural unveiling up a week to Feb. 5, saying "the Philadelphia Eagles have a pretty good shot of making it to the NFL championship game."

The Eagles hope they'll make a pretty important date just west of Phoenix.

"It's a swagger," Hurts said. "It's kind of in the air of its own when you talk the passion in this city, the support in this city. The love for the Philadelphia Eagles in this city is truly a Philly thing. It's a special city, it's a special time. We know we have the support of our city through everything, and let's show up on Saturday."



MATT ROURKE/AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts hands the ball to running back Miles Sanders at the team's facility in Philadelphia on Jan. 12.



DAVID BECKER/AP

Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid wears a shirt paying tribute to Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin as he watches quarterback Patrick Mahomes warm up before a game on Jan. 7 in Las Vegas.

Healthy Chiefs back to work ahead of matchup with Jags

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs spent more than five months battering their bodies in an attempt to not only make the playoffs, but also ensure they would get the AFC's top seed and the first weekend to rest and recover.

The reward comes now: They're about as healthy as possible as the Jaguars prepare to visit in Saturday's divisional round.

The only Chiefs player that didn't practice Tuesday was wide receiver Mecole Hardman, who spent time on injured reserve because of an abdominal issue but was activated for the final week of the regular season.

Otherwise, everyone was on the field — including defensive end Frank Clark, who was banged up two weeks ago — as the Chiefs got back to work.

"We took a week off and it felt like forever," Chiefs linebacker Nick Bolton said. "I'm ready to get back out there."

The Chiefs even got a surprise Tuesday when running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire, who has been on injured reserve with a high ankle sprain, and tight end Jody Fortson, who has been on the list with an elbow issue, joined them on the practice field.

Neither is expected to play against Jacksonville, but it increases the chances they will be available later in the playoffs should Kansas City win. Edwards-Helaire started the first six games

Scoreboard

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14

San Francisco 41, Seattle 23
Jacksonville 31, L.A. Chargers 30

Sunday, Jan. 15

Buffalo 34, Miami 31
N.Y. Giants 31, Minnesota 24
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 17

Monday, Jan. 16

Dallas 31, Tampa Bay 14

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 21

Jacksonville at Kansas City, **AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. Saturday CET; 6:30 a.m. Sunday JKT**

N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, **AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Sunday CET; 10 a.m. Sunday JKT**

Cincinnati at Buffalo, **AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. Sunday CET; 5 a.m. Monday JKT**

Dallas at San Francisco, **AFN-Sports, 12:30 a.m. Monday CET; 8:30 a.m. Monday JKT**

the last nine weeks of the regular season, and Jerick McKinnon has caught at least one touchdown pass in six straight games while reaching the end zone nine times total over that span.

In the weeks since Fortson went down, the Chiefs returned Blake Bell from injured reserve. And along with Noah Gray, the duo has played well alongside Travis Kelce while also giving the All-Pro tight end a break when he needs it.

"I don't know much about the situation," McKinnon said, "but getting all the weapons back is going to be amazing."

Well, almost all the playmakers.

The Chiefs thought they'd have Hardman back weeks ago. But after returning to practice in mid-December, the speedy wide receiver has experienced a series of setbacks that kept him off the field for the rest of the regular season — he has not played since Nov. 6 against Tennessee — and now threaten to keep him out against the Jaguars.

Asked whether he expects Hardman to play in the postseason, Chiefs coach Andy Reid replied: "He does and we do, yeah."

"You just want to try to not take steps back," Reid said. "And it's not that we've taken steps back, it's just not getting to where it needs to be where he can go. The feeling is if we just back off on it, let it rest here, do his rehab, and he'll have a chance to get better. We don't want to put him out there in a bad situation where he can't play."

and was a key part of the offense when the 2020 first-round pick got hurt Nov. 20, and Fortson had been a red zone option before getting hurt Dec. 18.

"Any time you get talented players back, it helps the whole team. Not just the offense, but everybody," said Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who acknowledged the week off did wonders for his own bruised body.

"Both of those guys are special players," Mahomes said. "Having as many healthy guys as possible is great for us."

It's not as if the Chiefs, who lead the league in total offense and scoring, have suffered in their absence.

Seventh-round pick Isiah Pacheco averaged more than 5 yards per carry while rushing for 633 yards and four touchdowns over

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	12	.733	—
Philadelphia	28	16	.636	4½
Brooklyn	27	16	.628	5
New York	25	20	.556	8
Toronto	20	25	.444	13
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	24	21	.533	—
Atlanta	22	22	.500	1½
Washington	18	26	.409	5½
Orlando	16	28	.364	7½
Charlotte	11	34	.244	13
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	29	16	.644	—
Cleveland	28	17	.622	1
Indiana	23	22	.511	6
Chicago	20	24	.455	8½
Detroit	12	35	.255	18
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	30	13	.698	—
New Orleans	26	18	.591	4½
Dallas	24	21	.533	7
San Antonio	14	31	.311	17
Houston	10	34	.227	20½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	31	13	.705	—
Utah	23	24	.489	9½
Minnesota	22	23	.489	9½
Oklahoma City	21	23	.477	10
Portland	21	23	.477	10
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	24	18	.571	—
Golden State	22	22	.500	3
L.A. Clippers	23	23	.500	3
Phoenix	21	24	.467	4½
L.A. Lakers	20	24	.455	5

