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101st Airborne to be first to fly new assault aircraft
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Daniel Dae Kim, Tonys' first Asian nominated for best leading actor
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Pacers have something to prove in their return to Conference finals
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Quick US exit would leave Europe vulnerable, be costly to allies >> Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Army Sgt. James Tranchina of 2nd Cavalry Regiment does pushups during the V Corps Best Squad Competition at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, on Thursday.

PHOTOS BY LYDIA GORDON/Stars and Stripes

Army squads put to the test

Team from 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck tops field in competition

By LYDIA GORDON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Infantryman Pfc. Keagan Boston sprinted across the finish line of his second mile-long run through the woods of the Grafenwoehr Training Area during this week's V Corps Best Squad Competition.

Close behind him were the four remaining members of his squad from the Vilseck-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment, breathing hard but smiling as they completed the Expert Physical Fitness Assessment,



A soldier in the V Corps Best Squad Competition plots points on a map prior to the land navigation portion of the competition on May 12.

one of the final events of the grueling five-day set of challenges.

Despite being neck-and-neck with another 2nd Cavalry squad, Boston and teammates Staff Sgt. Caleb Rawlings, Sgt. Conrad David, Spc. Devin Schallert and Pfc. Elesban Ruiz managed to take first place.

"We worked about six days a week, working out every day two times a day, just going over (expert infantry badge) tasks, trying to get our strength and condition-

SEE SQUADS ON PAGE 4

DHS wants 20K Guard forces to aid deportations

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Department of Homeland Security said Friday that it has requested the Pentagon provide thousands of National Guard troops to bolster efforts to remove undocumented migrants from the United States.

It was not immediately clear what role those forces could play in President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts. Officials at DHS, the Pentagon and the National Guard Bureau declined to provide any specific information about the requests or how the Guard forces could be utilized in Trump's immigration crackdown.

"DHS requested 20,000 National Guard members to help carry out the president's mandate from the American people to arrest and deport criminal illegal aliens," Tricia McLaughlin, the department's top spokeswoman, said in a statement. "The Department of Homeland Security will use every tool and resource available to get criminal illegal aliens including gang members, murderers, pedophiles, and other violent criminals out of our country. The safety of American citizens comes first."

A Pentagon spokesperson confirmed the Defense Department had received the latest DHS request for troops but said they could not provide any further information. A National Guard spokesperson referred all questions to the Pentagon.

Since Trump's January return to the White House, his administration has made the crackdown on undocumented migrants one of its highest priorities. Under Trump's orders, the Pentagon has surged thousands of active-duty troops to the U.S. southern border

SEE GUARD ON PAGE 8

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US cable giants eye merger in streaming fight

Associated Press

Charter Communications has offered to acquire Cox Communications, a \$34.5 billion merger that would combine two of the top three cable companies in the U.S.

Cox is the third largest cable television company in the country, with more than 6.5 million digital cable, internet, telephone, and home security customers. It has a strong foothold in states spanning from California to Virginia. Charter Communications, known more widely as Spectrum, has more

than 32 million customers in 41 states.

The cable industry has been under assault for years from streaming services like Disney, Netflix, Amazon and HBO Max, as well as internet plans offered by mobile phone companies. Comcast, which is of nearly equal size to Charter, spun off many of its cable television networks in November as consumers increasingly swap out their cable TV subscriptions for streaming platforms.

Charter said Friday that it will

acquire Cox Communications' commercial fiber and managed IT and cloud businesses. Cox Enterprises will contribute Cox Communications' residential cable business to Charter Holdings, an existing subsidiary partnership of Charter.

Cox Enterprises will own about 23% of the combined company's outstanding shares.

The transaction, which needs approval from Charter shareholders as well as regulators, includes \$12.6 billion in debt.

EXCHANGE RATES			
Military rates			
Euro costs (May 19)	0.87	Switzerland (Franc)	0.8389
British pound (May 19)	\$1.30	Thailand (Baht)	33.41
Japanese yen (May 19)	139.00	Turkey (NewLira)	38.8470
South Korean won (May 19)	1361.00	(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.)	
Commercial rates		INTEREST RATES	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769	Prime rate	7.50
Britain (Pound)	1.3279	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Canada (Dollar)	1.3984	Federal funds market rate	4.38
China (Yuan)	7.2095	3-month bill	4.35
Denmark (Krone)	6.6901	30-year bond	4.90
Egypt (Pound)	50.1303		
Euro	0.8966		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8139		
Hungary (Forint)	361.14		
Israel (Shekel)	3.5575		
Japan (Yen)	145.91		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3074		
Norway (Krone)	10.3956		
Philippines (Peso)	55.83		
Poland (Zloty)	3.83		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2997		
South Korea (Won)	1399.58		

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MILITARY

Quick US exit would leave Europe vulnerable

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A rapid U.S. military withdrawal from Europe would leave allies on the Continent exposed to attack and cost them hundreds of billions of dollars to offset the loss of American firepower, a new report says.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank estimates that it would cost Europe between \$226 billion and \$344 billion to match U.S. conventional weapons systems and platforms that play a central role in the Continent's defense.

Over a 25-year life cycle, including maintenance costs, that figure could grow to more than \$1 trillion, according to the report released Thursday.

Replacing American troops stationed in Europe and those who would be expected contribute to NATO defense plans in a conflict would cost \$12.3 billion annually, the report said.

The study looked at the implications of a large-scale Pentagon pivot to Asia in 2025 that would remove most U.S. military assets from Europe. Roughly 80,000 American troops now operate across the Continent.

The report also considered the possibility of Russia rebuilding its military in the coming years if a lasting ceasefire is reached with Ukraine.

"In such a scenario, there may not be much time to prepare for a Russian threat to allied territory," the report said, adding that Europe would face a considerable "window of vulnerability" in the short term without American support.

The report comes amid uncer-



RYAN BROWN/U.S. Navy

German and Spanish air force planes fly in formation over the German navy frigate Baden-Württemberg as it leaves Naval Station Rota in Spain on May 7, 2024.

tainty about the future U.S. role in European defense and the level of continued American involvement in NATO.

President Donald Trump hasn't laid out his vision for the U.S. European Command mission, though several top Pentagon officials have said Europe must prepare to handle conventional defense on its own.

The Defense Department has said it is reviewing global force posture but hasn't announced any

plans for a large withdrawal from Europe this year in line with the report's scenario.

But the expectation is that while the United States would continue to provide NATO's nuclear deterrent, European countries would need to assume primary responsibility for conventional forces so the Pentagon can focus on countering China's rising military.

The circumstances have created angst among many allies who

fear that an abrupt American withdrawal looms.

The forces Europe could develop fastest are on the ground, the report stated. Growing those forces and their weapons would cost between \$51 billion and \$93 billion, according to the report.

Still, to fully match what U.S. ground forces can do in Europe would take a decade, IISS said.

Air power would be the costliest to replicate, with a price tag of between \$88 billion and \$125 bil-

lion. Added naval systems were similar in cost, ranging between \$86 billion and \$125 billion.

European nations have already increased defense spending in recent years in response to Russian aggression and U.S. pressure to meet alliance targets. But with uncertainty about the level of future U.S. commitment, key allies are preparing to spend significantly more.

Germany, which had long resisted ramping up military spending, last year hit NATO's benchmark of spending 2% of gross domestic product on defense.

On Thursday, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said Berlin is prepared to meet Trump's new demand of increasing the spending threshold to 5% of GDP.

Even with larger budgets, IISS said the timeline for building new systems and developing military-industrial infrastructure means improved capabilities won't arrive quickly.

To close the current defense gap, European policymakers will need to prioritize countering Russia's anti-access and area denial tools, such as long-range air defenses and surface-to-surface missile systems, the report said.

That would involve more air and missile defense, air-launched precision weapons, rocket artillery and ground-launched precision strike platforms.

"Closing the window of vulnerability in the short term without a U.S. presence would thus be very challenging," the report said. "However, rebuilding European defense capacity in the medium term would not be an impossible task."

Window closing for USAF selective retention bonus program

By ZADE VADNAIS
Stars and Stripes

Time is running out for eligible airmen to apply for this year's selective retention bonus program, which the Air Force is closing more than four months earlier than expected.

The 2025 application window will shut Tuesday due to high retention rates and the expected

exhaustion of the program's budget, the service said in a statement Thursday. The window typically remains open through Sept. 30, which is the end of the fiscal year.

Selective retention bonuses offer extra pay to active-duty airmen and Space Force guardians in high-demand career fields who commit to additional ser-

vice. This year, 89 specialties are eligible — up from 73 last year — including jobs in cybersecurity, aircraft maintenance and intelligence.

Eligible members can receive up to \$180,000 per reenlistment, depending on their career field and time in service. The lifetime cap is \$360,000, unless waived by the principal deputy underse-

cretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

To be qualified, members must serve in the eligible career field for the full term of their reenlistment. Those who plan to change jobs or pursue an officer commission aren't eligible.

In recent years, the Air Force has adjusted enlisted retention policies by expanding the reen-

listment window from 90 days to 12 months before a contract's end date and raising the selective retention bonus cap by \$80,000. This year's application window also opened five months earlier than it did in 2024.

Airmen who reenlist and accept a bonus before the May 20 deadline will still receive the full amount, the service said.

Marine vet sentenced for yearslong scheme using fake service record

By ZADE VADNAIS
Stars and Stripes

A Florida veteran who used a falsified military discharge form to secure government jobs and unearned benefits has been sentenced to federal prison.

Robert Gulledge, 60, of Jacksonville, Fla., was sentenced May

8 to three months in prison and fined \$2,500 for making false statements to a federal agency. He pleaded guilty in December.

Gulledge served more than six years in the Marine Corps as a field radio operator and water survival instructor before being honorably discharged in 1989, accord-

ing to a grand jury indictment.

After leaving the service, he created a fake discharge document that falsely identified him as a reconnaissance troop, and both a parachute and scuba instructor, court records show.

The form also claimed he had earned multiple military honors,

including a Bronze Star with V device, a high decoration for valor.

Gulledge first used the fraudulent document in 2009 to land a job as an intelligence analyst on a government contract, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Florida.

He later submitted it for other

contracting roles and repeatedly claimed benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs to which he was not entitled.

Prosecutors said Gulledge used the fake form at least 10 times between 2009 and 2024.

He is scheduled to report to prison on July 8.

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY LYDIA GORDON/Stars and Stripes
Pfc. Matthew Simpson of the 41st Field Artillery Brigade low-crawls during the V Corps Best Squad Competition at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, on May 12.

Squads: 30 soldiers in competition

FROM PAGE 1
ing up,” Boston said Thursday.
The competition, which kicked off May 12 and involved a half-dozen squads, was designed to test the full spectrum of skills of the 30 participating soldiers.

Events included standard and expert-level Army physical fitness tests, live-fire weapons qualifications under stress, Expert Infantry Badge training, an obstacle course, land navigation, long-distance ruck marches and medical drills.

Throughout the competition, soldiers endured sleep deprivation while carrying approximately 80-pound packs and wearing full weighted tactical gear.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment’s three squads felt a strong sense of legacy going into the competition, following their predecessors’ third-place finish in last year’s Army Best Squad Competition while representing U.S. Army Europe and Africa.

The Army’s Best Squad Competition features a dozen teams from across the service that emerged from the command-level stages to earn a spot in the overall Army competition.

Rawlings, David, Schallert, Ruiz and Boston will move on to represent V Corps at the USA-REUR-AF Best Squad Competition in August.

This year’s V Corps competition gauntlet was modeled after U.S. Army Europe and Africa’s format with the goal of preparing the winning team for success in August, V Corps operations Sgt. Maj. David Huntington said.



Army Sgt. James Tranchina of 2nd Cavalry Regiment puts on camouflage paint on Thursday during the V Corps Best Squad Competition.

Huntington hopes next year’s event will place greater emphasis on the Army’s transforming in contact initiative, which focuses on adapting soldiers’ tactics to evolving battlefield technologies.
The other three entrants in the V Corps competition this week were from the Grafenwoehr-based 41st Field Artillery Brigade, which had two squads vying for the crown, and a lone squad from 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Ansbach.
Many of those soldiers didn’t have the luxury of preparing for the challenges to the extent that their 2nd Cavalry counterparts did, but they gladly gave it a go anyway.

“We volunteered for this and we knew that we’re not the fastest, the smartest, or even trained for it,” said Cpl. Mariia Kondratieva, an aviation maintainer from 12th CAB.
Her team was considered the underdogs, as the five soldiers had kept their primary focus on their duties as aviation maintainers and therefore had only a week of training and studying before the competition.
“Every time that you feel like it is getting worse and worse ... you have to say, ‘Is that all that you’ve got?’ Kondratieva said. “It’s a mental game by the end of the day.”



Pfc. James Etling of 2nd Cavalry Regiment climbs up a rope wall at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.



Pfc. Anton Pavlov of 2nd Cavalry Regiment runs Wednesday during the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials event.



A five-soldier team from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade carries a casualty dummy during the competition on May 12.

PACIFIC

Multi-domain task forces lead Pacific strategy

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes
WAIKIKI BEACH, Hawaii — A decade ago, Navy Adm. Harry Harris challenged a roomful of Army leaders to think beyond land.

“The Army’s got to be able to sink ships, neutralize satellites, shoot down missiles and deny the enemy the ability to command and control its forces,” Harris, at the time in charge of what is now U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, said at the 2016 Land Forces Pacific symposium at Waikiki Beach.

Today, the Army’s three multi-domain task forces — with two more in the works — may be the most tangible result of Harris’ charge.

“Multi-domain task forces in the field now, as I utter these words, in commission now, represent the centerpiece of this response ... and this fundamentally alters the strategic calculus in the contested environment,” Adm. Samuel Paparo, today’s INDOPACOM commander, said Tuesday in the keynote speech opening this year’s LANPAC.

The task forces are designed to operate across land, air, sea, space and cyberspace and are key to countering China and Russia’s area denial strategy.

“The Army built these capabilities specifically in response to what was happening in the Indo-Pacific,” Brig. Gen. Mike Rose, commander of the 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force, said during an interview Wednesday on the symposium’s sidelines.

The 3rd MDTF was stood up at



NELLO MIELE/U.S. Marine Corps

Soldiers with the 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force and the Tennessee National Guard fire precision strike missiles during a ship-sinking drill for the Valiant Shield exercise on Palau in 2024.

Fort Shafter, Hawaii, in September 2022.

Since then it has been building out its fires and sustainment capabilities, he said.

It is the second task force aligned with the Indo-Pacific, joining the first stood up in 2017 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Another task force was stood up in 2021 in Germany.

The 3rd MDTF has become an integral part of Operation Pathways, which is U.S. Army Pacific’s campaign to keep troops deployed across the International Date Line from spring through fall through back-to-back exercises.

The task force is adding a long-range precision fires battalion this year, armed with a battery of the Army’s long-range hypersonic

weapon, a missile dubbed Dark Eagle.

The Washington-based 1st MDTF was the first Army unit to deploy and integrate Dark Eagle, which has a range of about 1,700 miles.

The 3rd MDTF will also be fielding a Typhon battery, the Army’s mid-range missile system designed specifically for the task

forces.

It launches both Tomahawk cruise missiles and the Standard Missile-6.

The U.S. deployed a Typhon missile launcher to the Philippines last year.

Typhon “gives us a pretty significant amount of range” in the hunt for “a moving maritime target,” Rose said.

Rounding out the fires battalion is a battery using the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, to launch the short-range precision strike missile, or PrSM.

The 3rd MDTF sank a target ship off Palau with two strike missiles last summer during the Valiant Shield exercise.

In the next couple of years, the task force will begin building out its air-defense battalion for what the Army calls indirect fire protection, Rose said.

Some of the technology in the works for that defense, such as directed energy via lasers or microwave, are still in the prototyping and experimental stages, he said.

“We are part of that process,” Rose said.

“The most interesting thing about the indirect fire protection capability is how we’re thinking now about integrating offensive and defensive fires,” he said.

“In particular, the data that feeds our defensive fires can very quickly transition to feeding an offensive deployment to go after the shooter,” he added,

With such a system, the task force could simultaneously hunt the arrows and the archers, Rose said.

US Forces Korea leader says his troops deter China

By David Choi
Stars and Stripes
The top U.S. commander in South Korea likened the peninsula’s strategic location in the Indo-Pacific to a “fixed aircraft carrier floating in the water” near China, during a keynote address Thursday in Hawaii.

Army Gen. Xavier Brunson, who leads U.S. Forces Korea, delivered remarks at the Army’s Land Forces Pacific Symposium in Waikiki Beach, urging attendees to rethink the significance of land-based power in the region.

“What immediately stood out to me as I looked at the map was the position of the Korean Peninsula and the fact that it’s on the Asian continent, has a sizable U.S. force posture, is inside the first island chain and is the closest allied presence to Beijing,” he said.

Brunson added: “At night, from a satellite image, [South Korea] looks like an island or like a fixed aircraft carrier floating in the water between Japan and mainland

China.”

He emphasized the need for military strategists to go beyond conventional north-oriented map views and consider regional geography when assessing strategic positioning.

Roughly 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, most of them at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, about 40 miles south of Seoul.

While USFK’s primary mission is to defend the South against a potential North Korean attack, the command’s presence also plays a role in deterring China, one of Pyongyang’s closest allies.

After the United States deployed its \$800 million Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system to South Korea in 2017, China complained that the move threatened its regional interests, then slapped broad boycotts against Seoul.

The Korean Peninsula “sits right in the center” of the map of Asia, Brunson said, adding that

South Korea, Japan and the Philippines form a “triangle of nations” that are connected to the U.S. through mutual defense treaties.

Japan and the Philippines often clash with China over territorial disputes. Earlier this month, Japan’s Foreign Ministry accused a Chinese helicopter of entering its airspace near the Senkaku Islands, prompting its air force to scramble fighter jets.

Japan and China have asserted competing claims to the Senkakus, a group of five islets roughly 250 miles west of Okinawa.

Filipino vessels have also confronted Chinese ships in the South China Sea, with some encounters resulting in injuries.

“Our presence in the region gives our adversaries pause and ultimately supports the defense of the homeland from freedom’s front yard,” Brunson said. “By being forward-stationed, we effectively operate inside an adversaries anti-access area denial bubble



JOHANNA PULLUM/U.S. Army

Army Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, delivers a keynote presentation Thursday at the Land Forces Pacific Symposium in Waikiki Beach, Hawaii.

and inside their headspace.”

In addition to leading USFK, Brunson also heads United Nations Command and the U.S.-South Korea Combined Forces Command,

all headquartered at Camp Humphreys.

He assumed command on Dec. 20, succeeding retired Army Gen. Paul LaCamera.

MILITARY

Australia-based Marines to join Philippine drills

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A Marine Corps element visiting the Philippines from northern Australia will coordinate with a littoral regiment from Hawaii and command an Osprey squadron from California during the upcoming Kamandag exercise.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 members of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin will join 12 days of regional defense training at sites across the Philippines during the annual exercise that begins May 26.

