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STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Study finds extremist views low among vets

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Military veterans express support for extremism at low rates and are less likely to back far left movements or white supremacist groups than the general U.S. population, according to a new survey.

"We found no evidence to support the notion that the veteran community, as a whole, exhibits higher rates of support for violent extremist groups or extremist beliefs than the American public," said Todd Helmus, lead author of the Rand Corp. survey released Tuesday.

The findings come at a time of heightened concern about radicalism both inside the ranks and among veterans. Questions about political extremists potentially flourishing among veterans also intensified in the aftermath of the Jan. 6, 2021, attacks on Capitol Hill, which included veterans who later faced an array of charges for fomenting violence.

"Given the anecdotal information about extremist group recruitment preferences and their active targeting of veterans, we would have assumed that these reported prevalence rates would be higher," Helmus said. But Rand's survey found the views of veterans mostly to be in line with other Americans.

About 5.5% of veterans expressed support for the far-left antifa, an umbrella description of decentralized groups with a "militant opposition to fascism and other forms of extreme right-wing ideology," according to Rand Corp., a nonpartisan research group.

Adherents frequently blend

SEE VIEWS ON PAGE 6



ALEX FOX ECHOLS III/U.S. Air Force

Air Force Senior Airman Perez Hernandez replaces the boarding ladder of an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, before an exercise on April 27.

Warthogs patrol Middle East waters

Air Force jets are part of an increased rotation in region amid US tensions with Iran

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. attack aircraft known for close air support in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is seeing action in maritime patrols amid recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran, according to the Navy.

A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthog" jets are part of an increased rotation of U.S. aircraft and ships in

the Strait of Hormuz, off Iran's coast, U.S. 5th Fleet said this week.

Navy destroyers, Coast Guard fast response cutters, P-8 maritime patrol aircraft and unmanned systems are also part of the patrols, 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Tim Hawkins said Monday.

"Our ramped-up defensive posture is in response to Iran's un-

warranted and unlawful behavior of late," Hawkins said.

The U.S. accused Iran of seizing a commercial oil tanker in late April and another one in early May, as part of a series of 15 incidents in which the U.S. says Iran interfered with ships in the Middle East. The Iranian government says its recent seizures of oil tankers were due to ship violations or

legal disputes.

The A-10s are part of a detachment sent in late March to Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. Since their arrival, they have trained on firing on targets at sea.

In late April, the A-10s simulated a live-fire attack on sea targets

SEE WARTHOGS ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

High court won't hear Calif. foie gras sale dispute

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday it won't get involved in a dispute over a California animal cruelty law that bars foie gras from being sold in the state, leaving in place a lower court ruling dismissing the case.

Foie gras is made from the enlarged livers of force-fed ducks and geese, and animal welfare groups had supported the law. As is typical, the court did not comment in declining to hear the case, and it was among many the court

said Monday it would not hear.

The law doesn't completely bar Californians from eating foie gras in the state. Courts have ruled that residents can still order foie gras from out-of-state producers and have it sent to them. Restaurants and retailers are still forbidden from selling it or giving it away.

The foie gras case had been on hold at the high court while the justices considered a different case involving another California animal cruelty law, that one governing the sale of pork in the

state. In that case, the justices earlier this month backed that law, which requires more space for breeding pigs. The pork industry has said the ruling will lead to higher costs nationwide for pork chops and bacon.

California's foie gras law, however, predates the pork law and went into effect in July 2012. It says: "A product may not be sold in California if it is the result of force feeding a bird for the purpose of enlarging the bird's liver beyond normal size."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 24)	\$1.05
British pound (May 24)	\$1.21
Japanese yen (May 24)	134.00
South Korean won (May 24)	1277.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.2416
Canada (Dollar)	1.3515
China (Yuan)	7.0528
Denmark (Krone)	6.9071
Egypt (Pound)	30.8985
Euro	0.9276
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8366
Hungary (Forint)	347.95
Israel (Shekel)	3.6937
Japan (Yen)	138.53
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3073
Norway (Krone)	10.9284
Philippines (Peso)	55.76
Poland (Zloty)	4.16
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3465
South Korea (Won)	1320.13

Switzerland (Franc)	0.9007
Thailand (Baht)	34.65
Turkey (NewLira)	19.8545

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	8.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.75
Federal funds market rate	5.08
3-month bill	5.40
30-year bond	3.96

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

USAF returns B-2 stealth bombers to skies

By DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's nearly two dozen B-2 Spirit bombers are no longer grounded after one of the planes made a fiery landing that led to a five-month investigation of the fleet, the service said Monday.

The Air Force ordered all 20 of its B-2 bombers grounded in December so the service could look into the emergency landing at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri that damaged one of the planes. The grounding allowed the service to determine whether

there were any safety issues that could affect the entire fleet.

The Air Force said no issues were found and the B-2 bombers returned to the skies on Monday.

"Throughout the fleet safety pause, our ability to execute our mission was never at risk," said Col. Brus Vidal, spokesman at Air Force Global Strike Command. "The B-2 fleet could still fly missions on the orders of the president of the United States or in support of the National Command Authority."

The service grounded all the planes as a safety measure after

one of the B-2s experienced an in-flight emergency on Dec. 10 and was forced to quickly get back on the ground at Whiteman. The pilots made a successful landing, the Air Force said, but the plane caught fire on the runway and was damaged. It is now being repaired.

The Air Force has not yet said what the malfunction was or what its investigation has uncovered. The decision to return the planes to the sky was made by the commander of Global Strike Command.

"We erred on the side of pru-

dence and caution to assess any possible safety of flight issues, deliberately and methodically, within the fleet," Vidal said. "We successfully accomplished all necessary actions to safely return to full flight operations with the B-2 fleet."

Manufactured by Northrop Grumman, the B-2 Spirit is one of the Air Force's most recognizable planes. The aircraft is a heavy stealth bomber that can evade anti-aircraft defenses, such as radar, and deliver a range of munitions, including conventional and thermonuclear weapons.

The B-2 Spirit entered service in 1997 and 21 of the planes were produced. To date, only one has been destroyed — the Spirit of Kansas, which crashed during takeoff at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam in 2008. Both pilots were injured, but survived. The cause of the crash was weather-related.

The remaining B-2s are all based at Whiteman and they are scheduled to remain in service until at least 2032, when the B-21 Raider will begin to replace them.

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Marines honored for Sudan evacuation

By DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Twelve Marines received decorations for their efforts last month when they helped evacuate American workers from the U.S. Embassy in Sudan, just days after a bloody military power struggle broke out in the northeastern African country.

"I came here today to look you in the eye and say, 'Thank you,'" Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro told the group from the Marine Security Guard detachment in Sudan that carried out the evacuation on April 23.

The Sudanese military junta has been locked in a power struggle for weeks with the Rapid Support Forces, which it considers a rebel paramilitary group that's seeking full integration into the government structure and a power-sharing agreement. The military factions together mounted a coup in 2021 that overthrew the country's transitional democratic leadership.