Tuesday's games
 Milwaukee 130, Toronto 122
 San Antonio 106, Brooklyn 98
 Denver 122, Portland 113
 Philadelphia 120, L.A. Clippers 110

Wednesday's games
 Atlanta at Dallas
 Washington at New York
 Charlotte at Houston
 Cleveland at Memphis
 Indiana at Oklahoma City
 Miami at New Orleans
 L.A. Clippers at Utah
 Minnesota at Denver
 Sacramento at L.A. Lakers

Thursday's games
 Chicago at Detroit
 Golden State at Boston
 Toronto at Minnesota
 Brooklyn at Phoenix
 Philadelphia at Portland

Friday's games
 New Orleans at Orlando
 Golden State at Cleveland
 Miami at Dallas
 New York at Atlanta
 L.A. Clippers at San Antonio
 Brooklyn at Utah
 Indiana at Denver
 Memphis at L.A. Lakers
 Oklahoma City at Sacramento

Saturday's games
 Boston at Toronto
 Orlando at Washington
 Charlotte at Atlanta
 Milwaukee at Cleveland
 Houston at Minnesota
 Indiana at Phoenix
 Philadelphia at Sacramento

Scoring leaders					
Through Tuesday					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, DAL	40	454	330	1351	33.8
Embiid, PHI	33	370	333	1110	33.6
Tatum, BOS	43	438	319	1337	31.1
Antetokounmpo, MIL	35	382	296	1085	31.0
G.-Alexander, OKC	40	405	377	1226	30.7
Durant, BKN	39	410	267	1158	29.7
James, LAL	34	393	157	1010	29.7
Lillard, POR	32	287	237	938	29.3
Mitchell, CLE	40	390	206	1135	28.4
Morant, MEM	36	351	225	989	27.5
Young, ATL	39	336	305	1068	27.4
Brown, BOS	40	407	174	1086	27.2
DeRozan, CHI	41	381	291	1069	26.1

ROUNDUP

Bucks win without Antetokounmpo

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jrue Holiday scored a season-high 37 points and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Toronto Raptors 130-122 on Tuesday night.

The Bucks, playing without Giannis Antetokounmpo for the fourth consecutive game, shot 19-for-39 (49%) from three-point range.

Fred Van Vleet led Toronto with 39 points. Gary Trent Jr. added 23 points and Pascal Siakam had 23.

Play got chippy and action was halted at 6:40 of the fourth quarter with Milwaukee leading 113-110 because of an altercation involving several players near the Bucks' basket. Milwaukee's Brook Lopez was whistled for two technical fouls and ejected. Technicals were also called on Toronto's O.G. Anunoby and Jamaal Magloire on the play.

Lopez scored 15 of his 19 points in the third quarter before being ejected.

76ers 120, Clippers 110: Joel Embiid scored 41 points and visiting Philadelphia recovered after blowing a 14-point, first-half lead to beat Los Angeles for its third straight win.

Embiid had nine rebounds and made 15 of 18 free throws before leaving the game with 2:53 remaining. Philadelphia fans chanted "MVP! MVP!" as he raised both arms to encourage the cheers.

Tyrese Maxey added 22 points off the bench. Tobias Harris had 20 points as the 76ers closed out a Los Angeles sweep, having edged the Lakers by one point two nights earlier.

After getting outscored 37-27 in the third, the Sixers dominated



MORRY GASH/AP

The Bucks' Jrue Holiday is fouled by the Toronto Raptors' Fred VanVleet during the second half of Tuesday's game in Milwaukee. Holiday scored a season-high 37 points in the Bucks' 130-122 victory.

the fourth. They outscored the Clippers 30-21 in a reversal of the third when LA rallied from 11 points down.

Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points to lead the Clippers.

Nuggets 122, Trail Blazers 113: Nikola Jokic had 36 points as part of his 13th triple-double of the season to offset a 44-point performance from Damian Lillard, and host Denver won its 14th straight home game by topping Portland.

Jokic, who was 13-for-14 from the floor, finished with 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Michael Porter Jr. had 23 points and Jamal Murray added 17 for Denver.

The Nuggets were without head coach Michael Malone, who missed the game after entering the league's health and safety protocols. Acting coach David Adelman stepped in and the Western Conference-leading Nuggets didn't miss a beat.

Lillard had his 214th career game with 30 or more points as the Trail Blazers dropped their eighth straight road game.

Spurs 106, Nets 98: Keldon Johnson had a career-high 36 points and 11 rebounds and host San Antonio snapped a five-game skid with a win over injury-slowed Brooklyn.