The Americans will train alongside Philippine and South Korean marines and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, according to a Wednesday news release from the rotational force.

One hundred members of the force's command element will coordinate with Marines from Hawaii and California during the drill, Capt. Johnny Fischer, a spokesman for the force, said by email Friday.

The rotational force has had troops in the Philippines since March and in April sent command and logistics elements to the western island of Palawan for the Balikatan exercise. It will coordinate with additional formations during Kamandag, the release said.



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Philippine marines train with live fire on the western coast of Palawan, Philippines, April 28, during the annual Balikatan exercise.

Kamandag focuses on amphibious drills and takes place during heightened tensions between Manila and Beijing, whose coast guards have clashed over disputed territory in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The command and logistics Marines arrived with their gear from Australia by U.S. Army landing craft and Marine Corps C-40 Clipper airlifter, Fischer said.

The movement from Darwin to Palawan wasn't just about getting there fast, rotational force commander Col. Jason Armas said in the release.

"It was about getting there ready and able to persist where other formations cannot," he said. "This exercise validated our ability to serve as a forward headquarters, capable of command-and-control across vast maritime

terrain, integrated with partner and allied forces."

The command element, in the role of I Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, will coordinate with the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment on the Philippines' main island of Luzon and command and control Ospreys of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 364, Fischer said by phone Friday. The littoral regiment is from Marine Corps Base Hawaii and the tiltrotors are from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The Ospreys — deployed to Clark Air Base on Luzon — have been transporting Marines around Palawan in recent weeks, the rotational force's operations officer, Lt. Col. Douglas Price, said by phone from the Philippines on Friday.

"It's very different to California or Darwin — heavy jungle terrain," he said of training in the islands. "It's learning to adapt to the jungle and the water and humidity."

The rotational force had 500 Marines training with Philippine troops and 260 Australian soldiers on Palawan during Balikatan.

The Australians, from 5th/7th Battalion, are departing and won't join Kamandag, Price said.

The Marines spend about a week in the field at a time, subsisting on Meals, Ready to Eat and using mosquito nets to stave off wildlife.

When they come back from the field they stay in air-conditioned tents and get hot meals on Philippine facilities, Price said.

They've been moving between Puerto Princesa, the largest city on Palawan, and training sites near Rizal, five hours' drive south. The Marines can take liberty in Puerto Princesa, where there are large American-style shopping malls.

The command element will move from Puerto Princesa to the Philippine marine headquarters at Fort Bonifacio in Manila for Kamandag, Price said.

During the exercise, participating forces will demonstrate expeditionary advanced base operations, he said, referring to the employment of mobile, low-signature and relatively easy to sustain forces in austere locations.

Kamandag will also focus on amphibious integration, maneuvering close to shore and humanitarian operations across Luzon, Palawan, Tawi-Tawi and Batanes islands, according to the rotational force news release.

Crew safe after boat capsizes in Okinawa

By BRIAN McELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

Two workers were rescued Thursday after a small construction vessel overturned at the site of a future Marine Corps airfield in northern Okinawa, according to Japan's coast guard.

The transport and work boat capsized at 2:11 p.m., while securing a barge with ropes to anchors installed on the shore and seabed near Cape Henoko, the coast guard said in a news release that day. The boat has a carrying capacity of less than 5 tons.

A spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau confirmed by phone Friday that the vessel was supporting the new airfield's construction. A coast guard spokesman said the boat was operating northeast of Cape Henoko, though he did not know how far from shore it was located.

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

The two crew members had been connecting a rope attached



Japan coast guard

A work boat capsized Thursday on Oura Bay at the site of a future U.S. Marine Corps airfield for Camp Schwab, Okinawa.

to a seabed anchor with another rope extending from the rear-right side of the barge, according to the coast guard release. The rope became caught on a second anchor on the barge and entangled with the boat, causing it to capsize when it was pulled by the seabed anchor.

Both crew members, who were wearing life jackets, were uninjured and were rescued by workers aboard nearby vessels, the release said. The coast guard was notified of the incident at 2:30 p.m.

The capsized boat was lifted on to shore by a crane ship around 5:30 p.m., the release said. A containment boom was deployed around the area to control a minor oil spill, which was contained by

approximately 7 p.m.

No environmental damage was reported, and the incident is under investigation, the coast guard spokesman said.

Thursday's accident follows four previous oil spills this year involving construction vessels at the site. The most recent occurred on May 8, when oil leaked during a transfer between tanks.

The new airfield is being built on reclaimed land in Oura Bay to replace Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, a densely populated city.

The relocation was agreed upon by the U.S. and Japanese governments in 1996 but has faced ongoing legal challenges from the Okinawa prefectural government.

Mariners rescued after 3-day search

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Coast Guard rescued two missing mariners Friday after three days of searching thanks to the men's emergency beacon, according to Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

The mariners were found about 140 miles west of Guam; they showed no apparent injuries, dehydration or illness, Sector Guam spokeswoman Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sara Muir told Stars and Stripes by phone Friday.

A U.S. Navy MH-60 Knighthawk crew from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 airlifted one of the mariners, while the other remained to assist the Coast Guard with towing their vessel.

The Coast Guard cutter Myrtle Hazard was on scene with the mariner and his boat, the 47-foot supply vessel Lucky Harvest, as of 4 p.m. Friday, Muir said.

"We'll get him a hot shower and a hot meal," she said, adding that the vessel would soon be returned to Guam or Saipan.

"We are relieved to have located the Lucky Harvest and to have one mariner safely rescued," Cmdr. Patton Epperson, search and rescue mission coordinator, said in a Friday news release. "Our focus now is on ensuring the safety of the second mariner and securing the vessel, and we're deeply grateful for the swift response of our Navy partners and the ongoing support from all involved."

Muir was unable to provide identifying information.

The Coast Guard, Navy and first responders had searched since Monday for the men who failed to make their scheduled return to Saipan that night.

Extensive searches from participating agencies came up empty handed until the mariners activated their beacon on Friday. The ship had suffered an electrical failure, Muir said, but it wasn't clear how long they were drifting or if it affected their beacon.

Once activated, the beacon allowed a Coast Guard C-130 search-and-rescue aircraft to zero in on their position and verify they were safe while relaying their location, Muir said.

"The beacon was really essential in this case," she added. "We definitely advocate for folks that are operating in our austere and remote environment to have these — they were located at the edge of our search area."

MILITARY

Puget Sound shipyard preps for new carrier

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes
BREMERTON, Wash. — The Navy has begun a \$145 million overhaul of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard’s “electrical backbone,” the first step in preparing Naval Base Kitsap to homeport the new USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier.

“This project represents a huge infrastructure investment, supporting both increased capacity and reliability,” said Dave Sweet, the project director at the shipyard.

The 179-acre shipyard, which is part of Naval Base Kitsap, is the Navy’s largest shore facility in the Pacific Northwest, with 15,000 military and civilian workers.

The new project is part of the service’s more than \$20 billion Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program.

The program would modernize four public shipyards — Puget Sound, Norfolk, Va., Portsmouth, N.H., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii — that by mid-century would include advanced power transmission systems and renovations or replacement of dry docks.

The Navy so far has completed 44 projects costing \$1.2 billion and has another 48 projects authorized with a projected cost of \$6 billion, including the renovation or replacement of four dry docks. Nearly 250 pieces of shipyard equipment have been replaced at the four yards.

“We’ve had work at the other three shipyards, but this is the first SIOP project at Puget Sound Naval



The USS Nimitz at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 2018. The Nimitz, now deployed in the East China Sea, is scheduled to retire in 2026.

Shipyard,” said William Couch, a spokesman for Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command in Washington, D.C.

The work will replace an electrical substation officials said has become “degraded” by age and cannot support Ford-class aircraft carriers.

The Kennedy is the second of the Gerald Ford-class carriers to be built for the Navy. Each features advanced electronics, automated defense systems, and electromagnetic-driven aircraft elevators and launch systems. All require three times the electricity when in port compared to the Nimitz-class carriers that now account for 10 of the Navy’s 11 carriers.

Only Norfolk Naval Station and its shipyard have had the electrical upgrade to homeport Ford-class carriers.

Upgrading the electrical system will allow the Defense Department to place its most technologically advanced aircraft carriers on the Pacific Coast at Kitsap, which is adjacent to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, at a time when concerns about conflict with China have been on the rise.

“The Navy’s ability to deter adversaries and project power in the Indo-Pacific depends on our ability to maintain and modernize the fleet at home,” said Capt. Preston Taylor, commanding officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Sys-

tems Command Northwest.

Kitsap is now the homeport of two carriers — USS Ronald Reagan and USS Nimitz.

Sweet, the project director at the site in Bremerton, said the shipyard and Navy base will be able to operate normally during the electrical overhaul.

“The project isn’t displacing anything,” he said.

The Reagan recently began 17 months of maintenance at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

The 50-year-old Nimitz is deployed in the South China Sea, but the Navy plans to bring it back to Kitsap for a short stay before its permanent change of homeport to Norfolk no later than April 2026.

The move to the East Coast will mark the beginning of the ship’s decommissioning.

The Nimitz would be replaced in the fleet by the Kennedy, which would move from Norfolk to Kitsap by 2029. That would give the Navy one Ford-class carrier on each coast.

Congress has authorized six Ford-class carriers, though plans call for replacing all 10 of the Nimitz carriers with Ford-class ships by 2069, when the youngest of the class — USS George H.W. Bush — would be 50 years old.

USS Gerald Ford was commissioned in 2017 and is homeported at Norfolk. The Kennedy is nearing completion at HII-Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia and is scheduled to join the fleet later this year.

The future USS Enterprise and USS Doris Miller are under construction at Newport News with commissioning scheduled in 2029 and 2032, respectively. Congress recently approved the purchase of two more carriers — the USS William J. Clinton and USS George W. Bush. The carriers would be commissioned at some point after 2036.

Due to delays in the delivery of the Ford-class carriers, the Navy has extended the projected service of some of the Nimitz-class carriers. The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, the second-oldest Nimitz-class carrier, commissioned in 1977, was scheduled to be decommissioned in 2026. The Navy announced last year that the Eisenhower will serve into the early 2030s.

Navy to scrap historic platforms used to salvage the USS Arizona

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes
Work was to begin Monday to permanently remove a pair of dilapidated platforms that were connected to the USS Arizona during salvage operations following its sinking in the 1941 Japanese surprise attack.

Workers with the U.S. Navy and Pearl Harbor National Memorial will place containment buoys and anchors in the waters surrounding the USS Arizona Memorial site as a precautionary measure and in preparation for removing the platforms, the Navy said in a news release Thursday.

“Ultimately, the Navy decided to remove the historic platforms to prevent possible damage to the USS Arizona, its memorial and the environment,” the release states.

The platforms were welded to the hull of the Arizona, which sits mostly below water in Pearl Harbor, during a lengthy salvage op-

eration in the wake of the attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

Ferries, barges and ships tethered to the platforms as workers stripped parts critical to the war effort.

In October 2023, memorial staff discovered the smaller of the two platforms had shifted, with its concrete surface now inclined diagonally in the water.

Navy and National Park Service divers assessed the condition of both platforms and the ship’s hull in the months after the decay was found.

“After a year of focused planning and analysis, the installation of this mooring system is a necessary precaution to ensure environmental protection ahead of removing the platforms later this year,” the Navy said. “Additionally, this action supports the platform removal emergency response plan.”

The Pearl Harbor National Me-

morial had hoped the platforms could be repaired rather than removed.

“Our mission at the National Park Service is not just Dec. 7, 1941,” David Kilton, a spokesman for the memorial, told Stars and Stripes in November 2023. “It’s the lead-up to the attacks, the actual attack and the aftermath, continuing all the way to peace and reconciliation — a story still playing out today.”

The platforms tell a part of that story, he said.

The Navy, however, said in its news release that removing the platforms “will symbolize the completion of a salvage operation that began more than 80 years ago, involving the efforts of the U.S. Navy’s diving and salvage force, and thousands of contractors and shipyard workers drawn from the people of Hawaii and many different local communities.”

The USS Arizona Memorial



Navy divers survey mooring platforms attached to the USS Arizona wreck in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in July.

opened in 1962 and honors the 1,177 crewmen who died on the battleship. The remains of 900 sailors and Marines were entombed in the doomed vessel as it sank.

It receives about 2 million visitors a year.

The plan for removing the platforms complies with state and fed-

eral laws and regulations, the Navy said.

“Additionally, all efforts will be coordinated with the Pearl Harbor National Memorial and local officials to ensure the platform removal fully respects the ship’s historic importance to the nation and its sacred status as a war grave,” the news release states.

MILITARY

Supreme Court bars Alien Enemies Act use

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday barred the Trump administration from quickly resuming deportations of Venezuelans under an 18th-century wartime law enacted when the nation was just a few years old.

Over two dissenting votes, the justices acted on an emergency appeal from lawyers for Venezuelan men who have been accused of being gang members, a designation that the administration says makes them eligible for rapid removal from the United States under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.

The court indefinitely extended the prohibition on deportations from a Texas detention facility under the alien enemies law. The case will go back to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which declined to intervene in April.

President Donald Trump quick-

ly voiced his displeasure. “THE SUPREME COURT WON’T ALLOW US TO GET CRIMINALS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!” he posted on his Truth Social platform.

The high court action is the latest in a string of judicial setbacks for the Trump administration’s effort to speed deportations of people in the country illegally. The president and his supporters have complained about having to provide due process for people they contend didn’t follow U.S. immigration laws.

The court had already called a temporary halt to the deportations, in a middle-of-the-night order issued last month. Officials seemed “poised to carry out removals imminently,” the court noted Friday.

The case is among several making their way through the courts over Trump’s proclamation in

March calling the Tren de Aragua gang a foreign terrorist organization and invoking the 1798 law to deport people.

The high court case centers on the opportunity people must have to contest their removal from the United States — without determining whether Trump’s invocation of the law was appropriate.

“We recognize the significance of the Government’s national security interests as well as the necessity that such interests be pursued in a manner consistent with the Constitution,” the justices said in an unsigned opinion.

Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented, with Alito complaining that his colleagues had departed from their usual practices and seemingly decided issues without an appeals court weighing in. “But if it has done so, today’s order is doubly extraordinary,” Alito wrote.



A Management & Training Corporation employee patrols the Bluebonnet Detention Center last month in Anson, Texas.

Guard: More than 10,000 troops currently stationed at border

FROM PAGE 1

and declared large swaths of border-adjacent land in New Mexico and Texas as military installations to increase its authorities to arrest and charge people caught crossing the border illegally.

However, that effort was dealt a blow this week when a federal judge in New Mexico, U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge Gregory Wormuth, dismissed trespassing charges against dozens of migrants captured in that territory now controlled by the military.

Wormuth ordered the charges dismissed because federal attorneys could not provide him information that one could “reasonably conclude” that the migrants understood they were entering the United States on restricted military land.

There are now more than 10,000 military troops — including active-duty soldiers and Marines and National Guard forces — stationed along the border to assist Border Patrol officers.

Those troops include infantry



South Carolina Army National Guard Spc. Cameron Langston leads his squad past the southern barrier during a foot patrol earlier this month near Rio Grande City, Texas.

forces with Stryker combat vehicles, troops that fly drones and helicopters, logisticians and engineering forces.

Officials have said more troops could be moved to the border, even as Homeland Security has reported sharp drops in illegal border crossings. Last month, the

department reported about 8,000 arrests of migrants crossing the border illegally, down from some 128,000 such arrests in April 2024.

Trump has long promised a massive operation to deport unauthorized immigrants from the country. Last week, he called for an influx of 20,000 Immigration

and Customs Enforcement officers to boost those efforts, which appeared separate from the National Guard request.

National Guard forces have long been mobilized to conduct domestic operations, including disaster response and aiding other federal agencies, including Homeland Security — especially at the U.S.-Mexico border where they have operated since 2018.

But the new request for Guard forces to help in deportation efforts appears to be a first.

It was not clear how the Guard troops could be used in those operations.

Pentagon and DHS spokespersons declined to say whether they would be used to arrest undocumented migrants or be limited to assisting ICE with other tasks such as transportation and logistics, as most have been used in recent years at the border.

They also declined to say from which states the troops could come and whether they would be deployed on state orders facilitat-

ed by their governors or federal orders under the control of the president.

The Pentagon has not yet approved the request, an official said.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., a retired Army National Guard lieutenant colonel, blasted the new effort to use Guard forces for “civilian law enforcement efforts” in the United States, which she said, “is not part of the National Guard’s mission.”

“Not only does this undermine readiness and our national security, it also means Trump is testing the limits of how he can misuse our military against the American people,” said Duckworth, who was severely wounded flying a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in Iraq. “No one should believe that he will stop at immigrants if this plan moves forward. These are the sorts of things dictators do to destroy democracies and consolidate their own power — and everyone’s freedom is at risk if he succeeds.”

DHS reality show for immigrants could offer winners citizenship

By BRIAN NIEMIETZ
New York Daily News

A reality TV show featuring immigrants competing for citizenship is under consideration by the Department of Homeland Security. But producers claim it won’t be a zero-sum game show where the losers wind up in a Salvadoran prison.

Rob Worsoff, whose production credits include “Dating Naked,” “Duck Dynasty” and “The Mil-

lionaire Matchmaker,” told the Wall Street Journal that the show he recently pitched to DHS, called “The American,” is less dire than early reports might indicate.

“This isn’t ‘The Hunger Games’ for immigrants,” he said. “This is not, ‘Hey, if you lose, we are shipping you out on a boat out of the country.’”

The DHS told The New York Times it was weighing a pitch that officials described as “a celebra-

tion of being an American and what a privilege it is to be able to be a citizen of the United States of America.”

Contestants would reportedly travel to different states competing in themed contests inspired by each area’s history and culture. The British Daily Mail tabloid, which first reported on the “insane reality TV show,” said consolation prizes for contestants who don’t win citizenship may include

airline points, gasoline or Starbucks gift cards.

The DHS said the aspirational show idea is one of many its received and has so far gotten neither a red nor green light. It’s not clear if Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem would have any involvement with the program if it gets made.

Numerous members of the Trump administration — including the president himself — come

from a sensationalist TV background.

Trump hosted NBC’s “The Apprentice” for 14 years before entering politics, while Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy appeared on MTV’s “The Real World.” Dr. Mehmet Oz, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, became a star on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” before getting his own Emmy Award-winning program.

MILITARY

101st Airborne to be 1st to fly new assault aircraft

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

The 101st Airborne Division will be the first to fly the new Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft, which is designed to replace the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter by 2030, the Army has announced.

Gen. James Mingus, the service's vice chief of staff, revealed the choice Wednesday at the Army Aviation Association of America conference in Nashville.