The fighting began in mid-April when the Rapid Support Forces attacked several targets in Sudan, including the capital city of Khartoum and its airport. A few days

later, President Joe Biden ordered the Marine detachment in Khartoum to get all embassy personnel out, including U.S. Ambassador to Sudan John Godfrey.

Pentagon officials said the operation was risky due to the unpredictable nature of the fighting, but it took less than an hour for the Marines to get all embassy personnel out without a shot fired and there were no serious injuries.

"The example that you have set protecting the life of the ambassador and the lives of all the people who were at the embassy has been nothing short of extraordinary," Del Toro told the group Friday during a recognition ceremony at Marine Corps Embassy Security Group Headquarters in Quantico, Va.

The 12 Marines were honored during the ceremony. Eleven received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, which is awarded to those who perform commendably or make exceptional achievements. Staff Sgt. Derek Ferrari, who led the detachment, received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, which honors those who demonstrate "heroic or meritorious



DAVID BRANDES/U.S. Marine Corps

Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro speaks to members of the Marine Corps embassy security group who assisted with the recent evacuation in Sudan. The Marines were honored during a ceremony at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., on Friday.

achievement or service," according to the Navy Awards Manual.

"It's a humble feeling," Ferrari said. "I continue to be impressed with my Marines' ability to remain engaged and take care of one another the same way they did in Khartoum."

"It is a great honor and a great privilege," said Sgt. Komlan Akli, another member of the detachment. "The detachment did exactly what is expected of U.S. Marines during times of uncertainty."

Since the embassy evacuation, the Pentagon has kept some American forces in the area, including ships off the coast in the Red Sea, in case they are needed to help more Americans and others who want to leave the country. The Defense Department said recently that there were only a "small number" of Americans in the country — mostly Sudanese Americans who hold dual citizenship — who were still looking for a way out.

Hundreds of fighters and civil-

ians have died since the fighting began in Sudan, according to the U.N., and several ceasefires have failed. A new seven-day truce took effect Monday night Sudan time. U.S. and Saudi officials who mediated the deal hope it will be more effective than the previous ceasefires, which were broken quickly.

The U.N. estimates the fighting has already displaced more than one million people, and close to 25 million people in Sudan need some type of humanitarian aid because of the conflict.

Navy fires destroyer commander soon after homeport shift to Japan

By ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The commander of a destroyer that only recently arrived in Japan has been relieved due to a "loss of confidence," according to the Navy.

The head of the U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Karl Thomas, removed Cmdr. Angela Gonzales from her job aboard the USS John Finn due to "a loss of confidence in her ability to fulfill her responsibilities in leading the ship," 7th Fleet said in



Gonzales

a news release.

Thomas made the decision following an investigation, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Hayley Sims told Stars and Stripes

by email Tuesday. She declined to comment further on the investigation.

"The U.S. Navy holds its leaders to very high standards and will hold leaders accountable when

those standards are not met," Simms wrote.

Thomas administratively reassigned Gonzales to U.S. Pacific Fleet's Naval Surface Force and named Cmdr. Matthew Hays as John Finn's interim commander, according to the release.

"These leaders are entrusted with significant responsibilities to their Sailors and their ships. They are expected to maintain the Navy's high standards for leadership, demonstrating competence in their duties at all times," the re-

lease states.

The John Finn is one of the newest additions to Destroyer Squadron 15 and Task Force 71. It arrived at Yokosuka on March 4 from Naval Base San Diego, its former homeport, which it departed Feb. 16.

The John Finn will replace the guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh, which is due to be decommissioned at Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Task Force 70 spokesman. Lt. Cmdr. Joe Keiley said in March. Keiley, citing oper-

ational security, declined to comment on the schedule for the Shiloh's retirement.

Gonzales is at least the third ship commander fired over "loss of confidence" this year. Cmdr. Alexa Jenkins of the Florida-based destroyer USS Carney and Capt. Michael Nordeen of the Virginia-based amphibious transport dock USS Mesa Verde were relieved in January.

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PACIFIC

COLA cuts to affect Pacific-based Marines

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

A strong dollar means a lower cost-of-living allowance for Marines stationed in Japan and South Korea, the Marine Corps said in a Facebook post recently.

The Defense Department on May 2 announced lower allowances for service members based on a drop in the actual costs to consumers of things like groceries and clothing.

Subsequently, Marine Corps Installations Pacific erroneously posted on Facebook that the COLA

would not affect Marines on Okinawa, at the Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, south of Tokyo, and at Camp Mujuk in South Korea. On Saturday, the command corrected itself.

“While Okinawa, CATC Fuji and Camp Mujuk OCOLA will not fluctuate due to cost-of-living changes, it is changing due to currency fluctuation. We did not account for that in our initial post,” the command announced on Facebook.

“We apologize for any confusion this may have caused,” the post

said. “We will confirm the expected changes for all MCIPAC installations and share updated examples and financial management resources in the very near future.”

On Tuesday, a dollar bought 138.75 Japanese yen and 1,312.59 South Korean won, up from 127.86 yen 1,239.51 won in mid-January.

COLA offsets prices for goods and services for service members assigned to foreign countries or outside of the contiguous United States.

More than 230,000 troops receive an overseas COLA, defense

officials said when announcing the changes.

In December, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin paused the allowance decrease for 90 days while the Pentagon addressed complaints that some service members in places like Hawaii were put into financial distress.

Congress had already limited allowance decreases to once every six months as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Decreases began May 15, with another cut scheduled for Nov. 15. Those will be reflected in service

members' pay June 1 and Dec. 1, according to the DOD announcement. For example, a DOD cost-of-living calculator shows the allowance paid to a sergeant on Okinawa with six years' service and two dependents is dropping from \$172.08 to \$73.42.

A captain on Okinawa with the same family size and length of service is dropping from \$230 to \$98.13, according to the calculator.

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JENNESSA DAVEY/Stars and Stripes

The aircraft carrier **USS Ronald Reagan** heads on patrol from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Tuesday.

USS Ronald Reagan departs Yokosuka for potential last patrol before swap

By **ALEX WILSON**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Strong winds and rough seas greeted the USS Ronald Reagan as it left the home of the U.S. 7th Fleet for what could be its last deployment out of Japan before a carrier swap next year.

Despite the foul weather, around 40 people gathered along-side Yokosuka's northern shoreline to watch the aircraft carrier steam into Tokyo Bay. Wrapped in raincoats and braced against the wind, they gave the ship a quiet farewell.

The weather was no deterrent for Crystal Cohee, who said sending her husband, operations officer Lt. Cmdr. Justin Cohee, off to sea is a privilege.

“It's nice to still see it head out, regardless of the weather,” she told Stars and Stripes along the shoreline Tuesday. “It's such an amazing ship.”

The Ronald Reagan typically returns to Yokosuka after several

months, usually halfway through its six-month patrol of the Indo-Pacific region, but Tuesday's departure marked what is likely the carrier's final deployment before it relocates for maintenance at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash.