Jeremy Sochan added 16 points for San Antonio. Johnson was 11-for-26 from the field, including two key baskets in the fourth quarter.

Brooklyn lost its third straight. The Nets have dropped every game since Kevin Durant suffered a sprained MCL in his right knee. Kyrie Irving was a late scratch due to a sore right calf.

Ben Simmons had a triple-double of 10 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for Brooklyn in the opener of a five-game trip. T.J. Warren added 19 points and Nic Claxton had 15 points, 11 rebounds, four blocks and four assists.

Time: James is playing against sons of former opponents

FROM PAGE 24

Both Smith Sr. and Martin Sr. were in the crowd to watch their sons — and James' son, 18-year-old Bronny, goes to the same Los Angeles-area high school at which Martin Jr. played. James has also played against one of Bronny's former high school teammates, Memphis' Ziaire Williams.

"It's just a unique thing that I've been able to withstand the test of time for as long as I've been playing, to be able to compete now versus father-and-son combinations," James said.

There are concessions to the advances of time, but they're more about injury than age: James sat out two games since turning 38, to rest a body with accumulated nicks including a sore left ankle.

One night before he lit up the Rockets, James scored his

38,000th career point in a 113-112 loss to Philadelphia on Sunday that left James uncharacteristically brusque and frustrated in his postgame interview. He went on Twitter on Monday to voice his disappointment with the officiating in the Lakers' recent games, calling it "frustrating as hell man."

James admitted he was "extremely tired" Monday, and he easily could have sat out against the lowly Rockets on the back end of back-to-back games. Instead, he decided he couldn't take a night off with the Lakers (20-24) on a three-game losing streak and sitting 13th in the 15-team Western Conference without Davis and injured rotation players Lonnie Walker and Austin Reaves.

So James played 36 minutes and scored 20 of his 48 points in the

fourth quarter while continuing his career-long history of performing superbly in back-to-back situations.

"Body was sore from the battle that we had (Sunday) versus Philly," he added. "I guess once I step on the court for warmups and the crowd fills in, it's my job to go out and play the best way I can."

James' scoring spree is yet another reminder his career may not even be close to finished.

The victory over Houston was the 1,400th game of James' NBA career. That's the 11th-most in NBA history, and if he stays reasonably healthy, he'll be within range of Robert Parish's record of 1,611 games played at about the time his current Lakers contract expires in 2025.

That mark doesn't include James' 266 career postseason

games, and it's too early to tell whether he'll be able to add to that playoff total this spring. The Lakers are outside the playoff picture for the second straight year, a fact that frustrates James tremendously.

Yet when Davis is healthy, the Lakers appear to be a postseason contender. That notion keeps James going, along with the innate fire in a player who has been driven to succeed from his first step onto an NBA court in Sacramento nearly two full decades ago.

"Ever since we made the trade for AD to bring him here, our whole thing was about health," James said. "That's not changed. We haven't had the best luck of health, I would say, especially this year. I can't tell you what I want out of this ballclub (without good health)."

SPORTS

Nadal bows out

Defending champ goes down in straight sets » Australian Open, Page 20



NBA

Defying Father Time

James on scoring tear since turning 38

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

At a time in life when all but the world's greatest athletes are slowing down, LeBron James has picked up speed.

James turned 38 years old on Dec. 30, deep in his 20th season in the NBA. He celebrated by scoring 47 points on his birthday in Atlanta, and the second-leading scorer in league history has been on a vintage roll ever since.

James is averaging 37.0 points, 9.7 rebounds and 8.6 assists for the Los Angeles Lakers in his seven games since turning 38. He has three 40-point performances in that stretch, including a season-high 48-point effort in a 140-132 victory over Houston on Monday night.

Older golfers take pride in shooting their age. James is nearly scoring his age against the best basketball players in the world — and even amid everything else James has done to redefine the parameters of greatness, his current surge is something special.

“He’s just been in an incredible rhythm, and it’s showing,” Lakers coach Darvin Ham said.

James is closing in on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar’s NBA career scoring record while sometimes carrying the short-handed Lakers until Anthony Davis recovers from his latest major injury, and he’s doing it all despite constant reminders of the advancement of time.

With increasing regularity, James is playing against the sons of players he faced earlier in his career, including Rockets youngsters Jabari Smith Jr. and Kenyon Martin Jr. on Monday.

“Hey, you played against my dad your first NBA game ever,” Smith Jr. told James on the court in an exchange captured by NBA TV.

“It made me feel extremely old when Junior told me that,” James said with a grin. “I think he even said it, like, ‘You probably feel old.’”

“I guess once I step on the court for warmups and the crowd fills in, it’s my job to go out and play the best way I can.”

LeBron James
Veteran of 14,000 games

SEE TIME ON PAGE 23

LeBron James has scored 38,072 points over his 20 seasons in the NBA, ranking second all-time. He needs just 316 more points to pass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387) and take over the top spot.

JAE C. HONG/AP



No. 13 K-State knocks off No. 2 Kansas » College basketball, Page 21