The vertical take-off and landing aircraft built by a partnership of Bell and Lockheed Martin would be designated the MV-75, Mingus said. The MV stands for "multi-mission" and "vertical take-off and landing."

"The number 75 is a homage to 1775, the birth year of the United States Army," said Maj. Daniel Mathews, a spokesman for Mingus.

The aircraft was previously called the V-280 Valor.

The Pentagon has said the aircraft could eventually be operated by the other military services and

be sold to allied forces.

Col. Marty Meiners, a spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division, said the Army has not specified yet whether the MV-75 will retain the prototype's Valor name.

The MV-75 is intended to replace the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, a design that first flew in October 1974, the Army said. It is a tilt-rotor aircraft with engine mounts on the wingtips. The engines can counter-rotate, allowing for high level of maneuverability and hovering stability, according to the service.

Mathews said the MV-75 is a tactical assault and medical evacuation aircraft that will provide the Army with long-range, high-speed options "that are survivable in contested environments."

The V-280 Valor prototype was designed to carry 14 troops and a crew of four, the Army said. It has a top speed of 310 mph — much faster than the Black Hawk's operating speed of 183 mph. The new aircraft has a range of 931 miles, compared to 367 miles for the



DAVID HYLTON/DIVIDS

The V-280 Valor prototype that the Army announced this week would be re-designated as the MV-75 and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division by 2030.

Black Hawk.

Mingus said the Army is hoping to move up the projected 2030 delivery date under the Army's Transformation Initiative, which was announced April 30 by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

"To build a leaner, more lethal force, the Army must transform at an accelerated pace by divesting outdated, redundant, and inefficient programs, as well as restructuring headquarters and acquisition systems," Hegseth said in a memo announcing the initiative.

The V-280 Valor was part of the Pentagon's Future Vertical Lift

project to prototype five airframes to replace the UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook, AH-64 Apache, and OH-58 Kiowa helicopters.

The replacement for the Kiowa, designated as the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft, reached the point in which the designs for the Bell 360 Invictus and Sikorsky Raider X were designated as finalists in 2020.

In February 2024, the Army canceled the program.

Gen. Randy George, the Army's chief of staff at the time, said in a statement canceling the program that lessons learned by the vulner-

ability of manned reconnaissance aircraft in the war between Russia and Ukraine had "fundamentally changed" that Pentagon plans.

Mingus said when deliveries of the aircraft begin at Fort Campbell, Ky., they will be assigned to the 5th and 6th Battalions, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.

"The 101st is a formation built to deploy rapidly and operate in austere conditions," he said. "They fly into real-world contested environments, across wide terrain, often without the luxury of fixed support infrastructure. They need speed, endurance, and reliability."

Watchdog: Coast Guard needs to understand retention challenges

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Coast Guard has lost members faster in recent years than it recruited new ones and the service is not doing enough to address the problem, a federal watchdog found.

The Coast Guard consistently lost more enlisted members than it recruited from 2019 to 2023, the Government Accountability Office reported. The trend turned around in 2024 with retention-focused surveys and expanding recruiting outreach efforts, but the Coast Guard still can't pinpoint precisely what needs to be done to better recruit and retain members.

As a result, the service is short about 3,000 members and is operating below the workforce level that it deems necessary to meet operational demands.

"The Coast Guard identified some retention issues through surveys. But it needs more data and planning to better target its retention efforts on personnel with the skills and training needed to achieve its mission," reads a GAO report on retention that was released in April.

Additionally, a recruiting-focused GAO report released



TYLER ROBERTSON/U.S. Coast Guard

Coast Guard members assigned to the USCGC Kimball on Coast Guard Base Honolulu, Hawaii, on May 5.

Wednesday highlighted the service beat its recruiting target in 2024 after increasing recruiting offices, marketing, and other outreach efforts. But the GAO said the Coast Guard "could do more to assess which of these efforts worked."

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission maritime military service within the Department of Homeland Security. In 2024, it employed more than 39,000 active-duty service members, of which

about 30,600 were enlisted members.

The Coast Guard has used a survey for the past 15 years as its primary way of getting information on why a member may choose to leave the service. But the survey, which is emailed to members, has had a consistently low response rate since 2018. Specifically, the 2023 Career Intention Survey had an overall response rate of 39%, and the response rate for those leaving the service was below 7% in 2021.

The Coast Guard began requiring members to respond to the survey in 2022, though the service has not implemented any kind of enforcement for those who do not respond.

The service also offers various retention incentives, such as pay bonuses for certain jobs and extra points on advancement exams for professional achievements. But because the service is not taking steps to improve survey responses and analyze those responses, the Coast Guard is unable to determine how to hone its retention tactics.

"Without effective mechanisms to increase response rates, the Coast Guard faces challenges with accurately determining the most

likely causes for service member separations. This also can affect how well it is able to identify problems and target solutions," the GAO said.

The GAO found members tend to leave the Coast Guard due to frequent moves, challenges in finding housing and child care, limited pay and a lack of opportunity for career advancement. Because the Coast Guard survey has such low response rates, the answers might not accurately reflect service-wide perspectives, according to the April report.

The Coast Guard recruited 4,400 members in 2024 — 1,000 more than it lost. The GAO, in its May 14 report, pointed to expanded recruiting efforts, including new outreach efforts, sign-on bonuses, and a revision of enlistment eligibility standards.

"But additional opportunities and challenges remain. For example, the Coast Guard has not fully assessed how its initiatives contribute to recruiting results. Additional data collection or analyses, such as determining the cost effectiveness of certain efforts, could help the Coast Guard make evidence-based decisions regarding any further changes needed," according to the latest report.

Last year, the Coast Guard increased its annual marketing budget to more than \$24 million to attract new recruits, compared to just \$7.1 million in 2020. The service also opened seven new recruiting offices in 2024, with plans to open seven more in 2025.

The service has also implemented East Coast and West Coast mobile recruiting teams and is partnering with technical schools to allow students lateral entry into the Coast Guard once they are certified.

However, the Coast Guard needs to analyze its recruiting and outreach activities to make better evidence-based decisions about how to revise or further expand its recruiting efforts, the GAO said.

The GAO recommended the Coast Guard develop ways to increase survey response rates and do a better job of analyzing the responses, including weeding out biased answers, to determine whether the responses reflect a service-wide perspective. Additionally, the GAO recommended the Coast Guard further assess how recruiting and outreach activities contribute to the annual recruiting data — specifically, what attracts new recruits to better direct funding.

NATION

Clinic explosion investigated as terrorism

BY SARAH RAZA
AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

The FBI has identified a 25-year-old California man as the person they say is responsible for the explosion of a Palm Springs fertility clinic.

Authorities say the suspect, Guy Edward Bartkus of Twentynine Palms, is the same person who was found near a charred-out vehicle by the clinic.

Akil Davis, the head of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, said during a Sunday news conference that investigators were re-

viewing writings left behind by Bartkus that could shed light on his state of mind.

His writings were "anti pro-life" in nature, according to a social media post Sunday from Bilal Essayli, the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles.

The Associated Press reported Saturday night that those writings communicated a belief that the world should not be populated.

"The subject had nihilistic ideations and this was a targeted attack against the IVF facility," Davis said.

"Make no mistake: we are

treating this, as I said yesterday, as an intentional act of terrorism."

The bombing injured four other people in addition to killing Bartkus, though Davis said all embryos at the facility were saved.

"Good guys one, bad guys zero," he said.

Saturday's explosion is "probably the largest bombing scene that we've had in Southern California," Davis added.

Authorities were executing a search warrant in Twentynine Palms as part of the investigation. The suspect posted writings on-

line and attempted to record the explosion, though authorities said the video failed to upload. An official who was not authorized to discuss details of the attack spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press.

The blast gutted the single-story American Reproductive Centers clinic in upscale Palm Springs, though a doctor told the Associated Press its staff members were safe.

"Thank God today happened to be a day that we have no patients," Dr. Maher Abdallah, who leads the clinic, told the AP in a

phone interview.

Abdallah told the AP that the explosion damaged the practice's office space, where it conducts consultations with patients.

The clinic's IVF lab and stored embryos are offsite and were not damaged.

Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem Naomi Soto called the clinic "a place of hope."

"This is a building that people go to to start or expand their families," she said.

"We acknowledge their pain and concern across the community for the patients and staff."

Mexican tall ship fatally strikes Brooklyn Bridge

BY RUTH BROWN
AND KYLE MARIAN VITERBO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Mexican navy sailing ship on a global goodwill tour struck the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on Saturday, snapping its three masts, killing two crew members and leaving some sailors dangling from harnesses high in the air waiting for help.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said the 142-year-old bridge was spared major damage but at least 19 people aboard the ship needed medical treatment.

Two of the four people who suffered serious injuries later died, Adams announced on social media early Sunday.

The cause of the collision was under investigation.

In a scene captured in multiple eyewitness videos, the ship, called the Cuauhtemoc, could be seen traveling swiftly in reverse toward the bridge near the Brooklyn side of the East River. Then, its three masts struck the bridge's



YUKI IWAMURA/AP

A harbor unit passes in front of the Cuauhtémoc, a masted Mexican Navy training ship as it sits stranded near the Manhattan Bridge after colliding with the Brooklyn Bridge, Saturday.

span and snapped, one by one, as the ship kept moving.

Videos showed heavy traffic on the span at the time of the 8:20

p.m. collision. No one on the bridge was reported injured.

The vessel, which was flying a giant Mexican flag and had 277

people aboard, then drifted into a pier on the riverbank as onlookers scrambled away.

Sailors could be seen aloft in the rigging on the damaged masts but, remarkably, no one fell into the water, officials said.

The Brooklyn Bridge, which opened in 1883, has a nearly 1,600-foot main span supported by two masonry towers. More than 100,000 vehicles and an estimated 32,000 pedestrians cross every day, according to the city's transportation department. Its walkway is a major tourist attraction.

Traffic was halted after the collision but was allowed to resume after an inspection, city officials said.

It was unclear what caused the ship to veer off course. New York Police Department Special Operations Chief Wilson Arambales said the ship had just left a Manhattan pier and was supposed to have been headed out to sea, not toward the bridge.

He said an initial report was

that the pilot of the ship had lost power due to a mechanical problem, though officials cautioned that information was preliminary. Videos show a tugboat was close to the Cuauhtemoc at the time of the crash.

As midnight approached, the broken boat was moved slowly up the East River, going under and past the Manhattan Bridge, aided by a series of tugboats, before docking at a pier. Onlookers continued to gather on the waterfront to watch the spectacle.

Each year the Cuauhtemoc sets out at the end of classes at the naval military school to finish cadets' training. This year it left the Mexican port of Acapulco, on the Pacific coast, on April 6, the navy said.

It arrived in New York City on May 13, where visitors were welcome for several days, the Mexican consulate said.

The ship was scheduled to visit 22 ports in 15 nations over 254 days, 170 of them at sea.

Dozens dead as severe weather lashes Midwest, South

BY DYLAN LOVAN
Associated Press

LONDON, Ky. — Storms that swept across part of the Midwest and South killed at least 27 people including 18 in Kentucky, where another 10 were hospitalized in critical condition, authorities said.

A devastating tornado in Kentucky damaged homes, tossed vehicles and left many people homeless. Seventeen of the deaths were in Laurel County, located in the state's southeast, and one was in Pulaski County: Fire Department Maj. Roger Leslie Leatherman, a 39-year veteran who was fatally injured while responding to the deadly weather.

Parts of two dozen state roads were closed, and some could take days to reopen, according to Gov. Andy Beshear, who announced

the toll of dead and critically injured on Saturday. He also said the death toll could still rise.

The latest Kentucky storms were part of a weather system Friday that killed seven in Missouri and two in northern Virginia, authorities said. The system also spawned tornadoes in Wisconsin, brought punishing heat to Texas and temporarily enveloped parts of Illinois — including Chicago — in a pall of dust.

In St. Louis, Mayor Cara Spencer said five people died, 38 were injured and more than 5,000 homes were affected.

Weather service radar indicated a likely tornado touched down between 2:30 p.m. and 2:50 p.m. in Clayton, Mo., in the area of Forest Park, which is home to the St. Louis Zoo and formerly hosted

both the 1904 World's Fair and the Olympic Games in 1904.

At the zoo, falling trees severely damaged the roof of a butterfly facility. Staffers quickly corralled most of the butterflies, the zoo said on social media, and a conservatory in suburban Chesterfield was caring for the displaced creatures.

A tornado struck in Scott County, about 130 miles south of St. Louis, killing two people, injuring several others and destroying multiple homes, Sheriff Derick Wheetley wrote on social media.

The weather service said that supercells are likely to develop across parts of Texas and Oklahoma Saturday afternoon before becoming a line of storms in southwest Oklahoma and parts of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas on Saturday night.



LAURIE SKRIVAN / AP

"My house is just gone and it was beautiful," said Curtis McGrath, who retrieves some personal papers, photos and clothes from his home in St. Louis, Mo., Saturday, after the National Weather Service confirmed a tornado struck the city on Friday.

NATION

Trump budget would cut ocean observing system

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

Capt. Ed Enos makes his living as a harbor pilot in Hawaii, clambering aboard arriving ships in the predawn hours and guiding them into port.

His world revolves around wind speeds, current strength and wave swells. When Enos is bobbing in dangerous waters in the dark, his cellphone is his lifeline: with a few taps he can access the Integrated Ocean Observing System and pull up the data needed to guide what are essentially floating warehouses safely to the dock.

But maybe not for much longer. President Donald Trump wants to eliminate all federal funding for the observing system's regional operations. Scientists say the cuts could mean the end of efforts to gather real-time data crucial to navigating treacherous harbors, plotting tsunami escape routes and predicting hurricane intensity.

"It's the last thing you should be shutting down," Enos said. "There's no money wasted. Right at a time when we should be getting more money to do more work to benefit the public, they want to turn things off. That's the wrong strategy at the wrong time for the wrong reasons."

The IOOS system launched about 20 years ago. It's made up of 11 regional associations in multiple states and territories, including the Virgin Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, Washington state, Michigan, South Carolina and Southern California.

The regional groups are networks of university researchers, conservation groups, businesses and anyone else gathering or using maritime data. The associations are the Swiss army knife of oceanography, using buoys, submersible drones and radar installations to track water temperature, wind speed, atmospheric pressure, wave speeds, swell heights and current strength.

The networks monitor the Great Lakes, U.S. coastlines, the Gulf of Mexico, which Trump renamed the Gulf of America, the Gulf of Alaska, the Caribbean and the



Weather data from the Integrated Ocean Observing System is displayed Thursday in Cincinnati.

JOSHUA A. BICKEL/AP

South Pacific and upload member data to public websites in real time.

Cruise ship, freighter and tanker pilots like Enos, as well as the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, use the information directly to navigate harbors safely, plot courses around storms and conduct search-and-rescue operations.

The associations' observations feed into National Weather Service forecasts. The Pacific Northwest association uses tsunami data to post real-time coastal escape routes on a public-facing app. And the Hawaii association not only posts data that is helpful to harbor pilots but tracks hurricane intensity and tiger sharks that have been tagged for research.

The associations also track toxic algal blooms, which can force beach closures and kill fish. The maps help commercial anglers avoid those empty regions. Water temperature data can help identify heat layers within the ocean and, because it's harder for fish to survive in those layers, knowing hot zones helps anglers target better fishing grounds.

The regional networks are not formal federal agencies but are almost entirely funded through federal grants through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The current federal budget allocates \$43.5 million for the networks. A Republican bill in the

House natural resources committee would actually send them more money, \$56 million annually, from 2026 through 2030.

A Trump administration memo leaked in April proposes a \$2.5 billion cut to the Department of Commerce, which oversees NOAA, in the 2026 federal budget.

Part of the proposal calls for eliminating federal funding for the regional monitoring networks, even though the memo says one of the activities the administration wants the commerce department to focus on is collecting ocean and weather data.

The memo offered no other justifications for the cuts. The proposal stunned network users.

"We've worked so hard to build an incredible system and it's running smoothly, providing data that's important to the economy. Why would you break it?" said Jack Barth, an Oregon State oceanographer who shares data with the Pacific Northwest association.

"What we're providing is a window into the ocean and without those measures we frankly won't know what's coming at us. It's like turning off the headlights," Barth said.

NOAA officials declined to comment on the cuts and potential impacts, saying in an email to The Associated Press that they do not do "speculative interviews."

GOP forges their tax bill in Trump's image

**By MATT BROWN
AND LEAH ASKARINAM**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Days before Republicans unveiled their sweeping tax cut plan, the chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee had one last person to consult. He went to the White House, where he and President Donald Trump went over the legislation "line by line."

"He was very happy with what we're delivering," said Rep. Jason Smith, a Republican from Missouri.

Trump had every reason to be pleased. His imprint is all over on the bill making its way through the House, starting with its title — the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act."

The legislation realizes many of Trump's campaign promises, temporarily ending taxes on overtime and tips for many workers, creating a new \$10,000 tax break on auto loan interest for American-made cars, and even creating a new tax-free "MAGA account" — a nod to his "Make America Great Again" movement, but in this case, it means "Money Accounts for Growth and Advancement." This would contribute \$1,000 to children born in his second term.

The Trump-inspired contours of the legislative package, months if not years in the making, reflect not only the president's considerable influence over the Republican Party, but also the hard political realities in the House, where Republicans have only the barest of majorities and often find it difficult to find consensus without Trump's involvement.

Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., effectively owes his job to Trump and has kept in constant contact with him during the negotiations, including during his overseas trip last week.

"He's excited about our forward progress," Johnson said. "You know, I keep him apprised of the developments, and he's had a busy time over there in the Middle East, and it's been good — he's in good spirits and we're in good spirits."

The Republican bill runs a whopping 1,116 pages and includes more than \$5 trillion in tax cuts, costs that are partially offset by spending cuts elsewhere and other changes in the tax code. The legislation would

make permanent the tax cuts from Trump's first term while reducing funding for programs involving food assistance, college financing and environmental protection.

As talks over the bill have progressed, divisions have emerged among Republicans, particularly between fiscal hawks most concerned about federal deficits and others more focused on the impact of cuts back home.

That's where Trump usually comes in, playing the "closer" who turns no votes to yes.

"President Trump has gone out of his way to ask us: 'Are there any members you want me to call? Anybody that you want me to talk to?' And he calls them right then," said House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La. "He's been incredibly hands-on and incredibly helpful at getting the bill to where it is."

Trump's involvement seems certain to grow as Johnson labors to get the tax package through the House by a self-imposed Memorial Day deadline.

Conservatives slowed the process Friday, refusing to advance the tax package out of the House Budget Committee until it includes faster implementation of Medicaid changes and a more wholesale repeal of Biden-era green energy credits. They vowed to hold firm until their demands are met.

Trump took notice, applying pressure even before the gavel went down on the failed committee vote.

"We don't need 'GRANDSTANDERS' in the Republican Party," Trump wrote on social media. "STOP TALKING, AND GET IT DONE!"