The Navy on April 28 announced the aircraft carrier USS George Washington will replace the Ronald Reagan as the centerpiece of the 7th Fleet's carrier strike group sometime next year, although it did not report an exact date.

The George Washington over the past six years has been undergoing its midlife nuclear refueling and maintenance at Huntington Ingalls' Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. It left the shipyard on Monday for sea trials expected to last several days, USNI News reported that day.

The aircraft carrier previously served as the 7th Fleet's lead ship from 2008 to 2015, before the Ronald Reagan took its place.

Yokosuka over the past several years has typically held pier-side ceremonies for the Ronald Reagan's major departures and arrivals, but no ceremony took place ahead Tuesday's departure due to scheduling and weather issues, Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Joe Keiley told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday.

The ship departed just one day after Naval Forces Japan confirmed to Stars and Stripes that the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating an undisclosed number of sailors assigned to the Ronald Reagan for “alleged drug use, possession and distribution.”

Details, such as the substances involved or the extent of drug use aboard the ship, are not being disclosed due to the active investigation, Naval Forces Japan spokeswoman Cmdr. Katie Cerezo said by email Monday.

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Marine driver gets suspended sentence in pedestrian death

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
AND **KEISHI KOJA**
Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — A Japanese court sentenced a U.S. Marine to a 20-month suspended sentence Monday after he admitted driving recklessly prior to a crash that killed a Japanese pedestrian last year.

Cpl. Joshua David Siegel, 21, pleaded guilty May 11 in Naha District Court to a charge of negligent driving resulting in injury or death following the May 8, 2022, crash on Route 58 outside Camp Foster.

Siegel was traveling upwards of 55 mph, about 20 mph over the speed limit, on the main thoroughfare in slick conditions when his car jumped the curb and struck Katsuya Ishikawa, 61, of Ginowan.

Judge Takashi Kato sentenced Siegel to 20 months in prison but suspended the sentence for three years, citing Siegel's remorse and lack of a criminal record. Siegel's insurance company will pay Ishikawa's family an undisclosed amount of compensation, Kato said in court.

“You are guilty,” the judge told Siegel. “I advise you to be especially careful for the next three years.”

Siegel was southbound in his

white, four-door sedan at approximately 7:30 a.m. when he lost control and struck Ishikawa, and then a guard rail between the sidewalk and Foster's perimeter fence, Okinawa police said at the time.

Ishikawa was pronounced dead several hours later at Chubu Tokushukai Hospital, Kato said.

The Marine was not on duty at the time, nor had he been drinking, according to police. He was not arrested before being charged.

Prosecutors asked for a maximum 20-month sentence. Siegel's attorneys asked for a suspended sentence and argued that Siegel, an aviation intelligence specialist with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, was remorseful.

Siegel entered the courtroom Monday afternoon in a black suit and tie and black mask, flanked by his attorney and several Americans.

He stood calmly before Kato, who admonished him for accelerating suddenly in slick conditions prior to the crash.

The Marine was also previously ticketed for speeding on base, Kato said.

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FRANK ANDREWS/Stars and Stripes

Flowers mark the site of a fatal collision outside Camp Foster, Okinawa, May 14, 2022.

MILITARY

US ambassador: We must resist China's coercion

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — An unchecked China will continue “retaliatory actions” against the U.S. and South Korea, allies whose best defense is economic and security cooperation, the U.S. ambassador to South Korea said recently.

Ambassador Philip Goldberg, in an interview published Tuesday by South Korea’s Dong-A Ilbo newspaper, said China exerts economic pressure against other countries, including South Korea.

“All the people in the world are extremely concerned about China’s economic duress,” he said on Monday, according to the newspaper.

A career diplomat, Goldberg also served as ambassador to the Philippines from 2013 to 2016 and in 2018 as charge d’affaires in Cuba. He was confirmed for his current post in May 2022.

Goldberg recalled China exerting economic pressure on South Korea after the United States de-

ployed a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, battery there in 2016.

The U.S. and South Korea agreed to deploy the \$800 missile-defense system at a South Korean military base in Seongju, roughly 130 miles south of Seoul, as a defense against North Korea, U.S. Forces Korea said in a statement at the time.

The decision prompted boycotts by China, an ally of North Korea and the South’s largest trading partner, of tourism, entertainment and Seoul-owned shopping malls in Beijing. The boycotts cost South Korea’s economy an estimated \$7.5 billion, according to a 2017 study by the Seoul-based Hyundai Research Institute.

Goldberg said the THAAD deployment was a “sovereign action” by South Korea to protect itself from North Korean threats and that he believed “South Koreans know ... that they need to make efforts to end economic coercion like this.”

China during the THAAD inci-



SOUTH KOREA'S DEFENSE MINISTRY

U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Philip Goldberg, right, speaks to South Korean Minister of National Defense Lee Jong-sup at the ministry's headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, on July 21.

dent showed “that retaliatory actions like this will continue when [the U.S. and South Korea] do not cooperate,” Goldberg said, according to the report.

“If economic coercion is put on the U.S. or its allies, we will fight back,” he said.

Goldberg’s comments follow the release of a joint statement from the leaders of the world’s industrialized nations rebuking China’s “non-market policies and practices, which distort the global economy.” The Group of Seven met over the weekend in Hiroshima, Japan, where China’s stance

toward Taiwan and the Russian invasion of Ukraine were on the agenda.

“Our policy approaches are not designed to harm China nor do we seek to thwart China’s economic progress and development,” said the G-7 leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the U.S. “A growing China that plays by international rules would be of global interest.”

Goldberg echoed the G-7 concerns and said the U.S. wants “to maintain good relations with China.”

However, the U.S. “can’t just turn a blind eye to their behavior to ignore rules-based decisions and rules-based international order,” he added.

China’s Foreign Affairs Ministry in a statement on Monday described the G-7 statement as “high-sounding claims” and accused the U.S. of being “the real coercer that politicizes and weaponizes economic and trade relations.”

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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Guam orders evacuations as Mawar reaches super typhoon

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

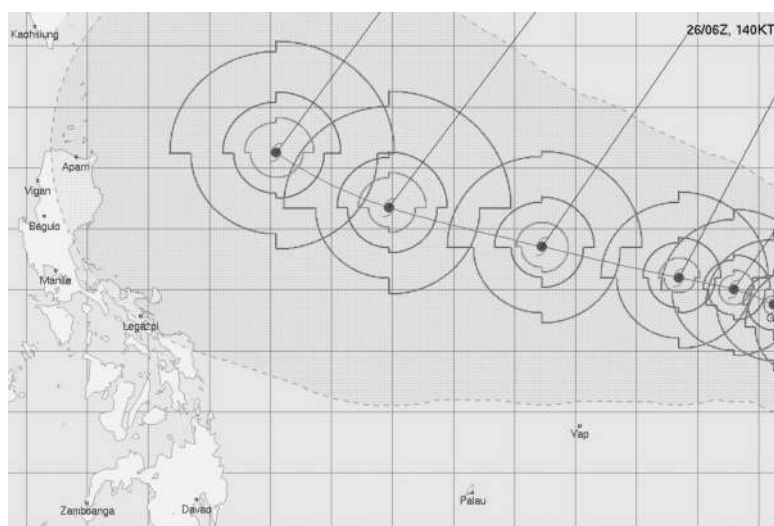
The governor of Guam ordered residents in low-lying areas to evacuate Tuesday and President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration as Super Typhoon Mawar barreled toward the island.