Negotiations were expected to stretch through the weekend, with the Budget Committee reconvening late Sunday night in hopes of a breakthrough.

Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, predicted the tax package will ultimately get over the finish line once Trump — just returning from a tour of the Middle East — starts making calls to skeptical lawmakers.



Johnson

Moody's strips US government of top credit rating, citing debt concerns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Moody's Ratings stripped the U.S. government of its top credit rating Friday, citing successive governments' failure to stop a rising tide of debt. Moody's lowered the rating from a gold-standard Aaa to Aa1 but said the United States "retains

exceptional credit strengths such as the size, resilience and dynamism of its economy and the role of the U.S. dollar as global reserve currency."

Moody's is the last of the three major rating agencies to lower the federal government's credit. Standard & Poor's downgraded federal

debt in 2011 and Fitch Ratings followed in 2023.

In a statement, Moody's said: "We expect federal deficits to widen, reaching nearly 9% of (the U.S. economy) by 2035, up from 6.4% in 2024, driven mainly by increased interest payments on debt, rising entitlement spending, and rela-

tively low revenue generation."

Extending President Donald Trump's 2017 tax cuts, a priority of the Republican-controlled Congress, Moody's said, would add \$4 trillion over the next decade to the federal primary deficit (which does not include interest payments).

A gridlocked political system has been unable to tackle America's huge deficits. Republicans reject tax increases, and Democrats are reluctant to cut spending.

On Friday, House Republicans failed to push a big package of tax breaks and spending cuts through the Budget Committee.

MIDEAST

Israel launches new Gaza ground operations

By Wafaa Shurafa, Samy Magdy
and Tia Goldenberg
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel launched “extensive” new ground operations in the Gaza Strip while airstrikes in a new offensive killed at least 103 people, including dozens of children, overnight and into Sunday, hospitals and medics said — and forced northern Gaza’s main hospital to close.

Israel on Saturday launched the offensive — the largest since it shattered a ceasefire in March — with the aims of seizing territory and displacing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Israel is pressuring Hamas to agree to a temporary ceasefire, one that would free hostages from Gaza, but wouldn’t necessarily end the war. Hamas says it wants a full withdrawal of Israeli forces and a pathway to ending the war as part of any deal.

Israel’s military, which recently called up tens of thousands of reservists, said that the ground operations are throughout the north and south of the Palestinian territory.

Before the announcement, airstrikes killed more than 48 people in and around the southern city of Khan Younis, some hitting houses and tents sheltering displaced people, according to Nasser Hospital, which said that it struggled to count the dead because of the condition of the bodies. Eighteen children and 13 women were among them, spokesperson Weam Fares said.

In northern Gaza, a strike on a home in the built-up Jabaliya refugee camp killed nine members of a family, according to the



MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

Protesters hold pictures of Palestinian children killed during Israel's military operation in the Gaza Strip in a protest demanding the end of the war Saturday, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Gaza Health Ministry’s emergency services. Another strike on a residence in Jabaliya killed 10, including seven children and a woman, according to the civil defense, which operates under the Hamas-run government.

In Gaza City, Um Mahmoud al-Aloul lay across the shrouded body of her daughter, Nour al-Aloul.

“You took my soul with you,” she cried. “I used to turn off my phone from how much you called.”

Israel’s military had no immediate comment. Its statement announcing the ground operations said preliminary strikes over the past week killed dozens of militants and struck more than 670 targets. Israel blames civilian casualties on Hamas because the militant group operates from civilian areas.

An Israeli blockade on food, medicine and other supplies is now in its third month, with global food security experts warning of famine across the territory of more than 2 million people.

Israel had said it would wait until the end of U.S. President Donald Trump’s visit to the Middle East before launching its offensive, saying it was giving a chance for efforts at a new deal. Trump didn’t visit Israel on his trip, which ended Friday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said that his negotiating team in Qatar’s capital, Doha, was “working to realize every chance for a deal,” including one that would bring an end to fighting in exchange for the release of all remaining 58 hostages, Hamas’ exile from Gaza and the disarmament of the Palestinian territory.

Hamas has refused to leave Gaza or disarm.

Israel ended the previous eight-week ceasefire in March, launching airstrikes that killed hundreds of people. Days before that, Israel halted all imports into Gaza, deepening the humanitarian crisis.

Frustration in Israel has been rising. A small but growing number of Israelis are refusing to show up for military service, even risking imprisonment. Other Israelis have been displaying photos of children killed in Gaza during weekly rallies demanding a deal to free all hostages and end the war.

The war in Gaza began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and abducting 251 others. Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed more than 53,000 Palestinians, many of them women and children, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, which doesn’t differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count.

In Mideast, Trump alienates Israel without helping Gaza

By Ishaan Tharoor
The Washington Post

As President Donald Trump’s Middle East sojourn drew to a close, a much-vaunted “grand bargain” bringing peace to a restive region was nowhere in sight. Instead, there were many little ones. Trump will emerge from his tour of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — three energy-rich Arab monarchies with deep influence in Washington — touting a

string of trade and investment deals secured with his prodding. Lucrative agreements for U.S. weaponry, planes and AI chips were forged, while in multiple speeches Trump gushed over the success of these wealthy states ruled by absolutist royals.

In a trip that seemed more about business than geopolitics, Trump still paid lip service to his hopes for peace. He extended a hand to Iran, gesturing to potential future talks over its nuclear program. He announced a truce with Yemen’s Houthi rebels after authorizing a \$1 billion bombing campaign that hasn’t dented the Houthis’ capacity to target Israel or Red Sea shipping. To the surprise of even some U.S. officials, he announced the

cessation of sanctions on Syria, a critical move to boost the country’s fledgling, transitional regime. And he decried a legacy of U.S. interventionism in the region.

The signals he sent caused consternation in Israel. Ahead of Trump’s trip, Israeli media and officials were already pointing to the way Trump has bypassed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a right-wing leader closely allied to the U.S. president who received numerous political gifts from the White House in Trump’s first term.

But in his second term, Trump’s vision for the Middle East is not as yoked to that of Netanyahu. The Israeli leader couldn’t have been pleased with Trump’s overtures to Tehran, his unilateral truce with the Houthis and his opening with Syria, which Israel has relentlessly bombed over recent months. Trump invoked the Abraham Accords — the agreements establishing formal ties between Israel and a clutch of Arab states — but the pacts seemed less of a centerpiece of his efforts this week. For Israel, the prospect of normalization seemed to shift to that of marginalization.

All the while, Israeli forces pounded the embattled Gaza Strip. Bombardments on alleged

Hamas militant targets led to dozens of civilian deaths in the past few days. On Thursday alone, local groups said Israeli attacks killed more than 100 people. The director of a hospital in northern Gaza told The Washington Post of one incident where they received the bodies of 20 children killed Wednesday. Humanitarian conditions remain dire, with 1 in 5 people in the territory facing starvation amid a months-long Israeli blockade.

Earlier in the week, Netanyahu declared that there was “no way” Israel would halt its war in Gaza, vowing to “complete the mission” and fully eradicate Hamas. The messaging undercut attempts in Doha, Qatar, to restart peace talks between the warring parties. Netanyahu was once more rebuked by the families of hostages held in Hamas captivity who fear the prime minister is prioritizing his political interests and alliance with the Israeli far right over the plight of Israelis still trapped in Gaza.

On Monday, Trump hailed the release of Israeli American Edan Alexander — the last U.S. citizen abducted by Hamas to be freed — and indicated on social media that the decision to return him to Israel was a “step taken in good faith” by

Hamas. Implicit in the White House’s messaging was an impatience with Netanyahu, who many see as an impediment to attempts to forge a lasting ceasefire. Some of Netanyahu’s far-right allies have made clear their desire to remove much of the territory’s Palestinian population and occupy it indefinitely.

Trump hasn’t relinquished his strange plan to take over and redevelop Gaza himself. “Gaza has been a territory of death and destruction for many years,” Trump told reporters. “I have concepts for Gaza that I think are very good — make it a freedom zone. Let the United States get involved and make it just a freedom zone.”

Whatever comes of that, there’s daylight slipping between Trump and Netanyahu. “For Netanyahu, who used to have his settler allies drive policy in Trump’s first term, Trump 2.0 must present a shock,” Ilan Goldenberg, senior vice president and chief policy officer at J Street, a liberal pro-Israel organization in Washington, wrote in an email memo. “As for Trump, his friends in the Gulf are showering him with deals and wins — when he looks at Benjamin Netanyahu’s and [far-right leader] Itamar Ben Gvir’s Israel he sees only headaches.” That includes an “endless

war” in Gaza, Israeli political leadership “bent on sabotaging Iran talks,” and an Israel that doesn’t seem ready to make the political concessions that would be needed before it can further integrate into the region.

Trump’s transactionalism and eagerness to play the peacemaker cuts against Netanyahu’s own agenda. “What you’re seeing is that President Trump has an idea of what is in our interest, and that comes first,” Dennis Ross, a veteran former U.S. diplomat and Middle East envoy, told my colleague Gerry Shih. “He defines the nature of our interests abroad not through a geopolitical or security context, but an economic, financial and trade frame. I think President Trump might have the view that ‘We give them \$4 billion a year in military assistance. I do plenty to support the Israelis.’”

In Israel, analysts view the signals emerging from Trump’s trip with alarm. “In Trump’s worldview, Israel is not necessarily a strategic ally in the deep, classic and values-based sense, but more of a ‘premium client,’ perhaps even a Middle Eastern ‘real estate asset,’” wrote Oded Ailam, a former top Israeli intelligence official, in Israel Hayom, a popular daily.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Zelenskyy meets with US, EU leaders in Rome ahead of call

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with top U.S. officials and European leaders in Rome on Sunday, part of stepped-up diplomatic efforts ahead of a high-stakes phone call Monday between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on ending the war in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy spoke with U.S. Vice President JD Vance and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the U.S. ambassador's residence, while German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he had spoken both to Zelenskyy and to Rubio on the sidelines of the new pope's inauguration.

Merz said that he had also agreed with the leaders of France and Britain "that we will speak again with the American president

in preparation for this conversation."

"My firm impression is that both the Europeans and the Americans are determined to work together, but now also in a goal-oriented manner, to ensure that this terrible war ends soon," Merz told reporters in Rome.

Trump said he plans to speak by phone Monday with Putin, and will then speak to Zelenskyy and leaders of various NATO countries, about ending the war in Ukraine.

The intensified diplomacy came as Russia launched its largest drone barrage against Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, after the first direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv in years failed to yield a ceasefire.

Putin spurned Zelenskyy's offer to meet face-to-face in Turkey after he himself proposed direct ne-

gotiations — although not at the presidential level — as an alternative to a 30-day ceasefire urged by Ukraine and its Western allies, including the U.S.

Talks in Istanbul on Friday broke up after less than two hours without a ceasefire, although both sides agreed on exchanging 1,000 prisoners of war each, according to the heads of both delegations. Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, said on Ukrainian television Saturday that the exchange could happen as early as next week.

Russia fired a total of 273 exploding drones and decoys, Ukraine's air force said Sunday. Of those, 88 were intercepted and a further 128 lost, likely having been electronically jammed. The attacks targeted the country's Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk re-



UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY SERVICE/AP

Firefighters put out a blaze following a Russian drone attack in the Kyiv region of Ukraine on Sunday.

gions.

Yuriy Ihnat, Head of the Communications Department of the Ukrainian Air Force, told The Associated Press that the barrage was the biggest drone attack since the start of the full-scale invasion.

Russia's previous largest known single drone attack was on the eve

of the war's third anniversary, when Russia pounded Ukraine with 267 drones.

Kyiv regional Gov. Mykola Kalashnyk said a 28-year-old woman was killed in a drone attack on the region and three other people, including a 4-year-old child, were wounded.

Vatican could be a venue for Russia-Ukraine peace talks, Rubio says

Associated Press

ROME — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that the Vatican could be a venue for Russia-Ukraine peace talks, taking up the Holy See's long-standing offer after Pope Leo XIV vowed to personally make "every effort" to help end the war.

Speaking to reporters in Rome before meeting with Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, the Vatican point man on Ukraine, Rubio said that he would be discussing potential ways the

Vatican could help, "the status of the talks, the updates after yesterday (Friday) and the path forward."

Asked if the Vatican could be a peace broker, Rubio replied: "I wouldn't call it broker, but it's certainly — I think it's a place that both sides would be comfortable going."

"So we'll talk about all of that and obviously always grateful to the Vatican for their willingness to play this constructive and positive role," said Rubio, who also met Sat-

urday with the Vatican secretary of state and foreign minister.

The Vatican has a tradition of diplomatic neutrality and had long offered its services, and venues, to try to help facilitate talks, but found itself sidelined during the all-out war, which began on Feb. 24, 2022.

Pope Francis, who occasionally angered both Kyiv and Moscow with his off-the-cuff comments, had entrusted Zuppi with a mandate to try to find paths of peace. But the mandate seemed to narrow

to help facilitate the return of Ukrainian children taken by Russia, and the Holy See also was able to mediate some prisoner exchanges.

During their meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Rubio thanked Zuppi for the Vatican's humanitarian role, citing in particular prisoner swaps and the return of Ukrainian children. Rubio "emphasized the importance of continued collaboration under the new leadership of Pope Leo XIV," U.S. State Department spokesperson Tam-

my Bruce said.

Leo, who was elected history's first American pope on May 8, took up Francis' call for peace in Ukraine in his first Sunday noon blessing as pope. He appealed for all sides to do whatever possible to reach "an authentic, just and lasting peace."

Leo, who as a bishop in Peru had called Russia's war an "imperialist invasion," vowed this week personally to "make every effort so that this peace may prevail."

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WORLD

Iran says it will continue talks

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s president said his country will continue talks with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear program but will not withdraw from its rights because of U.S. threats.

“We are negotiating, and we will negotiate. We are not after war but we do not fear any threat,” President Masoud Pezeshkian said during a speech to navy officials broadcast by state television Saturday.

“It is not like if they threaten us we will give up our human right and definite rights,” Pezeshkian said. “We will not withdraw, we will not easily lose honorable achievements in military, scientific and nuclear” fields.

The negotiations have reached the “expert” level, meaning the sides are trying to reach agreement on the details of a possible deal. But a major sticking point remains Iran’s enrichment of uranium, which Tehran insists it must be allowed to do and the Trump administration insists the Islamic Republic must give up.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash

airstrikes targeting Iran’s program if a deal isn’t reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

Earlier Friday, Trump said Iran received a proposal during the talks, though he did not elaborate.

During his trip to the region last week, Trump at nearly every event insisted Iran could not be allowed to obtain a nuclear bomb, something U.S. intelligence agencies assess Tehran is not actively pursuing, though its program is on the cusp of being able to weaponize nuclear material.

Mohammad Eslami, the head of Iran’s atomic organization, stressed the peaceful nature of the program, saying it is under “continuous” monitoring by the U.N. nuclear watchdog, state TV reported Saturday.

“No country is monitored by the agency like us,” Eslami said, adding that the agency inspected the country’s nuclear facilities more than 450 times in 2024. “Something about 25% of all the agency inspections” in the year.

Pope Leo XIV vows to work for unity in inaugural Mass

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV, history’s first American pope, vowed Sunday to work for unity so that the Catholic Church becomes a symbol of peace in the world, offering a message of communion during an inaugural Mass in St. Peter’s Square before an estimated 200,000 pilgrims, presidents, patriarchs and princes.

Leo officially opened his pontificate by taking his first popemobile tour through the piazza, a rite of passage that has become synonymous with the papacy’s global reach and mediatic draw. The 69-year-old Augustinian missionary smiled and waved from the back of the truck, and stopped to bless some babies in the crowd.

During the Mass, Leo appeared to choke up when the two potent symbols of the papacy were placed on him — the lambswool stole over his shoulders and the fisherman’s ring on his finger — as if the weight of responsibility of leading the 1.4-billion strong church had just sunk in.

Vice President JD Vance, one of the last foreign officials to see



Pope Leo XIV tours St. Peter's Square from his popemobile.

Pope Francis before he died, led the U.S. delegation. Vance paid his respects at the Argentine pope’s tomb late Saturday.

In his homily, Leo said he wanted to be a servant to the faithful through the two dimensions of the papacy, love and unity, so that the church could be a force for peace.

“Let us build a church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made restless by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity,” Leo said, referencing some of the themes of Francis’ pontificate.



Reformed gangsters and members of Vision Bearerz Youth Group construct a greenhouse last month in the Mathare informal settlement of the capital Nairobi, Kenya.

From guns to gardens: Former gangsters fight hunger in Kenya

By Jack Denton and Desmond Tiro
Associated Press

MATHARE, Kenya — Joseph Kariaga and his friends once lived the “gangster life” in Nairobi’s Mathare slum, snatching phones, mugging people and battling police. But when Kariaga’s brother was shot dead by police, the young men took stock.

“We said, ‘We cannot live like this. We are going to lose our lives.’ Many of our friends had died,” said Kariaga. “I reflected on my life. I had to change.”

Now the men are farmers with a social mission. Nearly a dozen of them founded Vision Bearerz in 2017 to steer youth away from crime and address food insecurity in one of Kenya’s poorest communities.

Despite challenges, Vision Bearerz makes a modest but mea-

ningful community impact, including feeding over 150 children at lunches each week. Some residents praise the group and call the men role models.

Amid cuts to foreign funding by the United States and others, experts say local organizations like this may be the future of aid.

Vision Bearerz works on an urban farm tucked away in the muddy streets and corrugated-metal homes that make up Mathare, one of Africa’s most populous slums. Estimates say about a half-million people live in this neighborhood of less than two square kilometers.

“When you are born from this land, there is not much you have inherited, so you have to make it yourself,” said Ben Njoki, 28, whose face tattoos are reminders of a gang-affiliated past. “You have to use violence.”

In 2017, not long after Kariaga’s

brother was killed, Njoki and other young men made a plan to change. More than a dozen people they grew up with had been killed, and they realized they would follow if they did not find an alternative to crime, said Moses Nyoike, 32, the chair of Vision Bearerz.

Today, Vision Bearerz grows vegetables, raises pigs and farms tilapia in a small pond. They sell a portion of what they produce, with revenue also coming from running a car wash and public toilet.

With the earnings, the group buys maize flour to make ugali, a dough-like staple food, and beans, which supplement produce from their farm in weekly lunches for children.

Vision Bearerz also runs outreach programs to warn against drug use and crime and has sessions where women teach girls about feminine health.

Report: Lufthansa flight was without a pilot for 10 minutes in 2024 after fainting

Associated Press

BERLIN — A Lufthansa flight to Spain last year went without a pilot for 10 minutes after the co-pilot fainted while he was alone in the cockpit, German news agency dpa reported on Saturday.

During the flight from Frankfurt to Seville, Spain, on Feb. 17, 2024, the co-pilot of an Airbus A321 fainted while the captain was in the restroom, dpa reported, referring to a report by the Spanish accident investigation authority CIAIAC.

The aircraft, which was carrying 199 passengers and six crew members, flew for around 10 minutes without a pilot in command of

the plane, according to the report.

Lufthansa told dpa that it was aware of the investigation report and that its own flight safety department had also conducted an investigation. The company didn’t disclose its results, dpa said.

Although the unconscious co-pilot apparently operated controls unintentionally, the aircraft was able to continue flying in a stable manner thanks to the active autopilot. During this time period, the voice recorder recorded strange noises in the cockpit that were consistent with an acute health emergency, dpa reported.

The captain initially tried entering the regular door opening code,

which triggers a buzzer in the cockpit so that the co-pilot can open the door. He did so five times without being able to enter the cockpit. A stewardess tried to contact the co-pilot using the onboard telephone.

Finally, the captain typed in an emergency code that would have allowed him to open the door on his own. However, shortly before the door would have opened automatically, the co-pilot opened it from the inside despite being ill, dpa reported.

The pilot then decided to make an unplanned landing in Madrid, where his colleague was taken to a hospital.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Senator: Reimburse Texas for Biden-era border costs

DC WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, introduced legislation Thursday intended to provide the state about \$11 billion to cover what it spent on border security during former President Joe Biden’s administration.

Cornyn said Biden failed to keep the border secure and forced Texas to step up with what it called Operation Lone Star.

That initiative has involved sending state troopers and National Guardsmen to the border, as well as putting razor wire and other physical barriers along the Rio Grande.

Audit says agency can’t account for millions

MD BALTIMORE — A legislative audit released Thursday found that the Maryland Department of Emergency Management potentially cost the state more than \$300 million in federal COVID-19-related funds and failed to account for over \$23 million in loans to volunteer fire companies.

In MDEM’s first audit since being established in 2021, the Maryland Office of Legislative Audits determined that in several instances, the department spent more than \$1.13 billion between 2022 and 2024 on COVID-related grants, making up most of its funding for public assistance.

While the department was able to request federal reimbursements for much of this spending, it failed to do so on a quarterly basis, which lost the state an estimated \$19.2 million.

MDEM also reported receiving \$882 million in federal funds, but upon further analysis, it received only about \$560 million. There is a chance that the federal government will still fulfill the full requested amount, but if it does not, Maryland taxpayers might be on the hook to cover the \$300 million shortfall.

Man who led police on wild chase pleads guilty

CA SACRAMENTO — A California man who tried to evade arrest by jumping into a lake with an underwater scooter pleaded guilty Thursday to fraud, money laundering and witness tampering in connection with a \$35 million investment fraud scheme, federal prosecutors announced.

Prosecutors say that between 2015 and 2020, Matthew Piercey, 48, of Shasta County, solicited investor funds and used the money for various personal and business expenses, including the purchase of two residential properties.

He paid back to investors about \$8.8 million of the \$35 million invested, according to a statement released by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Califor-



FRESNO COUNTY (CALIF.) SHERIFF’S OFFICE/AP

Found after 3 weeks

Tiffany Slaton, of Jeffersonville, Ga., is all smiles after she was rescued in Fresno County, Calif. The 27-year-old went missing for nearly three weeks in the remote wilderness area. Slaton had sought refuge from cold and snow in a cabin at Vermilion Valley Resort in California’s eastern Sierra. When found on Wednesday, she wanted a hug and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Sheriff’s officials say she was hungry and dehydrated, but otherwise in good condition.

nia.

When agents tried to arrest him in November 2020, Piercey led them on a car chase before dumping his vehicle and fleeing into frigid Lake Shasta with what was later identified as a Yamaha 350LI underwater submersible device.

“Piercey spent some time out of sight underwater where law enforcement could only see bubbles,” federal prosecutors wrote in court documents calling him a flight risk.

He emerged from the lake after about 20 minutes and was arrested. The underwater device was a sea scooter, or a motorized device that pulls users underwater at speeds of about 4 mph.

Police: Guardsmen landed helo at ranch, took antlers

MT BILLINGS — Three Montana Army National Guard members face trespassing charges after authorities said they landed a Black Hawk helicopter in a mountain pasture on a private ranch to take several elk antlers before flying away.

A witness saw the May 4 landing and the person who owns the property reported it to officials, who tracked down the three guard members, Sweet Grass County Sheriff Alan Ronneberg said Thursday.

The guardsmen had been on a training flight from the city of Billings to Helena, the state capital,

said Maj. Ryan Finnegan with the Montana National Guard. The helicopter landed briefly in the pasture located in the foothills of the Crazy Mountains, where the crew members picked up two individual antlers and an old elk skull with antlers still attached, the sheriff said.

Elk antlers — which grow and drop off male animals annually — are highly prized and can be sold by the pound. They also are collected from the wild as keepsakes. The antlers and skull taken by the guardsmen were worth a combined \$300 to \$400, according to Ronneberg. They were later turned over to a state game warden.

Mom charged after son arrested in attack plot

TX HOUSTON — A Texas mother has been charged with a terrorism-related crime after being accused of buying her 13-year-old son ammunition and tactical gear as he allegedly planned mass violence at his middle school, authorities said Thursday.

The boy, who was also charged with terrorism, had shown up to the school earlier in the week wearing a mask and tactical gear but left shortly after, according to San Antonio police. He was later detained off campus.

Authorities in San Antonio said the boy’s mother had previously been contacted by police, her son’s

school and Child Protective Services with concerns about her son.

“She appeared to be dismissive and unconcerned with her son’s behavior,” San Antonio police Chief William P. McManus said at a news conference. “Her behavior is not only dangerous, it’s abhorrent, especially as a parent.”

The mother has been charged with aiding in the commission of terrorism. She is free on a \$75,000 bond.

Hospital: Brain-dead woman must carry fetus

GA ATLANTA — A pregnant woman in Georgia who was declared brain dead after a medical emergency has been on life support for three months to let the fetus grow enough to be delivered, a move her family says a hospital told them was required under the state’s strict anti-abortion law.

With her due date still more than three months away, it could be one of the longest such pregnancies.

Her family is upset that Georgia’s law that restricts abortion once cardiac activity is detected doesn’t allow relatives to have a say in whether a pregnant woman is kept on life support.

Georgia’s so-called “heartbeat law” is among the restrictive abortion statutes that have been put in place in many conservative states since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade three years

ago.

Adriana Smith, a 30-year-old mother and nurse, was declared brain-dead — meaning she is legally dead — in February, her mother, April Newkirk, told Atlanta TV station WXIA.

Newkirk said her daughter had intense headaches more than three months ago and went to Atlanta’s Northside Hospital, where she received medication and was released. The next morning, her boyfriend woke to her gasping for air and called 911. Emory University Hospital determined she had blood clots in her brain and she was declared brain-dead.

Autopsy: Sheriff died from effects of fentanyl, alcohol

NM SANTA FE — Medical investigators have determined that a county sheriff in northern New Mexico died from the toxic effects of fentanyl and alcohol, according to autopsy results made public Thursday.

Rio Arriba County Sheriff Billy Merrifield, 50, was found dead inside his patrol vehicle outside his Abiquiu home on Easter morning following a minor crash.

The death of the popular sheriff — retained by voters in 2022 after his initial appointment — touched off investigations involving state police. Forensic experts at the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator found that the death was accidental, citing the lethal effects of fentanyl and alcohol.

The determination adds to a grim tally of opioid-related overdoses and deaths in the Española Valley and nearby communities amid a proliferation of fentanyl.

Trans activist charged with threatening Rep. Mace

SC GREENVILLE — A transgender activist has been charged with threatening the life of U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace.

Samuel Theodore Cain, of Greenville, was in custody at the Greenville County Detention Center charged with threatening the life of a public official.

Cain, 19, posted on social media he planned to assassinate Mace, who has increased anti-transgender rhetoric in recent months as she considers a run for the governor’s office in the 2026 election. The Republican represents the Lowcountry congressional district that includes Charleston.

Cain was arrested Thursday by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

According to the warrant, on or about April 26, Cain, who is also known as Roxie Wolfe, posted on social media, threatening an assassination.

“I’m going to assassinate Representative Nancy Mace with a gun and I’m being 100% dead ass,” the post said, according to Mace’s office.



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OPINION

The lonely, 80-year voyage of the Enola Gay

By SAMUEL HAWLEY

Special to The Washington Post

It was born on May 18, 1945, at the assembly plant of the Glenn L. Martin Co. outside Omaha, Neb. Designation: Boeing B-29 Superfortress. Weight: 74,500 pounds. Length: 99 feet. Wingspan: 141 feet. Name ... well, it didn't have a name. It was known only by its serial number: 44-86292.

No. 44-86292 was transferred from Omaha to Wendover, Utah, to join the 509th Composite Group, the unit tasked with dropping atomic bombs on Japan. One of 15 B-29s modified for the purpose, its bomb bay was reconfigured to carry one very large weapon. After training, the plane was flown across the Pacific to Tinian Island and selected by the 509th's commander, Col. Paul Tibbets, to deliver the first A-bomb. It was only then, hours before takeoff, that No. 44-86292 was given a name. Tibbets christened it after his mother. The name of the plane that would carry the most terrible weapon in history became an expression of a son's love. It was painted in big black letters on its nose: Enola Gay.

Eighty years ago this summer, on Aug. 6, 1945, Enola Gay with Tibbets at the controls dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, annihilating the city. It flew again, with a different crew, three days later, in support of the second atomic mission, radioing back weather conditions over the primary target, Kokura. When it reported heavy cloud cover obscuring that city, the plane carrying the bomb proceeded to the secondary target, Nagasaki. Not many remember the name of that second atomic bomb plane. It was Bockscar. Japan announced its surrender on Aug. 15.

Enola Gay was employed once more in the Pacific after the war, in support of the first atomic bomb test over Bikini Atoll on July 1, 1946. It was then returned to the United States and donated to the Smithsonian in 1949. Amer-

icans overwhelmingly supported the use of the bomb against Japan in the days after. It was seen as saving countless lives, both American and Japanese, by hastening the end of the war. The plane that dropped it was revered as a proud deliverer of victory and peace.

And then it sat, neglected, for 35 years. Too large to fit into any existing museum, Enola Gay was left parked in the open at Pyote Air Force Base in Texas, then at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., outside Washington, weathered by the elements and scavenged by souvenir hunters. To save it from further deterioration, it was disassembled in 1960 and moved into a warehouse near Andrews to await the completion of the National Air and Space Museum the Smithsonian was planning. But the Vietnam War intervened and attitudes started changing. In addition to protesting this new war, some began questioning the use of the atomic bomb against Japan a generation before. Had it really been necessary? Or worse, was it a crime?

To avoid contention, Smithsonian planners did not include Enola Gay when the museum opened in 1976. The plane was left in its warehouse, broken in pieces, gathering dust.

The neglect of an important artifact frustrated veterans groups, who lobbied to have it restored and put on display. The museum began a project in 1984 to return Enola Gay to pristine condition. A draft script for the exhibit was prepared as the work neared completion in the early 1990s. It told a starkly different story of the bomb and the war than what veterans and many Americans believed. For example: "For most Americans ... it was a war of vengeance. For most Japanese, it was a war to defend their unique culture against Western imperialism."

The script was called unbalanced and politicized when distributed for comment.

"I would leave the exhibit with the strong

How vets, trips and sausages lead to less partisanship

By BRADFORD FITCH

The Fulcrum

It's no secret that partisanship is more intense than at any other time in recent history. And these intense political feelings don't just play themselves out through gridlock in Congress.

The threats of political violence have increased dramatically. Politics seeps into the workplace, resulting in coarse relations with colleagues (and, according to research, reduced productivity). And polls show that we're just not "hanging out" with friends like we used to.

This makes it even more important to celebrate the discovery of examples of collaboration and strategies for improving our collective national character. One recent event revealed such examples. The nonprofit group Business for America recently held an event in Washington, D.C., "Across the aisle: How leaders find common ground in a divided era." The event featured elected officials and staff discussing the recurring factors in finding common ground in partisan times.

The event featured congressional staff from two members of the U.S. House of Representatives who frequently collaborate in a bipartisan fashion: Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., and Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa. The staff noted that the legislators' common bond as Air Force veterans transcends partisan politics. For example, the bipartisan duo was successful in 2024 in passing the Servicemember Quality of

Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act, which includes historic improvements to junior enlisted pay, housing, health care, child care, and support to military spouses. Bacon's chief of staff, Mark Dreiling, noted that many of these collaborations are not seen by the public. "There is much more appetite to get things done in Congress than you see in the Twitterverse," he said.

Participants at the event also noted that when lawmakers travel together, they forge lasting bonds. The two senators who were instrumental in crafting the landmark 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law, Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Kyrsten Sinema, I-Ariz., traced back their working relationship to a trip they took together to Selma, Ala., to commemorate the 1965 attack of protesters on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Years ago, a big increase in funding for the AmeriCorps program was finalized on a congressional delegation trip, when a Democratic and a Republican politician sat next to each other on the plane returning from Europe. Criticism from outside groups and the media lobbed at lawmakers for these trips misses an important byproduct: social relationships in Congress lead to legislative relationships.

Probably the most surprising source for fostering comity in our society came from an unexpected source: Johnsonville, the sausage company. A few years ago, they launched a campaign to "turn down the temperature" in America and conducted national polls on pub-

feeling that Americans are bloodthirsty, racist killers," concluded the museum's former deputy director Donald Lopez, a World War II veteran.

The backlash was so intense that congressional hearings were held and the National Air and Space Museum director and the Smithsonian secretary both resigned. When the Enola Gay exhibit opened in June 1995, all contextual material was stripped away, leaving only the plane.

Enola Gay was moved to the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., in 2003. The opening was disrupted by protesters holding photos of Hiroshima bomb casualties and throwing cans of red paint, one of which dented the plane. Enola Gay remains there today on permanent display, its pivotal role in the Second World War confined to a single sentence: "On 6 August 1945, this Martin-built B-29-45-MO dropped the first atomic weapon used in combat on Hiroshima, Japan."

Nothing more dare be said. The historic aircraft is stuck between opposing forces in a cultural war, revered by some as a symbol of American ingenuity, heroism, prowess and victory, reviled by others as an artifact of hateful destruction.

When Tibbets christened No. 44-86292 after his mother, he thought her name had been Native American in origin. Years later, he learned it came from a novel his grandfather had read, Mary Young Ridenbaugh's "Enola; or, Her Fatal Mistake." Toward the end of the tragic story, after losing two husbands, the heroine muses: "In calling me by the strange name of 'Enola,' I wonder if my dear departed parents received a glimpse of the future life of their child ... for truly I am alone."

Enola. It was "alone," spelled backward.

Samuel Hawley is the author of "The Imjin War" and the forthcoming "Daikon."

lic mood and opinion. Jamie Schmelzer, Johnsonville vice president of marketing, half-joked that the company's interests in the topic were not entirely altruistic: If people aren't getting along and hanging out together, that means fewer backyard barbecues (digging in to sales of bratwurst).

The company commissioned the national Harris Poll to conduct research and found that Americans can agree on many things:

■ 82% of respondents said, "There is too much outrage in America."

■ 78% said, "I hang out with people less than I used to."

■ 91% said, "Seeing people do positive things for one another makes me want to do positive things for someone else."

Unfortunately, both social media and news media cultures and algorithms do not highlight when good things happen. There's a saying about the news media: "All heat and no light."

Fortunately, as Bacon and Houlahan demonstrate, there are oases of productive bipartisan accomplishments even amid a sea of partisan discord. Americans seeking to "turn down the temperature" in politics would do well to seek these examples and acknowledge that, yes, things seem worse than ever — but not everywhere.

Bradford Fitch is an adviser of Business for America, a former Capitol Hill staffer, former CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation, and author of "Citizen's Handbook for Influencing Elected Officials."

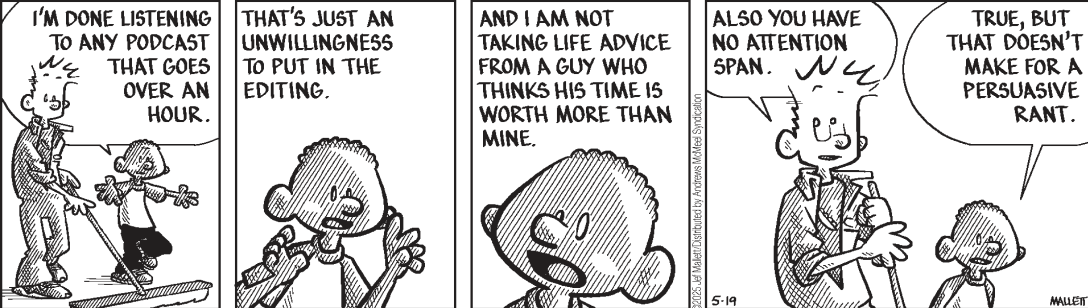
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Frazz



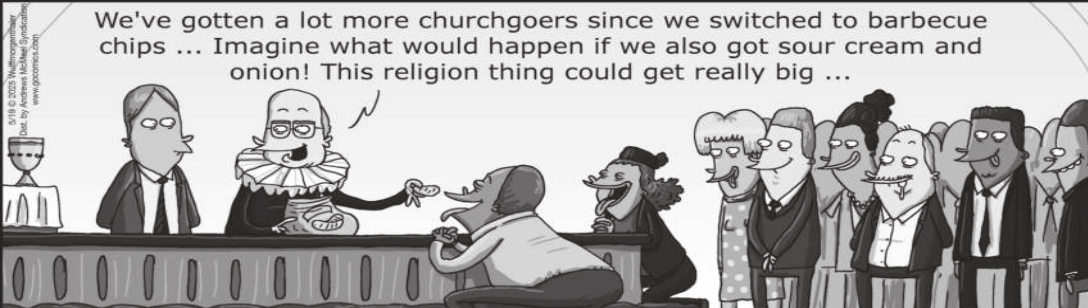
Pearls Before Swine



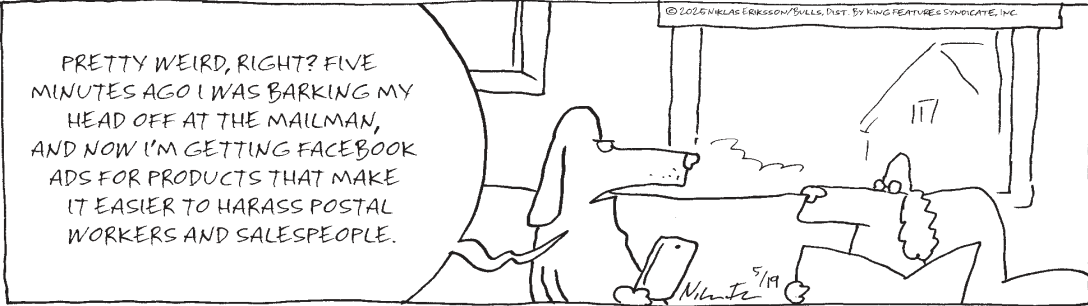
Non Sequitur



Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



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			

- ACROSS
- 1 Workout venues
- 5 "Hulk" director Lee
- 8 Comedian Kaplan
- 12 Restricted zone
- 14 Love god
- 15 Part of Iberia
- 16 Statutes
- 17 MGM rival
- 18 Apt
- 20 Mentors
- 23 Suffix with song or gab
- 24 Singer India.—
- 25 Fumbling in the dark
- 28 Photo, for short
- 29 Partner of aches
- 30 Epoch
- 32 Protects
- 34 Director Mira
- 35 "The Lion King" lioness
- 36 Starbucks offering
- 37 Casual eatery
- 40 Frenzied
- 41 Actor El-Masry
- 42 Extravagant
- 47 Chucklehead
- 48 Otologist's suggestion
- 49 Squeezes (out)
- 50 HST follower
- 51 Raced
- DOWN
- 1 Econ. measure
- 2 "— -hoo!"
- 3 Store boss (Abbr.)
- 4 "Amen to that!"
- 5 Golden Fleece ship
- 6 PBS supporter
- 7 Armada ships
- 8 Trattoria desserts
- 9 United — Emirates
- 10 Ramen serving
- 11 Being, to Brutus
- 13 Diving birds
- 19 Ways to the WWW
- 20 Delaware Water —
- 21 "Topaz" author
- 22 Opulent
- 23 Mexican artist Kahlo
- 25 Ran like a horse
- 26 Tidy
- 27 Sand
- 29 Dessert fruit
- 31 "What — you doing?"
- 33 Preambles
- 34 Low points
- 36 "Shane" star
- 37 Innocent one
- 38 "No harm done"
- 39 Shoebox info
- 40 "Encore!"
- 43 "Way cool!"
- 44 Republicans
- 45 Gorilla
- 46 Leary's drug