Islanders were advised by emergency authorities to seek immediate shelter, with damages expected overnight Tuesday and peak typhoon winds expected Wednesday.

“Super Typhoon Mawar is expected to make a direct hit or very near passage for Guam,” the island’s Joint Information Center said in a 6:30 p.m. bulletin. “There is a potential of a catastrophic and devastating event for Guam. Typhoon force winds are expected Wednesday morning, with peak conditions around midday.”

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Joint Region Marianas, the military installation management command on Guam, set Condition of Readiness 1 around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday.

“Current forecasts are not favorable to our island — which we have been carefully tracking and



JOINT TYPHOON WARNING CENTER

Mawar was upgraded to a super typhoon around 5 p.m. Tuesday.

preparing for,” Leon Guerrero told residents in a video message.

The storm is predicted to pass almost directly over the capital, Hagatna, and Naval Base Guam, 15 miles southwest of Andersen Air Force Base, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Wednesday.

“This is a very serious situation with steadily deteriorating conditions,” the bulletin said.

Mawar was upgraded to a super typhoon around 5 p.m. Tuesday

with sustained winds of 155 mph and 195 mph gusts, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning System. The island is braced for 161 mph sustained winds with 196 mph gusts early Wednesday morning.

Leon Guerrero ordered anyone in “low-lying, flood-prone and coast areas” to evacuate and mobilized the Guam National Guard to assist with the efforts. She urged people to stay calm, remain

informed and act immediately.

“My greatest concern and worry is your safety,” she said in the video posted on her office’s YouTube channel. “We must act now to ensure the protection of our people and your safety.”

The naval base, Andersen and the Marine Corps’ Camp Blaz urged U.S. service members to seek shelter throughout the day on Tuesday.

Navy ships were sent away from the island as a standard precautionary measure, according to naval base spokeswoman Valerie Maigue, who said the installation has been preparing for Mawar for several days.

“We’ve been tracking this storm since late last week, and we’ve notified our families well in advance,” she told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday.

The base notified service members Tuesday afternoon that anyone affected by the evacuation order could contact the command duty officer for shelter and temporary housing by calling (671) 488-7147.

“Personnel who intend to evacuate to [Naval Base Guam] temporary housing or any other pri-

vate residence, should contact their immediate supervisor or their respective Command Duty Officers to provide their whereabouts and contact information,” states a post on the base’s official Facebook page.

All aircraft at Andersen have either departed or are sheltered in hangars, base spokeswoman Capt. Katie Mueller told Stars and Stripes by text message Tuesday evening. The base advised everyone to follow the governor’s order and remain indoors.

Mawar could potentially be the strongest storm to lash Guam since Super Typhoon Pongsona passed the island in December 2002 with gusts of 173 mph.

A Category 5 storm brings “catastrophic damage” and may collapse walls and roofs, cause long-lasting power outages and render much of the affected area uninhabitable for weeks or months, according to according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Check Stars and Stripes’ Pacific Storm Tracker for frequent updates on Mawar.
The Associated Press contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

US calls off \$49M Afghan aid program amid Taliban issues

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

A \$49 million American humanitarian program to aid Afghan war victims will close after five years, amid difficulties that arose after the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country.

The Conflict Mitigation Assistance for Civilians program will end June 30, Nitin Madhav, director of the office of Afghanistan affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development, said Friday.

Experts say the program highlights contradictions in American policy toward Afghanistan, where the U.S. remains the largest donor but also does not want to be seen as legitimizing the militant group that ousted the U.S.-backed government.

The Taliban attempted to interfere with the selection of where aid went, but the end of the program is not tied to that, as it had been scheduled from the outset to close in 2023, Madhav said.

The 35 remaining staff members have completed final aid deliveries and requested a 14-week extension of the program for closing offices and disposing of equipment, Madhav said.

The program was established in 2018 to aid Afghan civilians affected by insurgent attacks and military operations.

The Taliban takeover in the summer of 2021 paused the program for several months but, after some recalibrating, it resumed in December of that year.

The program, administered by

the USAID, continued to send aid after the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan while trying not to run afoul of both the Taliban and U.S. policy.

It used to provide training to Afghan government ministries but stopped after the Taliban takeover, an April report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said.

Though American forces withdrew from Afghanistan, the U.S. continued to authorize humanitarian aid to the country amid concerns that such aid may legitimize the Taliban as they grow increasingly oppressive, especially regarding the rights of women.

"U.S. aid to Afghanistan ... may inadvertently confer legitimacy onto the Taliban, both internationally and domestically," according to a February SIGAR report.

The program ran into numerous disputes with the new Taliban government, the report added. For example, Taliban authorities accused staff members of being corrupt and pressured the program to assist recipients the government selected.

Female staffers were told to work from home starting in December 2022 as a result of a Taliban ban on women's employment, the April SIGAR report said.

In Parwan province, an official requested that 10% of the assistance go to Taliban personnel. In three provinces, staff members were accused of distributing aid without government approval.

Abdul Qahar Balkhi, a spokesman for the Afghan foreign affairs

ministry, said Monday the office had not received any complaints about these incidents.

The U.S. and the Taliban have inherent trust issues, said Graeme Smith, senior consultant on Afghanistan for the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

"It's reasonable to assume that the Taliban are not comfortable with their old enemies picking and choosing who gets assistance," Smith said. "Fair to assume some lack of trust between the Taliban and the Americans about how to define victimhood."

The U.S. is faced with a dilemma in regard to aid to Afghanistan, Smith said.

"Nothing gets solved in Afghanistan while the relationship between the Taliban and the outside world remains this dysfunctional," he said.

USAID said it continues to explore options to extend support to Afghan victims of the conflict beyond June. In December, a Gallup survey found that life in Afghanistan is worse than anywhere in the world. On a scale of one to 10, 98% of Afghan women and 97% of Afghan men rated the quality of their lives as four or lower, which is classified as "suffering."

Also, 86% of survey respondents said they couldn't afford food.

In the five years of its existence, the USAID program assisted more than 40,000 Afghans, Madhav said, adding that it doesn't provide assistance to the Taliban.

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MARK FARAM/U.S. Navy

The Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Canberra departs San Diego Harbor on April 19.

Canberra to be 1st US warship commissioned in an allied country

By GARY ROBBINS

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego-based littoral combat ship Canberra will travel to Australia this summer where it will become the first American warship to be commissioned in an allied country, according to the Navy.

The commissioning will occur on July 22 at the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Base East in Sydney.