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	U	N	K		M	I	L	O		Z	A	P
E	C	C	E		U	S	E	R		I	L	E
A	L	I	T		S	S	N	S		T	A	T
P	A	S	T		L	A	T		P	I	S	A
					L	E	I		I	W	O	
S	T	R	E	A	M				L	I	T	T
R	E	A	C	T					L	S	A	T
I	N	D	O	O	R				A	L	T	E
					R	N	A		F	Y	I	
J	E	A	N		H	A	R		C	H	A	I
O	A	R			O	R	C	A		K	O	T
L	V	I			P	A	L	M		E	W	A
T	E	D			S	H	U	E		R	E	D

5-19 CRYPTOQUIP

KGKWDVU CGH OUQQC PRVP'L

HGP V MVPWUVD FMVSF NGU

KQUNGUATMH AVHTS PUTSFL:

PRQ DVOUVSVCVOUVCGU.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: NICKNAME FOR A FAMOUS PERSON WHO'S THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYER OF HAND-BEATEN DRUMS: "KING CONGA."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

FACES

An honor years in the making

Daniel Dae Kim the first Asian nominee for best leading actor at Tonys

BY TERRY TANG
Associated Press

The first monologue Daniel Dae Kim ever performed was by David Henry Hwang.

He had to do one for his college summer program at the National Theater Institute in Connecticut. Kim chose a scene from “FOB,” Hwang’s play about the assimilation struggles of a Chinese American. So it’s fitting that 35 years later, Hwang — the first Asian American to win the Tony Award for best play — would be the one to bring Kim into the Tony spotlight.

Known for TV series such as “Lost” and “Hawaii Five-0,” Kim, 56, is the first Asian nominee in the category of best leading actor in a play in the Tonys’ 78-year history for his work in a Broadway revival of Hwang’s “Yellow Face.”

“I can imagine a lot of things, but I did not imagine this scenario with David,” Kim said. “That I would be in a play with him, that we would both be nominated for Tony Awards and we would be able to call each other friends.”

In the semi-autobiographical show, which ran last fall at the Roundabout Theatre Company, Kim played a satirical version of Hwang. The show also scored nods for best play revival and best performance by a featured actor in a play for first-time nominee Francis Jue, an original 2007 cast member.

You could not have scripted a better ending for a play written in response to the musical “Miss Saigon” casting white actors as Asian characters.

This groundbreaking nomination seems like the perfect karmic reward for Kim, who has spent years advocating for greater Asian representation. At the pandemic’s height, the Korean American actor was a constant media presence speaking out against anti-Asian hate. He also jump-started a campaign for veteran actor James Hong, then 91, to get a Hollywood star.

“It’d be a huge surprise if I won, but I will say that even getting the nomination is a win especially when you put it in the context of our community and what this means for Asian Americans,” said Kim, whose previous Broadway credits include “The King and I.”

He admits it’s surprising and “a little sad” that no other Asian actor has been in this category. There’s still never been an Asian nominee for best lead actress in a play. “Of course, the barrier we really want to break is to actually have someone win, and hopefully that happens sooner rather than later, whether it’s me or not.”

Kim is one of seven Asian acting nominees this year. Only three acting trophy winners have been Asian. One was Lea Salonga for “Miss Saigon” and another was Ruthie Ann Miles for “The King and I.” The first was BD Wong for best featured actor in Hwang’s Tony-winning play “M. Butterfly.” Hwang takes special pride in helping actors break glass ceilings.

“I get to feel like, ‘Oh, maybe I’m actually able to make a difference’ and change the culture in the way that my little-kid self would have loved but would not have thought possible,” said Hwang, who now has his fourth career Tony nomination.

For a long time, Hwang felt the only way to get a play with Asian characters made was to set it outside America because “Broadway audiences are not interested in Asian Americans.”

Historically, productions with Asian ensembles have been musicals set in “the exotic lands of Asia,” such as “The King and I,” said Esther Kim Lee, a theater studies professor at Duke University and author of “The Theatre of David Henry Hwang.”

“We finally see an actual Asian American play with an Asian American lead,” Lee said. “You can have ‘The King and I’ and have great actors and they may get Tony Awards, but it’s really not about Asian Americans. That this has happened with ‘Yellow Face’ is just incredible.”

Daniel Dae Kim has a best leading actor Tony nomination for “Yellow Face.” The awards show takes place June 8.

EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP



Who is Theo Von? The ‘manosphere’ podcaster with Trump in Qatar

Associated Press

Podcaster Theo Von performed a set for U.S. troops in Qatar on May 15 where he joked about snorting drugs off a mixed-race baby and the sexuality of men in the U.S. Navy, and compared the Qatari hosts’ attire to Klansman robes. His appearance preceded President Donald Trump’s visit to the Al-Udeid Air Base in Doha.

The comedian’s remarks drew laughter and some groans from the service members in attendance and also some questions about why he was there.

“Dad, you’ve got to do an interview with a guy named Theo Von,” Trump said in his own remarks May 15, recalling his son Barron’s urging to do Von’s podcast last year. “I said, ‘Who the hell is Theo Von?’”

Here’s what you need to know about Von.

Who is Theo Von?

Theo Von, born Theodor Capitani von Kurnatowski III, is a 45-year-old stand-up comedian and podcaster who did an extended one-on-one podcast interview with Trump during the presidential campaign in which they discussed addiction and the opioid crisis.

Born and largely raised in what he describes as the “stray animal belt” of Louisiana, and legally emancipated at 14, Von’s first taste of the spotlight was on MTV reality shows, including the “Road Rules: Maximum Velocity Tour” and “The Challenge.” He also competed in “Last Comic Standing,” and won the Comedy Central show “Reality Bites Back” over comedians like Amy Schumer and Tiffany Haddish. He has hosted the hidden camera show “Deal With It”



AMY HARRIS, INVISION/AP

Theo Von, shown March 19, performed for U.S. service members in Qatar last week.

and has had various acting roles, including in “Inside Amy Schumer” and the Chris Pratt movie “The Tomorrow War.”

Things really took off for Von when the self-described “white trash” creator found podcasting. In 2016, he started a long-form video podcast called “This Past Weekend,” which, as of 2024 per Spotify’s year-end charts, was the fourth-biggest podcast on the streamer globally, with nearly 54,000 monthly listeners. A frequent guest on another popular podcast, “The Joe Rogan Experience,” Von speaks candidly about addiction and recovery and has more than 7.6 million followers on TikTok. He has comedy specials on Netflix and is currently on a tour in the U.S. and Canada.

Von, often described as “the next Joe Rogan,” is part of

the so-called “manosphere,” a rising online community of hypermasculine influencers and comedians who rebuff “cancel culture” and offer crudeness in its place.

Why was he in Qatar?

That was the question of the day on social media, but Von has a lot of experience performing for the troops. He’s been part of five USO tours.

Where does he sit politically?

Von seems loath to pin himself down to a certain side, and he tries to balance his guests accordingly, although it’s tempting to make assumptions based on association.

Over the weekend, he was photographed having dinner with Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner in Miami. The pair attended his “Return of the Rat” show alongside Trump media adviser Alex Bruesewitz.

Who goes on his podcast?

It seems like everybody makes a point to chat with Von these days, including politicians, Oscar-nominated actors, titans of business, athletes, comedians, documentarians and investigative journalists.

Recent guests have included Mark Zuckerberg, Ben Affleck, Morgan Wallen, Chelsea Handler, popular left-wing Twitch streamer Hasan Piker and David Spade. Last year, he hosted Rogan, Timothée Chalamet, JD Vance (when he was campaigning for vice president), Sen. Bernie Sanders and Ed Sheeran. He told Tom Green that he tried to host Kamala Harris and Tim Walz as well.

SCOREBOARD/NHL PLAYOFFS

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Fired manager Brandon Hyde. Named Tony Mansolino interim manager.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed LHP Tyler Gilbert on the 15-day IL. Recalled LHP Jared Shuster from Charlotte (IL). Sent SS Jacob Amaya outright to Charlotte (IL).

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Reinstated RHP Slade Ceconi from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Zak Kent to Columbus (IL).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Placed RHP Seth Lugo on the 15-day IL retroactive to May 14. Placed LHP Cole Ragans on the 15-day IL. Recalled LHPs Evan Sisk and Noah Cameron from Omaha (IL).

MINNESOTA TWINS — Placed OF Byron Buxton on the 7-day concussion list.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Sent RHP Justin Martinez to ACL D-Backs on a rehab assignment.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with OF Hector Barroso and C Jesus Bello on a minor league contracts.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Activated LHP Clayton Kershaw from the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Ryan Loutos Oklahoma City (PCL). Transferred LHP Blake Snell from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Sent RF Teoscar Hernandez to Rancho Cucamonga (CAL) on a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK METS — Activated LHP José Castillo. Optioned RHP Dedniel Núñez to Syracuse (IL). Reinstated INF Ronny Mauricio from the 10-day IL.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Reinstated INF Spencer Horwitz from the 10-day IL. Optioned OF/1B Matt Gorski to Indianapolis (IL).

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

ORLANDO CITY SC — Signed D Zakaria Taifi to a first team contract.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA				
Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	1	0	1.000	—
New York	1	0	1.000	—
Washington	1	0	1.000	—
Connecticut	0	0	.000	½
Atlanta	0	1	.000	1
Chicago	0	1	.000	1
Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	1	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	1	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	—
Dallas	0	1	.000	1
Golden State	0	1	.000	1
Seattle	0	1	.000	1
Las Vegas	0	1	.000	1
Friday's games				
Washington 94, Atlanta 90				
Minnesota 99, Dallas 84				
Los Angeles 84, Golden State 67				
Saturday's games				
New York 92, Las Vegas 78				
Indiana 93, Chicago 58				
Phoenix 81, Seattle 59				
Sunday's games				
Washington at Connecticut				
Minnesota at Los Angeles				
Monday's game				
Seattle at Dallas				

AP SPORTLIGHT

May 19

1909 — In his first title defense, Jack Johnson fights 'Philadelphia' Jack O'Brien to a no-decision in six rounds in Philadelphia to retain his world heavyweight crown.

1910 — Cy Young wins his 500th game as the Cleveland Indians defeat the Washington Senators 5-4 in 11 innings.

1935 — The NFL adopts an annual college draft to begin the following year.

1962 — Stan Musial breaks Honus Wagner's NL hit record with 3,431.

1973 — Secretariat, ridden by Ron Turcotte, rallies from last with a powerful move on the clubhouse turn to win the Preakness Stakes by 2½ lengths over Sham. There is controversy over the timing of the race as the original teletimer time was 1:55 for the 1¼-mile race. Pimlico amends it to 1:54½ two days later.

1984 — Wayne Gretzky scores twice as the Edmonton Oilers beat the New York Islanders 5-2 for their first Stanley Cup title.

1991 — Willy T. Ribbs becomes the first Black driver to make the lineup for the Indianapolis 500.

2007 — Curlin, ridden by Robby Albarado, nips Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense by putting his head in front on the final stride, winning the Preakness Stakes. The winning time was a blazing 1:53.46, equaling the stakes record of 1:53½.

2014 — Lucy Li, 11, becomes the youngest player to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open by winning the sectional qualifier at Half Moon Bay in California.

PRO SOCCER

MLS						
Eastern Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	9	3	2	29	27	14
Cincinnati	9	3	2	29	19	15
Columbus	7	1	6	27	22	14
Nashville	7	4	3	24	24	16
Inter Miami CF	6	2	4	22	24	18
New York City FC	6	5	3	21	15	14
Orlando City	5	2	6	21	24	16
Charlotte FC	6	7	1	19	21	21
Chicago	5	4	4	19	24	24
New York	5	6	3	18	20	17
New England	5	4	3	18	12	10
D.C. United	3	6	5	14	13	25
Toronto FC	3	7	4	13	16	18
Atlanta	2	7	5	11	14	24
CF Montréal	1	9	4	7	8	23
Western Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	8	1	4	28	24	10
Minnesota United	7	3	4	25	22	13
San Diego FC	7	4	3	24	25	16
Portland	6	3	5	23	23	20
Los Angeles FC	6	4	3	21	23	18
Seattle	5	4	5	20	21	19
Colorado	5	5	4	19	16	20
San Jose	5	6	3	18	29	23
Austin FC	5	6	3	18	9	16
Houston	4	6	4	16	15	19
FC Dallas	4	5	4	16	15	22
Real Salt Lake	4	8	2	14	13	19
Sporting Kansas City	3	8	3	12	19	24
St Louis City	2	7	5	11	11	19
LA Galaxy	0	10	3	3	10	31
Saturday's games						
Toronto FC 6, CF Montréal 1						
New York City FC 2, New York 0						
Cincinnati 1, Columbus 1, tie						
Philadelphia 1, Atlanta 0						
Chicago 4, Charlotte FC 1						
San Jose 0, New England 0, tie						
Vancouver 0, Austin FC 0, tie						
Minnesota 3, St Louis City 0						
D.C. United 0, Nashville 0, tie						
Houston 2, FC Dallas 0						
Colorado 1, Real Salt Lake 0						
Seattle 1, Portland 1, tie						
Sporting Kansas City 0, San Diego FC 0, tie						
Sunday's games						
Orlando City at Miami						
Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy						
Saturday, May 24						
FC Dallas at Seattle						
LA Galaxy at San Diego FC						
Columbus at Charlotte FC						
New York at D.C. United						
Los Angeles FC at CF Montréal						
Portland at Orlando City						
Miami at Philadelphia						
Nashville at Toronto FC						
New England at Sporting Kansas City						
Austin FC at Minnesota						
St Louis City at Colorado						
Vancouver at Real Salt Lake						
Houston at San Jose						
NWSL						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	7	2	0	21	19	6
San Diego	5	2	2	17	16	10
Orlando	5	3	1	16	15	7
Portland	4	2	4	16	16	11
Washington	5	3	1	16	16	15
Seattle	4	3	2	14	8	7
Angel City	4	3	2	14	15	16
Gotham FC	3	4	3	12	12	10
North Carolina	3	3	3	12	11	10
Bay FC	3	4	2	11	10	12
Louisville	3	4	2	11	9	14
Houston	3	5	1	10	8	14
Utah Royals FC	1	6	2	5	7	16
Chicago	1	7	1	4	5	19
Friday's games						
San Diego 1, Gotham FC 0						
Portland 4, Houston 1						
Kansas City 1, Orlando 0						
Saturday's games						
Seattle 1, Louisville 0						
North Carolina 2, Chicago 0						
Utah Royals FC 3, Washington 3, tie						
Bay FC 2, Angel City 0						
Friday, May 23						
Orlando at Utah Royals FC						
Washington at Seattle						
Saturday, May 24						
Bay FC at Houston						
Kansas City at Chicago						
Louisville at Angel City						
Sunday, May 25						
North Carolina at San Diego						



GARETH PATTERSON/AP

The Stars' Tyler Seguin, Thomas Harley and Cody Ceci celebrate after Harley scored in overtime to beat the Winnipeg Jets in Game 6 of a second-round playoff series in Dallas on Saturday.

Harley, Stars top Jets in OT for repeat trip to West final

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Stars avoided another Game 7, and are again headed to the Western Conference final after having an advantage in overtime.

Defenseman Thomas Harley scored from the top of the slot on a pass from Tyler Seguin for a power-play goal 1:33 into overtime, and the Stars beat the top-seeded Winnipeg Jets 2-1 in Game 6 on Saturday night.

“Obviously, it’s a huge advantage. Clean sheet of ice and a chance to win a series. The guys did just that,” said Sam Steel, who had the other Dallas goal and drew the game-changing penalty. “Tom does what he does all year long, put it in the back of the net. It’s a big one.”

Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets hours after the death of his father, but also had the tripping penalty with 14.8 seconds left in regulation that set up the Stars to start overtime with a man advantage.

Steel was on a break when Scheifele lunged forward desperately trying to make a play when he tripped up the forward at the blue line — an infraction that could have resulted in a penalty shot. Dallas called a timeout, but missed a shot and had another one blocked before the end of regulation.

“Heartbreaking. ... Felt like we had a team that could go on a run. For it to end the way it did and everything else surrounding the day, it’s just a lot of emotion,” Winnipeg captain Adam Lowry said.

NHL scoreboard

Second Round	
Best-of-seven x-if necessary	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Carolina 4, Washington 1	
Carolina 2, Washington 1, OT	
Washington 3, Carolina 1	
Carolina 4, Washington 0	
Carolina 5, Washington 2	
Carolina 3, Washington 1	
Florida 3, Toronto 3	
Toronto 5, Florida 4	
Toronto 4, Florida 3	
Florida 5, Toronto 4, OT	
Florida 2, Toronto 0	
Florida 6, Toronto 1	
Toronto 2, Florida 0	
Sunday: at Toronto	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Edmonton 4, Vegas 1	
Edmonton 4, Vegas 2	
Edmonton 5, Vegas 4, OT	
Vegas 4, Edmonton 3	
Edmonton 3, Vegas 0	
Edmonton 1, Vegas 0, OT	
Dallas 4, Winnipeg 2	
Dallas 3, Winnipeg 2	
Winnipeg 4, Dallas 0	
Dallas 5, Winnipeg 2	
Dallas 3, Winnipeg 1	
Winnipeg 4, Dallas 0	
Saturday: Dallas 2, Winnipeg 1, OT	

“It’s tough to put into words what Mark went through today. Gets a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does. Just emotional, heavy.”

The Stars, who have already played Game 7s in three consecutive postseasons after beating the Colorado Avalanche in a full first-round series, move on to face the Edmonton Oilers in the West final for the second year in a row. They host Game 1 on Wednesday night.

Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger made 22 saves to wrap up his sixth playoff series win over the past three seasons. Oettinger made an incredible diving save with 8½ minutes left in regulation, leaning

to the right before having to lunge back across his body toward the left post to knock down a shot by Mason Appleton.

Hellebuyck, the two-time Vezina Trophy who is the odds-on favorite to win that top goalie award again this season, stopped 18 shots.

The Stars have won all three of their overtime games this postseason. It was only the second OT game for the Jets, who scored twice in the final two minutes of regulation in Game 7 of the first round and then beat the St. Louis Blues.

Steel got his first goal of the playoffs midway through the second period. He shot a long rebound from the top of the right circle, sending the puck into the upper right corner of the net just above Hellebuyck’s glove.

Scheifele got his fifth goal of the playoffs when he gathered the rebound of Kyle Connor’s shot and scored from just outside the crease 5½ minutes into the second period. That score came before a whistle blew for a delayed penalty, a high stick by Oettinger into the face of Gabriel Vilardi, who got the secondary assist for his pass to Connor.

That was all set up after Nikolja Ehlers had a breakaway shot that was knocked away by Oettinger and retrieved by Scheifele.

Hellebuyck withstood a 46-second flurry late in the first period when Dallas had eight shots — three that were on goal, along with four misses and one that was blocked.

NBA PLAYOFFS

With drought over, Knicks ready for revenge on Pacers

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks nearly ended their lengthy Eastern Conference finals drought last year, only to lose on their home floor to the Indiana Pacers in Game 7 of the second round.

With two new starters and much better health, the Knicks finally made it this season for the first time in 25 years.

The opponents will be those same Pacers, who return to Madison Square Garden for a series that begins Wednesday night.

“More to go,” New York guard Mikal Bridges said. “We’re not done.”

Since their last trip to the conference finals in 2000 — another loss to Indiana — the Knicks had reached the second round only one time until doing it each of the last two years following the arrival of Jalen Brunson.

So finally getting over that hump with their 119-81 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 6 on Friday was a significant step, but it wasn’t one that New York

cared to celebrate.

“The goal is always to win a championship and so we’ve got eight wins. You need 16, right? And each one gets harder and harder, so you’ve got to keep fighting,” Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said.

New York had a 2-0 lead in the series against the Pacers last year before it was decimated with injuries, and Indiana ran it off the floor in Game 7.

The Knicks then traded for Bridges shortly after the season and made a blockbuster move to acquire Karl-Anthony Towns from Minnesota just before the start of this one. It didn’t appear those were going to be the final moves that built a championship team, as New York finished 51-31, well behind Cleveland and Boston, and went a combined 0-8 against those teams.

But they won’t have to worry about the Cavaliers, who lost in five games to the Pacers, and completely turned things around against the Celtics. The Knicks overcame 20-point deficits in the second halves of both games in



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

The Boston Celtics’ Jrue Holiday defends the Knicks’ Jalen Brunson during the first half of Game 6 in the Eastern Conference semifinals Friday in New York. The Knicks won 119-81 to advance to the East finals.

Boston to open the series.

The resolve New York showed in those comebacks wasn’t there during the regular-season matchups against the Celtics, when the first three were blowouts. But maybe the Knicks have found it just in time.

“When you’re in these situations, especially in the playoffs, we talk about that New York grit, that unrelentless belief that we will never lose,” Towns said. “And I

think that this series, when you want to go deeper into the playoffs, you have to have that and we showed it this series and I think that was really special for us.”

The Knicks were decided underdogs going into the series after the ease with which Boston handled them in the regular season. The Celtics obviously weren’t quite the same team after Jayson Tatum’s ruptured Achilles tendon late in Game 4, but they were still

the defending champions and felt they had enough to win even without their leading scorer.

Instead, New York was so dominant in Game 6 that Brunson was asked afterward if the series win felt like an upset.

“Regardless of what anyone thinks, upset or not, we’re just happy to come out of this series with a win and moving on we’ve got to prepare for another team,” he said.

Try: Indiana caught fire after slow start, has kept on rolling

FROM PAGE 24

the moment he knew Indiana could reach a second straight conference finals. “Everybody had the right mindset, I think we all used it as fuel for the summer. Everybody believes we should be here in this spot and now we’re ready to take advantage of it.”

That series, especially the ending in Game 1, provided the Pacers with some key lessons for their next chance — value the opportunities when they come, play through the final buzzer and take nothing for granted.

It steeled Indiana for what it’d face this season — early injuries, Haliburton’s slow start and a rugged 10-15 mark that had the doubters talking again about the Pacers’ “good luck” to face two teams severely limited by injuries in last year’s playoffs.

That’s when Indiana showed resilience.

Since Dec. 13, it’s gone 48-19, surging into the East’s No. 4 seed and earning home-court advantage in the first round for the first time since 2013-14.

This run has been even more impressive than the previous one. The Pacers eliminated Giannis



SUE OGRICK/AP

Cavaliers guard Darius Garland, left, shoots as Indiana Pacers forward Aaron Nesmith defends during the second half in Game 5 of an Eastern Conference semifinal Tuesday in Cleveland.

Antetokounmpo and fifth-seeded Milwaukee, the 2021 NBA champs, in five games by sweeping three home games. They also knocked out Donovan Mitchell and top-seeded Cleveland in five games by sweeping the three road

games.

And they did it in ways that seemed unfathomable a year ago. They did it with tough, physical basketball, never backing down from the challenges and even turning their oft-criticized de-

fense into a strength.

As a result, Indiana erased deficits of 20 points in Game 2 against the Cavaliers and 19 points in a decisive Game 5 in Cleveland, thanks largely to Haliburton’s 3-point shooting and putting the Pacers within four wins of reaching their second NBA Finals in franchise history.

Their resilience has created confidence anything is possible, and it may not have happened without last year’s rollercoaster postseason.

“We’ve been in hostile games, we’ve been on the road, had to find ways to win,” three-time All-Star Pascal Siakam said. “We’ve been down, we’ve been up, we’ve seen it at the highest level. But you still have to go through it. It doesn’t mean you’re immune from (losing), but I think we have a better experience because we’ve seen it before.”

This is not the same Indiana team that found itself facing 1-0 deficits in all three of last year’s series. These Pacers have won four straight close-out games when they’ve been in the lead, and they believe they’re far from finished.

Scoreboard	
Second Round	
Best-of-seven x-if necessary Eastern Conference	
Indiana 4, Cleveland 1	
Indiana 121, Cleveland 112	
Indiana 120, Cleveland 119	
Cleveland 126, Indiana 104	
Indiana 129, Cleveland 109	
Indiana 114, Cleveland 105	
New York 4, Boston 2	
New York 108, Boston 105, OT	
New York 91, Boston 90	
Boston 115, New York 93	
New York 121, Boston 113	
Boston 127, New York 102	
New York 119, Boston 81	
Western Conference	
Oklahoma City 3, Denver 3	
Denver 121, Oklahoma City 119	
Oklahoma City 149, Denver 106	
Denver 113, Oklahoma City 104, OT	
Oklahoma City 92, Denver 87	
Oklahoma City 112, Denver 105	
Denver 119, Oklahoma City 107	
Sunday: at Oklahoma City	
Minnesota 4, Golden State 1	
Golden State 99, Minnesota 88	
Minnesota 117, Golden State 93	
Minnesota 102, Golden State 97	
Minnesota 117, Golden State 110	
Minnesota 121, Golden State 110	

“We’ve had many games where you could take a screenshot at any moment and be like ‘How did they win this game?’” Haliburton said after his Game 2 winner against the Cavs. “We just figure out ways to win. We don’t give up and we’re battle tested.”

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Scoreboard

PGA Championship		
Saturday		
At Quail Hollow Club		
Charlotte, N.C.		
Yardage: 7,626; Par: 71		
Third Round		
Scottie Scheffler, U.S.	69-68-65	-202 -11
Alex Noren, Sweden	68-71-66	-205 -8
J.T. Poston, U.S.	68-70-68	-206 -7
Davis Riley, U.S.	71-68-67	-206 -7
Si Woo Kim, South Korea	72-64-71	-207 -6
Jon Rahm, Spain	70-70-67	-207 -6
Jhonattan Vegas, Venezuela	64-70-73	-207 -6
Keegan Bradley, U.S.	68-72-68	-208 -5
Bryson DeChambeau, U.S.	71-68-69	-208 -5
Tony Finau, U.S.	70-69-69	-208 -5
Matt Fitzpatrick, England	68-68-72	-208 -5
Matthieu Pavon, France	71-65-72	-208 -5
Garrick Higgo, South Africa	69-69-71	-209 -4
Joe Highsmith, U.S.	73-67-69	-209 -4
Adam Scott, Australia	69-71-69	-209 -4
Matt Wallace, England	71-70-68	-209 -4
Cameron Davis, Australia	66-74-70	-210 -3
Ryan Fox, New Zealand	67-71-72	-210 -3
Ryan Gerard, U.S.	66-72-72	-210 -3
Lucas Glover, U.S.	71-70-69	-210 -3
Max Greyserman, U.S.	71-72-67	-210 -3
Denny McCarthy, U.S.	70-68-72	-210 -3
Ben Griffin, U.S.	70-69-72	-211 -2
Ryo Hisatsune, Japan	68-71-72	-211 -2
Robert Macintyre, Scotland	68-70-73	-211 -2
Maverick McNealy, U.S.	70-72-69	-211 -2
Taylor Pendrith, Canada	69-70-72	-211 -2
David Puig, Spain	71-72-68	-211 -2
Alex Smalley, U.S.	67-71-73	-211 -2
J.J. Spaun, U.S.	71-68-72	-211 -2
Harry Hall, England	69-72-71	-212 -1
Viktor Hovland, Norway	69-71-72	-212 -1
Taylor Moore, U.S.	73-69-70	-212 -1
Joaquin Niemann, Chile	74-67-71	-212 -1
Michael Thorbjornsen, U.S.	68-70-74	-212 -1
Rafael Campos, Puerto Rico	68-73-72	-213 E
Eric Cole, U.S.	70-70-73	-213 E
N. Echavarria, Colombia	68-74-71	-213 E
Harris English, U.S.	72-70-71	-213 E
Tyrrell Hatton, England	68-73-72	-213 E
Max Homa, U.S.	73-64-76	-213 E
Aaron Rai, England	67-72-74	-213 E
Cameron Young, U.S.	73-69-71	-213 E
Wyndham Clark, U.S.	72-69-73	-214 +1
Luke Donald, England	67-74-73	-214 +1
Beau Hossler, U.S.	71-70-73	-214 +1
Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark	71-71-72	-214 +1
Marco Penge, England	69-71-74	-214 +1
C.Bezuidenhout, S. Africa	70-68-77	-215 +2
Richard Bland, England	70-69-76	-215 +2
Sam Burns, U.S.	73-70-72	-215 +2
Corey Connors, Canada	73-68-74	-215 +2
Rory McIlroy, N. Ireland	74-69-72	-215 +2
Tom McKibbin, N. Ireland	70-71-74	-215 +2
Xander Schauffele, U.S.	72-71-72	-215 +2
Sam Stevens, U.S.	70-68-77	-215 +2
Daniel Berger, U.S.	71-71-74	-216 +3
Tommy Fleetwood, England	70-70-76	-216 +3
Collin Morikawa, U.S.	70-72-74	-216 +3
Rasmus Hojgaard, Denmark	68-74-75	-217 +4
Justin Lower, U.S.	69-73-75	-217 +4
Kevin Yu, Chinese Taipei	73-70-74	-217 +4
Nicolai Hojgaard, Denmark	72-69-77	-218 +5
Stephan Jaeger, Germany	67-75-76	-218 +5
Michael Kim, U.S.	71-72-75	-218 +5
Tom Kim, South Korea	71-72-75	-218 +5
Austin Eckroat, U.S.	72-70-77	-219 +6
Brian Harman, U.S.	71-72-76	-219 +6
Brian Campbell, U.S.	73-69-78	-220 +7
Bud Cauley, U.S.	74-69-77	-220 +7
Elvis Smylie, Australia	70-73-77	-220 +7
Byeong Hun An, South Korea	69-73-79	-221 +8
Chris Kirk, U.S.	73-70-78	-221 +8
Sergio Garcia, Spain	75-68-79	-222 +9



GEORGE WALKER IV/AP
Bryson DeChambeau briefly held the PGA Championship lead Saturday before a rough closing stretch left him six shots back.

Scheffler storms into lead

Eagle, great closing stretch put world No. 1 up by 3 with 3rd major in sight

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — One swing was all Scottie Scheffler needed to send Quail Hollow into delirium Saturday, to briefly rattle Bryson DeChambeau and to give this PGA Championship the star power it had been lacking.

Scheffler stood on the 14th tee, 304 yards from the hole, thinking it might come up a little short with the wind gusting right-to-left against his preferred fade. It was nearly perfect, the ball climbing onto the green and settling just inside 3 feet away.

The eagle put Scheffler atop the leaderboard for good and started a closing stretch that was nothing short of a clinic, 5 under over the last five holes. It sent him to a 6-under 65 and a three-shot lead as he closed in on a third major championship.

“I executed the shot,” Scheffler said. “Did I execute it thinking I hit it 2 feet or whatever it was? I mean, there’s a little bit of luck involved in that when you’re at 300 yards. But overall, I executed how I wanted to.”

Scheffler did that a lot in the final hour, and left many contenders feeling helpless against the No. 1 player in the world.

Jon Rahm made a run with three straight birdies. Bryson DeChambeau briefly had the lead until his tee shot on the par-3 17th found the water. DeChambeau was trying to salvage a bogey putt from 25 feet away when the loudest cheer from across the lake by the 14th green made him back off.

Scheffler, of course.

The world’s No. 1 player turned a three-shot deficit into a three-shot lead over Alex Noren (66), who only last week returned from seven months away with a hamstring injury and now gets his first opportunity to play in the final group of a major.

Rahm was among those five shots behind. DeChambeau was six back. They thought they would be closer until Scheffler wasn’t satisfied with taking the lead. He wanted a proper finish, and delivered it with two birdies, each packed with a little more emotion.

It ended with an 8-iron from the seam of a divot to just inside 10 feet for birdie on the 18th, and Scheffler pumped his fist accompanied by, “(Expletive) yeah, baby!”

“I typically don’t show much emotion. I don’t know how much I showed there. I don’t really think about what I’m doing,” Scheffler said. “I just felt like I hit two really good shots in there ... and was able to just take advantage of the opportunity.

“Wherever the emotion came from, felt like an important part of the round to finish off the round the right way.”

DeChambeau, the U.S. Open champion who has been a major force at golf’s biggest events, briefly took the lead with a birdie on the par-5 15th. And then it all came undone.

He missed a 4-foot par putt on the 16th. He was stunned to see his ball find the water on the 17th that led to double bogey. He had to scramble for par on the 18th and a 69.

DeChambeau was three behind when he finished, six behind when Scheffler got done with his masterful performance.

“I’m behind the 8-ball now. I’ve got to get my guns a-blazing tomorrow,” DeChambeau said.

The third round was delayed by morning storms, forcing a change in tee times to threesomes off both tees that didn’t start until short-



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Scottie Scheffler celebrates after a birdie on the 18th hole during the third round of the PGA Championship at the Quail Hollow Club on Saturday in Charlotte, N.C. Scheffler shot 65.

ly before noon. And then it became a game of musical chairs for the lead. Nine players had at least a share of the lead at one point.

One of them was Rahm, the two-time major champion and former No. 1 who has not seriously contended in the four majors he has played since joining LIV Golf.

“Hard to express how hungry I may be for a major, about as hungry as anybody can be in this situation,” Rahm said. “Very happy to be in this position.”

Rahm finished nearly two hours before Scheffler and figured he would be at least one back going into the final round. “This golf course is tricky and one shot is nothing on 18 holes,” Rahm said. He faces a five-shot deficit, but armed with growing confidence in his game.

Scheffler, remarkably, for the first time posted the low score of any round in a major with his 65, which moved him to 11-under 202.

The 3-wood on the 14th was what got it started. The up-and-down for birdie on the par-5 15th gave Scheffler the lead for the first time in the championship. His best shot was his only par in that stretch, a 7-iron off a slight hill to a back pin with a nasty wind direction.

Scheffler missed a 12-foot birdie putt. But he then made an 18-foot birdie putt for one of only six birdies on the day at the 17th, and then finished it with his seventh birdie of the day.

Masters champion Rory McIlroy and defending PGA champion Xander Schauffele had a long day, nothing to do with each posting a 72. They were supposed to tee off at 8:25 a.m. and likely would be finished in time for lunch.

With the change to threesomes off both tees, they didn’t start until 1:38 p.m. and were on the other side of Quail Hollow as all the action was on the closing stretch.

Davis Riley made three straight birdies around the turn and two more on the scoreable 14th and 15th holes for a 67. Riley was at 7 — under 206 along with North Carolina native J.T. Poston, who birdied his last hole for a 68.

Rahm was tied for fifth with Si Woo Kim and Jhonattan Vegas, who had two-shot leads after 18 holes and 36 holes and began Saturday with two straight bogeys. But Rahm steadied himself and was still in the mix until driving into the water on the 15th for bogey and finishing out his 73 with a three-putt going on the 18th.

DeChambeau played in the final group at the Masters with McIlroy, and he played bogey-free through 15 holes until a finish that did more damage than he realized.

“It cost me three shots and that’s what happens here at Quail Hollow,” DeChambeau said.

It left DeChambeau, Rahm and everyone else in a tough spot trying to make up ground on Scheffler, whose last tournament was an eight-shot victory in the CJ Cup Byron Nelson.

ROUNDUP

Twins blank Brewers for 13th straight

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Pablo López combined with three relievers on a three-hitter as the Minnesota Twins beat the Milwaukee Brewers 7-0 on Saturday for their third straight shutout and 13th consecutive victory.

The Twins haven’t allowed a run since giving up six of them in the third inning of an 8-6 victory at Baltimore in the second game of a doubleheader Wednesday.

Milwaukee has been shut out in four of its last five games, the first time that’s happened in franchise history, according to Sportradar. According to Sportradar, the last team to get shut out four times in a five-game stretch was the Miami Marlins in July 2022.