It will mark the moment when the Canberra becomes an active member of the American fleet.

The ceremony also represents the outgrowth of a long, fruitful and deepening relationship between the two countries that goes back decades.

During World War II, Australia

served as a forward operating base for U.S. forces in the Pacific. The assets included a new American cruiser that was named after Canberra, the capital of Australia. Canberra helped win many fights during the war, including the Battle of the Philippine Sea.

The cruiser was taken out of service late in the war but was later recommissioned and became one of the American ships that was sent to blockade Cuba in 1962 after a spy plane revealed that the Soviet Union had placed nuclear missiles on the island.

Later in the 1960s, Canberra deployed to Vietnam five times from its homeport in San Diego.

The ship was decommissioned for a second and final time in 1970.

Warthogs: Ramped up defense in response to Iran

FROM PAGE 1

during training that included the Air Force, the Marines and the Coast Guard, a statement by the Marines on May 2 said.

The goal of the exercise was to train on coordinating aircraft and ships against surface threats, a video posted on Twitter by the Air Force after the exercise states.

The A-10, which was designed to destroy Soviet tanks during the Cold War, has seen combat mostly in land wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But it occasionally has been used in a maritime role. A-10s attacked small boats in Libya in 2011 and patrolled over the South China Sea in 2016, according to the military blog War is Boring.

And an exercise in 2017 saw the plane flying mock attack runs against small boats that looked very much like the type of fast vessels used by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps navy, the online publication The Drive reported at the time.

The jets may be used in other experimental roles, U.S. military officials have said.

For example, the Air Force may try to shoot down aerial drones with them, as the Warthog's slower flight speed could be an advantage there, Lt. Gen. Alexis Grynke, 9th Air Force commander, told Defense One in April.

The service has tried for a long time to retire the A-10 over concerns that it didn't have a role in modern combat and that it was vulnerable to Russian air defenses. Congress has blocked those attempts.

But in early April, the Air Force announced it had sent an A-10 to the boneyard. That plane was the first of 21 slated to be decommissioned by the end of September.

The service intends to mothball the rest of the fleet by 2029, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. said in March.

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Views: About 5% of veterans express support for both far left, right groups

FROM PAGE 1

communist and anarchist views and have resorted to vandalism and violence when targeting far-right rallies, the nonpartisan Center for Strategic and International Studies wrote in a 2020 analysis.

Veteran support for antifa was considerably lower than the U.S. population rate of 10%, Rand said. Veterans also expressed much lower support for white supremacists than the general U.S. population — 0.7%, compared to 7%.

The far-right Proud Boys group had the support of 4.2% of vets, compared to 9% among the general public.

Support for Black nationalist groups stood at 5.3% for veterans, but there is no national data to

compare against that figure, Rand said.

Still, despite those "encouraging findings," 17.7% of veterans saw a necessity for political violence, compared to 19% for Americans who had no military experience. Also, about 28.8% of veterans supported the idea of the "Great Replacement," which involves a view that left-wing "elites" are conspiring to undermine or eliminate Western European-centric traditions via immigration and higher birth rates.

Still, that percentage was markedly lower than the U.S. general population rate of 34% who believe it, Rand said.

However, veterans who support extremist groups could be more inclined to participate in activities

than nonveteran counterparts, Rand said.

"Hence, even a smaller prevalence rate of extremist attitudes among veterans could still represent an outsized security threat to the United States," Rand said.

Overall, extremist views were more prevalent among Marine Corps veterans, Rand said.

The Rand study, which involved nearly 1,000 veterans, was the first nationally representative survey of its kind to examine veteran views on political extremists.

The results were compared against a mix of other outside surveys of the general population on the same issues.

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MILITARY

Kendall: No politics if Space Command moves

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said Monday that state laws or political squabbles about abortion will have no impact on the decision about where Space Command headquarters will be located.

“The decision criteria for Space Command have not fundamentally changed,” he told reporters on Monday. “There is nothing in that decision criteria about state laws, that might be about abortion or gay rights. That is not part of the decision criteria.”

Alabama lawmakers have continued to tout the move of Space Command to Huntsville despite a NBC report last week that President Joe Biden’s administration is looking to keep the command at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., due to concerns about the southern state’s restrictive abortion law.

Redstone Arsenal, an Army base in Huntsville, was selected in 2021 as the preferred location for Space Command — the Pentagon’s newest unified combatant command that provides command and control for all the U.S. military’s space operations across all its service branches. At least three reviews have identified Huntsville as the best site for the command, though Colorado lawmakers have pushed to keep it in their state.

“Alabama is the only choice for Space Command headquarters,” Gov. Kay Ivey, a Republican, said Friday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the U.S. Rocket and Science Center. “No ifs, ands or buts. The Pentagon knows it. The White House knows it. And I’ll keep saying it and Alabama will keep proving it until the headquarters is officially in Huntsville.”

The White House directed the Air Force in December to conduct another review of the decision by former President Donald Trump’s administration to move Space Command to Alabama. The review was ordered a few months

after Alabama’s law banning nearly all abortions, including in the case of rape and incest, went into effect last summer.

White House officials also have said the push to reexamine moving Space Command to Huntsville was not influenced by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., blocking nearly 200 of Biden’s military nominations in protest of the Pentagon’s new abortion policy.

The Defense Department in February announced a series of new policies that took effect March 18 to provide additional support to service members and dependents who must travel out of state for an abortion, including three weeks of administrative leave.

Tuberville has said he believes the policies are unlawful and the current law only allows the agency to fund abortions in the case of rape, incest or when the life of the mother is threatened.

“I want to start by reminding everyone why this is happening. It’s not about abortion. ... This is about a tyrannical executive branch walking all over the United States Senate — and doing our jobs,” Tuberville said in April on the Senate floor.

“I warned [Defense] Secretary [Lloyd] Austin that if he did this ... I would put a hold on his highest-level nominees. Secretary Austin went through with the policy anyway. So, I am keeping my word.”

The list of officers caught up in Tuberville’s delay include 64 three- and four-star admirals and generals for positions such as the Army chief of staff, the chief of naval operations, the commandant and assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, commander of U.S. Northern Command, commander of U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency.

The Senate typically approves military promotions all at once by a unanimous consent vote, but Tuberville’s obstruction would require the upper chamber to vote on each one by one, a process that



CHAD MCNEELEY/Secretary of Defense

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin speaks in June 2021 with Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., prior to a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department budget.

would consume months of floor time.

Austin warned of the ripple effects the holds will have.

“Long-term holds have a corrosive and cascading effect: they prevent our rising officers and their families from being able to predict promotion and rotation windows, which can increase the pressure to leave the military in favor of greater stability,” Austin wrote in a recent letter to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. “The more our normal promotion processes are jolted, the more we risk the loss of the diverse warfighting and technical expertise that America needs to confront its 21st-century security challenges.”

But Kendall said Monday that the tug-of-war between lawmakers to claim Space Command for their state and the stalled military nominations over Pentagon abortion policy are not driving the decision of where to maintain the command.

“It has to do with what is the right place to put the headquarters for Space Command for the U.S. government. Period,” he said.

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DUNCAN WOOD/U.S. Air Force

Top, the gate at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and bottom, Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Exchanges to offer tax-free appliance sales through Home Depot

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Military personnel, their families and other exchange shoppers in the continental United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico will soon be able to buy major appliances tax-free from The Home Depot.

Five bases will be the first to get appliance showrooms within the remaining days of spring, Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials said last week, ahead of the rollout of a partnership program announced last fall. The bases are Fort Moore, Ga.; Fort Sill, Okla.; and Dyess Air Force Base, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph and Fort Cavazos in

Texas.

Eventually, more than 60 exchange stores will have showrooms for big-ticket appliance shopping. A Home Depot-branded portal will also be set up at shopmyexchange.com. AAFES didn’t announce a timeline for the rest of the showrooms.

Major appliances to be sold through the partnership include washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, microwaves, ranges, cooktops, ovens and hoods. Orders will be filled by Home Depot, which will handle customer service for all deliveries and installations.

Home Depot exchange purchases will ex-

clude state and local sales taxes, AAFES officials said last fall when announcing the program. Savings will vary by state and possibly by installation.

In Texas, for example, the state sales tax is 6.25%. Local jurisdictions, such as cities and counties, may also impose up to a 2% sales and use tax for a maximum combined rate of 8.25%, according to information on the Texas state comptroller website. A service member in that state who buys a 4.5 cubic foot, large capacity front-load washer, currently retailing for \$848 on Home Depot’s website, could save from about \$52 to \$68 by buying through the exchange, if the sales tax is excluded.

The Home Depot already offers a 10% military discount on select items, services and fees of up to \$400 annually, but the offer can’t be applied to appliances, according to the company’s website.

The program will be open to active-duty service members and their dependents, military retirees, Defense Department civilians and retirees and honorably discharged veterans. All shoppers will need to confirm their eligibility, which they can do at <https://shopmyexchange.com>.

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EUROPE

Months of internal debate preceded US shift on F-16s

By AAMER MADHANI
AND LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's decision to allow allies to train Ukrainian forces on how to operate F-16 fighter jets — and eventually to provide the aircraft themselves — seemed like an abrupt change in position but was in fact one that came after months of internal debate and quiet talks with allies.

Biden announced during last week's Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima, Japan, that the U.S. would join the F-16 coalition. His green light came after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spent months pressing the West to provide his forces with American-made jets as he tries to repel Russia's now 15-month-old grinding invasion.

Long shadowing the administration's calculation were worries that such a move could escalate tensions with Russia. U.S. officials also argued that learning to fly and logistically support the advanced F-16 would be difficult and time consuming.

But over the past three months, administration officials shifted toward the view that it was time to provide Ukraine's pilots with the training and aircraft needed for the country's long-term security needs, according to three officials familiar with the deliberations who requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Still, the change in Biden's position seemed rather sudden.

In February, Biden was insistent in an interview with ABC's David Muir that Ukraine "doesn't need F-16s now" and that "I am ruling it out for now." And in March, a top Pentagon policy official, Colin Kahl, told U.S. lawmakers that even if the president approved F-16s for Ukraine, it could take as long as two

years to get Ukrainian pilots trained and equipped.

But as the administration was publicly playing down the prospect of F-16s for Ukraine in the near term, an internal debate was heating up.

Quiet White House discussions stepped up in February, around the time that Biden visited Ukraine and Poland, according to the U.S. officials.

Following the trip, discussions that included senior White House National Security Council, Pentagon and State Department officials began on the pros and cons and the details of how such a transfer might work, officials said. Administration officials also got deeper into consultations with allies.

In April, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin heard from defense leaders from allied countries during a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group who were looking for U.S. permission to train the Ukrainians on F-16s, according to a Defense Department official who was not authorized to comment publicly. Austin raised the matter during the NSC policy discussions and there was agreement that it was time to start training.

Austin also raised the issue with Biden before the G7 summit with a recommendation "to proceed with approving allies" to train the Ukrainians and transfer the aircraft, the department official said. Secretary of State Antony Blinken also was a strong advocate for pushing forward with the plan during the U.S. policy talks and conveying to Biden increasing European urgency on the issue, officials said.

U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan traveled to London on May 8 for talks with British, French and German allies on Ukraine, and F-16s were high on the agenda. They got into the nitty-gritty on how to get about providing training and

which countries might be willing to transfer jets to Ukraine. It was agreed that the focus would be on training first, according to one of the officials.

Sullivan, before leaving London, spoke by phone with his counterparts from the Netherlands and Poland, both countries that have F-16s and "would be essential to any efforts to provide Ukraine jets for any future use." Denmark also could potentially provide the jets, the official added.

Biden and Sullivan discussed how the upcoming G7 summit in Hiroshima could provide a good opportunity for him to make the case to key allies on the administration's shifting stance on fighter jets.

They also discussed Biden backing allies providing jets to Ukraine — a line he had previously appeared not to want to cross out of concern that it could draw the West into what could be seen as direct confrontation with Moscow.

Biden, in private talks with fellow G7 leaders on Friday, confirmed that the U.S. would get behind a joint effort to train Ukrainian pilots on the F-16 and that as things went on, they would work together on who would provide them and how many would be sent.

State, Pentagon and NSC officials are now developing the training plan and "when, where and how to deliver F-16s" to Ukraine as part of the long-term security effort, the official said.

U.S. officials say it will take several months to iron out details, but the U.S. Air Force has quietly determined that the actual training could realistically be done in about four months. The Air Force based the far shorter estimate on a visit by two Ukrainian pilots to a U.S. air base in March, where they got to learn about the F-16 and fly simulators. The training, officials say, would take place in Europe.



MINDAUGAS KULBIS/AP

Romanian Air Force F-16 military fighter jets, front, and Portuguese Air Force F-16s participating in NATO's Baltic Air Policing Mission operate over the Baltic Sea, in Lithuanian airspace, on Monday.

White House officials have bristled at the notion that Biden's decision amounted to a sea change.

The administration had been focused on providing Ukraine with weapons — including air defense systems, armored vehicles, bridging equipment and artillery — that were needed for a coming counter-offensive. There also were concerns that sending F-16s would eat up a significant portion of the money allocated for Ukraine.

What changed, the official added, is that other allies got to a point where they were willing to provide their own jets as part of a U.S.-based coalition.

The Biden administration is still examining whether it will directly provide its own F-16s to Ukraine. Regardless, it needed buy-in from other allies because the U.S. wouldn't be able to provide the full fleet of jets Zelenskyy says is needed.

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said the F-16 will give Ukraine a key capability for the long term but it won't be a "game changer."

Kendall told a gathering of reporters on Monday there has been an awareness that "we needed to go there at some point, but we didn't have a sense of urgency about this. I

think we're at a reasonable place to make that decision now."

Another potential wrinkle in the F-16 conversation involves Turkey.