Ryan Jeffers went 4 for 5 with a homer and double, and Kody Clemens went 3 for 5 with a homer as the Twins collected 18 hits.

López (4-2) struck out six and allowed two hits and two walks in six innings. Justin Topa, Jorge Alcala and Kody Funderburk each pitched one inning of relief.

The Twins took control of the game by scoring single runs in each of the first six innings. Four of those runs came off Tobias Myers, who was sent to the minors earlier this week before getting called back up when left-hander Jose Quintana went on the injured list.

Jeffers opened the scoring by hitting a 420-foot shot to left-center with one out in the first inning. He also doubled and scored in the third, singled in the fourth and singled in the eighth.

Myers (1-1) allowed 11 hits over 3⅔ innings while striking out four and walking nobody.

Mets 3, Yankees 2: Francisco Lindor hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the ninth inning as the New York Mets beat the Yankees in the Subway Series.

Juan Soto went 1 for 4 with a walk and is 1 for 6 in his first two games back in the Bronx in a matchup between division leaders since leaving the Yankees for a record \$765 million, 15-year contract with the Mets.

Cubs 7, White Sox 3: Dansby Swanson homered and Pete Crow-Armstrong drove in two more runs to help the Chicago Cubs beat the Chicago White Sox.

Miguel Amaya also had two RBIs as the NL Central-leading Cubs improved to 4-1 on a six-game homestand. Matthew Boyd (4-2) struck out eight while pitching six innings of three-run ball.

Blue Jays 2, Tigers 1: Ernie Clement hit a game-winning single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning as Toronto rallied to beat visiting Detroit.

Jeff Hoffman (4-2) worked one inning for the win as Toronto stopped Detroit’s winning streak at four.

Nationals 10, Orioles 6: Luis Garcia Jr. had two RBIs to fuel a six-run first inning, and Washington won, hours after host Baltimore fired manager Brandon Hyde.

Soon after arriving at the ballpark, the Orioles learned the team dismissed Hyde and made third base coach Tony Mansolino the interim manager. This year the Orioles started 15-28 and were mired in last place in the AL East when general manager Mike Elias decided to make a change.

Rays 4, Marlins 0: Drew Rasmussen threw a season-high six innings of four-hit ball, Yandy Díaz had two hits and two RBIs and Tampa Bay beat host Miami.

Jonathan Aranda and Chandler Simpson singled twice and drove in a run each for the



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

Minnesota Twins designated hitter Ryan Jeffers celebrates after his home run against the Brewers during the first inning Saturday in Milwaukee. Jeffers went 4 for 5 in a 7-0 victory.

Rays, who scored their runs in the fifth inning against Marlins starter Sandy Alcantara.

Reds 4, Guardians 1: Will Benson and Rece Hinds hit solo home runs as Cincinnati beat visiting Cleveland.

Brent Suter allowed four hits in three innings before five relievers combined to allow a run on four hits for the Reds, including a 1-2-3 sixth inning by Luis Mey (1-0).

Phillies 5, Pirates 2: Zack Wheeler pitched six shutout innings, Bryson Stott homered and drove in three runs, and host Philadelphia defeated Pittsburgh.

Stott launched his fourth homer of the season off starter Carmen Mlodzinski (1-4) in the third and knocked in two runs an inning later with an opposite-field single.

Rangers 5, Astros 1: Joc Pederson broke a tie with a two-run home run in the sixth inning, Wyatt Langford hit a solo shot in a two-run seventh and Texas beat visiting Houston.

Tyler Mahle (5-1) allowed the one run over six innings, keeping his ERA at 1.47 — ranking third in the AL. Pederson, hitting .123 with four RBI to that point as Texas’ primary DH this season, followed Marcus Semien’s one-out single off Ronel Blanco (3-4) with a drive to right-center.

Cardinals 1, Royals 0: Jordan Walker homered and Miles Mikolas pitched six sharp innings to lead surging St. Louis at Kansas City.

Mikolas (3-2) allowed two hits with four strikeouts and two walks for the Cardinals, who have won three straight and 12 of 13. St. Louis is 7-1 on a nine-game trip to three cities, winning all three series.

Red Sox 7, Braves 6: Rafael Devers homered leading off the bottom of the ninth inning against Pierce Johnson, sending Boston to a comeback win over visiting Atlanta that snapped its four-game losing streak.

Jarren Duran had a two-run homer and a tying two-run single for the Red Sox, who had dropped 10 of 15.

Rockies 14, Diamondbacks 12: Jordan

Beck hit two homers and a triple, driving in three runs and scoring four to rally Colorado from a five-run deficit to a victory at Arizona.

Ezequiel Tovar had five hits, including his first homer this season, and the major league-worst Rockies (8-37) snapped a four-game losing streak by handing the Diamondbacks (24-22) their first loss in 152 games when scoring at least 12 runs.

Mariners 4, Padres 1: Cal Raleigh led off the seventh inning with his 15th home run to break a tie, Dylan Moore had a two-run single in the ninth and Seattle won at San Diego.

Andrés Muñoz got the final four outs for his league-leading 14th save after Raleigh tied the Yankees’ Aaron Judge for the AL homer lead. Raleigh’s homer was the first allowed by reliever Adrian Morejon (1-2) this season.

Giants 1, Athletics 0 (10): Wilmer Flores drew a bases-loaded walk on the ninth pitch from Mason Miller with two outs in the 10th inning to score Willy Adames and send San Francisco to a win against the visiting Athletics.

Miller (0-2) intentionally walked Mike Yastrzemski to bring up Flores with the game on the line a night after the Giants slugger hit three homers with a grand slam and drove in eight runs in a 9-1 win. Miller walked LaMonte Wade Jr. to start the inning with Adames as the automatic baserunner at second.

Angels 11, Dodgers 9: Logan O’Hoppe, Taylor Ward and Matthew Lugo homered and the Los Angeles Angels spoiled Clayton Kershaw’s season debut, beating the Dodgers to take the first two games of the three-game series at Dodger Stadium.

Kershaw allowed three runs and threw 38 pitches in the first inning. The three-time National League Cy Young Award winner lasted four innings, giving up five runs on five hits with three walks and two strikeouts.

Shoulder, toe and knee injuries limited Kershaw to seven games last season, and his 2025 debut was delayed as he recovered from multiple offseason surgeries.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	26	19	.578	—
Boston	23	24	.489	4
Toronto	22	23	.489	4
Tampa Bay	21	24	.467	5
Baltimore	15	29	.341	10½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	30	16	.652	—
Minnesota	26	20	.565	4
Cleveland	25	20	.556	4½
Kansas City	25	22	.532	5½
Chicago	14	32	.304	16
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	25	19	.568	—
Texas	25	22	.532	1½
Houston	23	22	.511	2½
Athletics	22	24	.478	4
Los Angeles	19	25	.432	6
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	29	17	.630	—
Philadelphia	27	18	.600	1½
Atlanta	23	23	.500	6
Washington	20	27	.426	9½
Miami	17	27	.386	11
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	27	19	.587	—
St. Louis	26	20	.565	1
Cincinnati	23	24	.489	4½
Milwaukee	21	25	.457	6
Pittsburgh	15	31	.326	12
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	29	17	.630	—
San Diego	27	17	.614	1
San Francisco	27	19	.587	2
Arizona	24	22	.522	5
Colorado	8	37	.178	20½
Friday's games				
Chicago Cubs 13, Chicago White Sox 3 Cincinnati 5, Cleveland 4 Philadelphia 8, Pittsburgh 4 Washington 4, Baltimore 3 N.Y. Yankees 6, N.Y. Mets 2 Detroit 5, Toronto 4 Atlanta 4, Boston 2 Miami 9, Tampa Bay 4 St. Louis 10, Kansas City 3 Houston 6, Texas 3 Minnesota 3, Milwaukee 0 Arizona 8, Colorado 0 Seattle 5, San Diego 1 L.A. Angels 6, L.A. Dodgers 2 San Francisco 9, Athletics 1				
Saturday's games				
N.Y. Mets 3, N.Y. Yankees 2 Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 3 Toronto 2, Detroit 1 Tampa Bay 4, Miami 0 Washington 10, Baltimore 6 Cincinnati 4, Cleveland 1 St. Louis 1, Kansas City 0 Texas 5, Houston 1 Minnesota 7, Milwaukee 0 Boston 7, Atlanta 6 Seattle 4, San Diego 1 San Francisco 1, Athletics 0, 10 innings L.A. Angels 11, L.A. Dodgers 9 Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 2 Colorado 14, Arizona 12				
Sunday's games				
Houston at Texas Pittsburgh at Philadelphia Atlanta at Boston Washington at Baltimore Detroit at Toronto Cleveland at Cincinnati Tampa Bay at Miami Minnesota at Milwaukee St. Louis at Kansas City Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs Athletics at San Francisco Colorado at Arizona L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers Seattle at San Diego N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees				
Monday's games				
Chicago Cubs (Brown 3-3) at Miami (Cabrera 0-1) Cincinnati (Lodolo 3-4) at Pittsburgh (Keller 1-5) N.Y. Mets (Senga 4-2) at Boston (Dobbin 2-1) Houston (TBD) at Tampa Bay (Pepiot 2-5) Baltimore (Kremer 3-5) at Milwaukee (Priester 1-2) Cleveland (Allen 2-2) at Minnesota (Ober 4-1) Seattle (Castillo 3-3) at Chicago White Sox (Martin 2-4) Detroit (Montero 1-1) at St. Louis (Gray 4-1) Philadelphia (Sánchez 4-1) at Colorado (Freeland 0-6) Kansas City (Bubic 4-2) at San Francisco (Ray 6-0) L.A. Angels (Soriano 2-4) at Athletics (Ginn 1-1) Arizona (Pfaadt 6-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Knack 2-1)				

PREAKNESS STAKES/MLB

Journalism rallies to secure rebound win

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Journalism jostled with horses down the stretch, shrugged off the contact, burst through the lane and came from behind to win the 150th running of the Preakness Stakes on Saturday.

The odds-on favorite was bumped by Goal Oriented near the quarter pole, and it looked like another second-place finish was coming two weeks after being the runner-up to Sovereignty in the Kentucky Derby. Journalism instead ran right by Gosger to give trainer Michael McCarthy his second win in a Triple Crown race.

“A lot of bouncing around there,” McCarthy said. “When I saw that, I kind of resigned myself to the fact it was another fantastic effort and maybe come up a little bit short. But it just goes to show the testament that this horse has. Couldn’t be prouder of him.”

Gosger was second by a half-length. Sandman was third and Bob Baffert-trained Goal Oriented fourth. Journalism went 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles in 1:55.37.

Umberto Rispoli became the first jockey from Italy to win any of the Triple Crown races.

“When I crossed the wire, the first things that comes up to my mind, it’s all of the 20 years of my career that pass in front of me,” Rispoli said. “I had to wait so long



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP

Jockey Umberto Rispoli, racing atop Journalism, wins the 150th running of the Preakness Stakes on Saturday at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. Journalism rebounded after finishing second at the Kentucky Derby.

to be on a champion like that.”

Journalism handled the adversity and thrived on a warm day that dried out the track after torrential rain fell at Pimlico Race Course for much of the past week. Those conditions suited him better than the slop at Churchill Downs.

“This victory symbolizes so much about life,” co-owner Aaron Wellman said. “It took guts for Umberto Rispoli to power his way

through a seemingly impossible hole getting side-swiped and threading the needle and powering on through. And it took guts from an incredible horse to somehow will his way to victory.”

Journalism paid \$4 to win, \$2.80 to place and \$2.40 to show.

“He’s a remarkable horse,” Baffert said of Journalism. “I wanted to be on the lead and was behind horses. I knew (Goal Ori-

ented) was intimidated. He’s never run that way. He ran well, but he’s still too green for that.”

Sovereignty did not take part after his owners and trainer Bill Mott decided to skip the Preakness, citing the two-week turnaround, and aimed for the Belmont on June 7. That made this the fifth time in seven years that the Preakness, for various reasons, was contested without a Triple

Crown bid at stake.

But Journalism staked his claim for 3-year-old horse of the year by winning the \$2 million American classic race run at the old Pimlico Race Course for the last time before it’s torn down and rebuilt. While work went on around him before the post-race news conference, Wellman asked, “Are they already tearing this place down?”

Not yet, and not before Journalism could add a memorable chapter by squeezing through the space he had to win.

“I still can’t realize what this horse did,” Rispoli said. “It’s all about him. It’s a pleasure and privilege to ride a horse like him.”

The Preakness is set to be held at nearby Laurel Park, between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., next year before a planned return to the new Pimlico in 2027. McCarthy raved about the history at the place known as “Old Hilltop” and still remembers where he was when Sunday Silence beat Easy Goer at the wire in 1989 in a fashion similar to how Journalism won this time.

“Things kind of come full circle,” McCarthy said. “I’m sad to see this place go, but we’ll try to get back here next year, whichever locale it’s at.”

Journalism is the first horse to win the Preakness after running in the Kentucky Derby since Mark Casse-trained War of Will in 2019.

Last-place Orioles fire manager Hyde after dismal start

By **NOAH TRISTER**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles fired manager Brandon Hyde, then needed less than an inning to show they have far deeper problems.

Kyle Gibson allowed six runs, failing to make it out of the top of the first, and the Orioles lost 10-6 to the Washington Nationals on Saturday. Baltimore, which is in last place in the AL East, fell to 15-29.

Before the game, the Orioles relieved Hyde of his duties. He guided the team through an extensive rebuild and won AL Manager of the Year in 2023, but Baltimore’s performance slipped during the second half of last season, and the Orioles have put themselves in a significant hole in 2025.

“As the head of baseball operations, the poor start to our season is ultimately my responsibility,” Orioles executive vice president and general manager Mike Elias said. “Part of that responsibility is pursuing difficult changes in order to set a different course for the future. I want to thank Brandon for his hard work, dedication and passion all these years, and for returning the team to the playoffs

and winning an AL East championship.”

Third base coach Tony Mansolino was named interim manager.

Hyde is the third major league manager fired in the last 10 days, joining Pittsburgh’s Derek Shelton and Colorado’s Bud Black.

“Brandon and I are close. I love the guy,” said Nationals manager Dave Martinez, who once served with Hyde on the Cubs’ staff. “We all know what we sign up for when we take this job. It really just stinks. He’s a good man. I know he’ll land on his feet. I wish him all the best, but it’s a tough gig.”

Mansolino, who had never been a major league manager, would have preferred getting his first shot under different circumstances.

“Not excited. This isn’t a good thing for us,” Mansolino said after the loss. “We’re going to miss Brandon in a lot of ways. To me, he did a great job here. ... To get to this point where a change is made, it’s not something any of us wanted, by any means.”

Baltimore players were informed of Hyde’s dismissal during a team meeting headed by Elias, about four hours before the start of the Orioles’ game against Washington.

“Pretty surprised, honestly,” starting pitcher Cade Povich said. “It’s not something you expect to come in the morning and hear.”

“That’s unfortunate because Brandon Hyde is a great guy,” Baltimore outfielder Ramón Laureano added. “We, as players, have got to play better. The players are the ones with the bats and gloves.”

Hyde was in his seventh season as O’s manager. He endured seasons of 108 and 110 losses early on, but by 2023, Baltimore won the AL East with 101 victories — and the future looked bright thanks to young standouts like infielder Gunnar Henderson, catcher Adley Rutschman and right-hander Grayson Rodriguez.

The Orioles had other top prospects in the organization as well, but after a 49-25 start last year, Baltimore played sub-.500 baseball the rest of the way and settled for a wild card. For a second straight season, the O’s were swept out of the playoffs in their first series.

Then came an offseason in which ace Corbin Burnes left via free agency, and the front office tried to patch the rotation with one-year stopgaps like Charlie Morton, Tomoyuki Sugano and

Gibson. Sugano has pitched well but the other two haven’t, and Baltimore has the worst ERA in the American League at 5.42.

Meanwhile, offense has been spotty. Rutschman is batting .215, Ryan Mountcastle is at .233 and Cedric Mullins has slumped all the way to .220 after a good start. All that probably isn’t Hyde’s fault. But the organization hopes things change under Mansolino, who’s been the third base coach for the Orioles since 2021 after working in Cleveland’s minor league system from 2011-20.

“It hurts,” infielder Ramón Urias said of Hyde’s firing. “I feel like we let him down. But obviously we’re looking forward to changing things around mentally.”

Going into Sunday, Baltimore is hitting .198 with runners in scoring position, the worst mark in baseball. Friday’s 4-3 loss to the Nationals was a microcosm of the season so far. The O’s left 15 men on base and allowed the winning run to score from second on an infield single in the top of the ninth.

Top prospects Heston Kjerstad and Coby Mayo haven’t produced much, and injuries to Colton Cowser, Jordan Westburg and Tyler O’Neill hurt the lineup as well. The pitching staff could af-



NICK WASS/AP

Brandon Hyde led the Baltimore Orioles to playoff appearances in each of the last two years before an abysmal 15-28 start this year.

ford health problems even less. Rodriguez and reliever Andrew Kittredge haven’t pitched at all this year, and Zach Eflin missed time as well.

The team’s poor start has put Elias under scrutiny after what looked like a very successful rebuild. If Baltimore doesn’t climb back into contention this year, he will be under a lot of pressure next offseason to bring the team back.

SPORTS



Seeing Stars

Dallas secures 3rd straight West final trip with OT win over Jets » **NHL playoffs, Page 19**



Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton, left, and Cavaliers forward Isaac Okoro scramble for the ball in the first half in Game 5 of an Eastern Conference semifinal Tuesday in Cleveland.

Try, try again

Pacers return to Eastern Conference finals with something left to prove

BY MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton started this season intent on quieting anyone who considered last year’s Eastern Conference finals run a fluke. Now that Indiana is back, Haliburton and his teammates have a new goal: Proving to themselves they were right all along about

how good these Pacers could be. “You heard (Boston coach) Joe Mazzulla this year say Indiana was our toughest opponent,” Haliburton said after Friday’s practice. “That kind of became like a meme, like a participation award in a sense. But I think that’s the most respect you could get from who you’re ultimately competing against.” The Pacers should have had ev-

eryone’s attention long before this postseason began. The Celtics swept them in last year’s playoffs with a hobbled Haliburton out the final two games, as they won the NBA title. But there was nothing easy about it. Boston needed a late turnover from Haliburton to force overtime in Game 1 and another from him in overtime to close out the 133-128 victory at home. And even without



Indiana Pacers center Myles Turner, left, grabs a rebound away from Cavaliers guard Max Strus during Game 5 on Tuesday in Cleveland.

him, the Celtics eked out two three-point wins in Indianapolis. In those moments, though, the Pacers were already thinking about taking their next big step. “As soon as we lost to Boston last year,” swingman Aaron Nesmith said when asked to pinpoint **SEE TRY ON PAGE 20**

Journalism rebounds from Derby to win » Preakness Stakes, Page 23