Turkey wants to buy 40 new F-16s from the U.S., but some in Congress oppose the sale until Turkey approves NATO membership for Sweden, which applied to join the alliance in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has objected to Sweden's perceived support of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, the leftist extremist group DHKP-C and followers of the U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Ankara claims was behind a failed military coup attempt in 2016.

Erdogan is facing opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu in a runoff election on Sunday. If Erdogan wins, as expected, White House officials are increasingly hopeful that the Turkish leader will withdraw his opposition to Sweden's membership, according to the U.S. official.

If Erdogan drops opposition to Sweden joining NATO, it could lead to Turkey getting its long desired F-16s and may eventually add to the number of older F-16s in circulation, which could benefit Ukraine.

EU welcomes F-16 decision for Ukraine; pilots already being trained

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union's foreign policy chief said Tuesday that the U.S. green light to allow Ukrainian pilots to get training to fly F-16s has created an inexorable momentum that will inevitably bring the fighter jets to the Ukrainian battlefield.

"You know, it's always the same thing: we discuss, at the beginning everybody is reluctant," said Josep Borrell, giving the example of the long debate and initial opposition to the dispatch of advanced Leopard battle tanks to Ukraine.

"And at the end — with the Leop-

ards, with the F-16 at the end — the decision comes to provide this military support because it is absolutely needed."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg confirmed that the training decision was the exact thrust necessary toward making the jets available to Ukraine.

"Announcing clearly that they will start training — this is an important step that partly will enable us to deliver fighter jets at some stage," Stoltenberg said before meeting with EU defense ministers. He said it also proved that the West wouldn't stand down in the face of Russia,

saying such a decision "is sending a very clear signal that we are there for the long term and that Russia can not wait us out."

Borrell added that training for Ukrainian pilots had already begun in Poland and some other countries, though authorities in Warsaw couldn't immediately confirm the news. The Netherlands and Denmark, among others, are also making plans for such training.

No decision on actually delivering fourth-generation fighter jets has been taken yet, but training pilots now — a process that takes several months — will help speed up

battle readiness once a formal decision is made.

"We can continue and also finalize the plans that we're making with Denmark and other allies to start these these trainings. And of course, that is the first step that you have to take," Dutch Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren said.

"We will continue discussing with our allies and with countries that might have F-16s available about that next step. But that's not on the table right now," Ollongren said.

Ukraine has long begged for the sophisticated fighter to give it a combat edge as it battles Russia's in-

vasion, now in its second year. And this new plan opens the door for several nations to supply the aircraft and for the U.S. to help train the pilots.

With the decision, the Biden administration has made a sharp reversal after refusing to approve any transfer of the aircraft or conduct training for more than a year because of worries that it could escalate tensions with Russia. U.S. officials also have argued against the F-16 by saying that learning to fly and logistically support such an advanced aircraft would be difficult and take months.

EUROPE

Russia says it beat alleged Ukraine raid

By SUSIE BLANN
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian troops and security forces quashed Tuesday an alleged cross-border raid from Ukraine, claiming to have killed more than 70 attackers in a battle that lasted around 24 hours, a senior Moscow official said.

It was not possible to independently confirm claims about the armed incursion into Russian territory that began Monday. Nor was it possible to say with any certainty who was behind the attack or what its aims were.

Disinformation has been one of the weapons of the almost 15-month war.

Moscow blamed the raid on Ukrainian military saboteurs. Kyiv portrayed the incident as an uprising against the Kremlin by Russian partisans. It wasn't immediately possible to reconcile the two versions.

The battle took place in the Belgorod region, about 45 miles north of the city of Kharkiv, in eastern Ukraine.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov claimed the armed attackers were routed by local troop units, air strikes and artillery fire.

"The remnants of the nationalists were driven back to the territory of Ukraine, where they continued to be hit by fire until they were completely eliminated," Konashenkov said, without providing evidence. He did not mention any Russian casualties.

Four armored combat vehicles and five pickup trucks used by the attackers were destroyed, he said. Local officials alleged drones and artillery were also used in the assault.

The governor of the Belgorod region, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said the raid targeted the rural area around the town of Graivoron, a town about 3 miles from the border. Twelve civilians were wounded in the attack, he said, and an older woman died during the evacuation.

Earlier Tuesday, Gladkov urged residents who had evacuated to stay put and not return home until they received official instructions to do so. He said a "counterterrorism operation" was underway.

While it wasn't the first time Russia has alleged an incursion by Ukrainian saboteurs, it was the first time the operation to counter the raid continued for a second day, highlighting the struggles Moscow is facing amid its bogged-down invasion of Ukraine and embarrassing the Kremlin.

Russian territory and Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine have also been hit by drones and explosions that have derailed trains,



People point out a damaged building in the Belgorod region, Russia, on Monday.

"Russia is facing an increasingly serious multi-domain security threat in its border regions."

U.K. Defense Ministry

though Kyiv officials brush off accusations of orchestrating them.

Ukraine said that Russian citizens belonging to murky groups calling themselves the Russian Volunteer Corps and the "Freedom of Russia" Legion were behind the assault.

Russian dissidents unhappy about Russian President Vladimir Putin's policies instigated the assault, Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Tuesday.

"These are Russian patriots, as we understand it. People who actually rebelled against the Putin regime," she said.

The "Freedom of Russia" Legion said in its Telegram channel that the goal was to "liberate" the region.

The Russian Volunteer Corps implied in a Telegram post that the attack was over, adding: "One day, we'll come to stay." The post went up at around the same time as the Russian defense ministry comment about quashing the assault.

The U.K. Defense Ministry said it was "highly likely" that Russian security forces were fighting par-



EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Ukrainian tankers ride toward their positions near Bakhmut, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

tisans in at least three locations in Belgorod.

"Russia is facing an increasingly serious multi-domain security threat in its border regions, with losses of combat aircraft, improvised explosive device attacks on rail lines, and now direct partisan action," it said in a tweet on Tuesday.

Russia's Investigative Committee, its top law enforcement agency, announced an investigation into alleged terrorism and attempted murder in connection with the incident.

Belgorod officials earlier this year said they had spent nearly \$125 million on fortifications to protect the region from an incursion amid the war.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the raid "elicits deep concerns," and a "bigger effort" was required to prevent such at-

tacks in the future.

Peskov refused to say how many attackers were involved in the assault, nor would he comment on why efforts to put down the attackers were taking so long. In a conference call with reporters Tuesday, he redirected those questions to Russia's Defense Ministry and the Federal Security Service, or FSB.

Gladkov, the regional governor, said authorities imposed special controls, including personal document checks, and stopped the work of companies that use "explosives, radioactive, chemically and biologically hazardous substances."

The Russian Volunteer Corps claimed to have breached the border in early March. The shadowy group describes itself as "a volunteer formation fighting on Ukraine's side." It's not clear if it has

any ties with the Ukrainian military. The same is true for the "Freedom of Russia" Legion.

The Belgorod region in southwest Russia, just like the neighboring Bryansk region and several other areas, has witnessed sporadic spillover from the war, with its border towns and villages regularly coming under shelling and drone attacks.

Ukrainian forces made minor progress against Russian forces on the edge of Bakhmut, the eastern Ukrainian city that Moscow claims to have captured, according to Maliar, the Ukrainian deputy defense minister.

She said Tuesday that Ukrainian troops still controlled the southwestern outskirts of the city and that fighting was continuing in the suburbs, on Russia's flanks.

Ukrainian military leaders say the fight in Bakhmut isn't over.

NATION

Biden, McCarthy stay positive with debt deal elusive

Bloomberg News

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy told Republicans on Tuesday that debt-limit talks still have some distance to go, and pleaded with them to stay united on the party's demands for spending cuts to avert a U.S. default.

McCarthy's comments at a closed-door meeting for all House Republicans suggested urgency and uncertainty as Washington's stand-off over a potential U.S. default enters the endgame.

Republican Rep. Ralph Norman, who was in the meeting, said McCarthy told them the two sides are "not anywhere near close" to a deal. Another person who was in the room confirmed McCarthy's comments.

Negotiators for McCarthy and President Joe Biden were set to resume talks at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Capitol, with the two sides still short of an agreement and a catastrophic U.S. default drawing closer.

Before the talks, McCarthy told reporters Democrats "still want to spend more money this year than they did last year."

"That's the red line," he said. But, he added, he believes a deal can be reached by June 1.

Both McCarthy and Biden signaled optimism after a meeting at the White House Monday evening that lasted more than an hour. Earlier, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned it's "highly likely" her department would run out of sufficient cash in early June, and that default could come as soon as June 1.

Tuesday morning, the S&P 500 index of equities declined 0.3%. The yield on two-year Treasuries climbed for an eight straight day and reached 4.37%, the highest since March 10. The dollar was lit-

tle changed against a basket of major currencies.

The current standoff over the debt ceiling has the potential to put more strain on the U.S. economy, which is already vulnerable to a recession after a series of interest-rate increases by the Federal Reserve, according to Bloomberg Economics.

But some conservative House members said Tuesday that they even doubt the drama is necessary, with Rep. Chip Roy of Texas even calling it a "manufactured crisis" to force Republicans into stepping back from some demands.

"The fact is, we're not going to default on our debt. That's just completely false. We've got the money to do it," Roy said. "So everybody just needs to be patient. Let us work through it."

McCarthy said he would not waive a rule that allows House lawmakers 72 hours to review legislation before a vote. Conservatives have demanded the time, but it adds to the pressure to get an agreement.

Rohit Kumar, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell's chief negotiator in the 2011 debt-limit crisis and now a principal in PwC's Washington office, said the signals from the leaders coming out of the White House meeting are "a good sign for getting a deal" and that he sees a "more than 50-50" chance of an agreement emerging in the next couple days.

Even if it takes a little longer to complete, a default is unlikely after an agreement, he said.

"Once the deal is struck, Congress always finds a way to get it done by the deadline, and if they can't get it done by the deadline, they extend the deadline," Kumar added.



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

Jessica Ray unpacks her rented work clothes, among her routine UPS deliveries, Friday in New York.

UPS strike looms, millions at risk of being disrupted daily

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Millions of families in the United States have swapped store visits for doorstep deliveries in recent years, meaning that contentious labor negotiations now underway at UPS could become vastly more disruptive than the last time it happened in 1997, when a scrappy upstart called Amazon.com became a public company.

UPS delivers millions more packages every day than it did just five years ago and its 350,000 unionized workers, represented by the Teamsters, still seethe about a contract they feel was forced on them in 2018.

In an environment of energized labor movements and lingering resentment among UPS workers, the Teamsters are expected to dig in, with the potential to cow a major logistical force in the U.S.

The 24 million packages UPS ships on an average day amounts to about a quarter of all U.S. parcel volume, according to the global shipping and logistics firm Pitney Bowes, or as UPS puts it, the equivalent of about 6% of nation's gross domestic product.

Higher prices and long wait times are all but certain if there is an impasse.

"Something's got to give," said

Thomas Goldsby, logistics chairman in the Supply Chain Management Department at the University of Tennessee. "The python can't swallow the alligator, and that's going to be felt by all of us."

UPS CEO Carol Tomé has remained optimistic publicly, telling investors recently that the company and the Teamsters were not far apart on major issues.

"While we expect to hear a great deal of noise during the negotiation, I remain confident that a win-win contract is very achievable, and that UPS and the Teamsters will reach agreement by the end of July," Tomé said.

TikTok files lawsuit to overturn Montana's 1st-in-nation ban of app

Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Social media company TikTok Inc. filed a lawsuit Monday seeking to overturn Montana's first-in-the-nation ban on the video sharing app, arguing the law is an unconstitutional violation of free speech rights and is based on "unfounded speculation" that the Chinese government could access users' data.

The lawsuit by TikTok, owned by Chinese tech company ByteDance, follows one filed last week by five content creators. They made similar arguments, includ-

ing that the state of Montana has no authority to take action on matters of national security. Both lawsuits were filed in federal court in Missoula.

Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte signed the bill Wednesday and the content creators' lawsuit was filed hours later. The law is scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, but cybersecurity experts have said it could be difficult to enforce.

TikTok says it has not shared and would not share U.S. user data with the Chinese government and has taken measures to protect the

privacy and security of its users, including storing all U.S. user data in the United States, according to the lawsuit.

Some lawmakers, the FBI and officials at other agencies are concerned the video-sharing app could be used to allow the Chinese government to access information on U.S. citizens or push pro-Beijing misinformation that could influence the public.

Chinese law compels Chinese companies to share data with the government for whatever purposes it deems to involve national se-

curity. TikTok says this has never happened.

"The Chinese Communist Party is using TikTok as a tool to spy on Americans by collecting personal information, keystrokes, and even the locations of its users — and by extension, people without TikTok who affiliate with users may have information about themselves shared without even knowing it," Emily Flower, a spokesperson for the Montana Department of Justice, said in a statement.

"We expected legal challenges and are fully prepared to defend

the law that helps protect Montanans' privacy and security," she wrote.

The federal government and about half the U.S. states, including Montana, have banned TikTok from government-owned devices.

Montana's new law prohibits downloads of TikTok in the state. It would fine any "entity" — an app store or TikTok — \$10,000 per day for each time someone "is offered the ability" to access the social media platform or download the app. The penalties would not apply to users.

NATION



BENJAMIN BERGER/AP

A box truck is seen crashed into a security barrier at a park across from the White House on Monday night in Washington.

Man accused of crashing truck near White House on purpose

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Police have arrested a Missouri man they believe intentionally crashed a U-Haul truck into a security barrier at a park across from the White House.

The box truck's driver smashed into the barrier near the north side of Lafayette Square on Monday at around 10 p.m., Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement. He was identified as 19-year-old Sai Var-

shith Kandula, of Chesterfield, a St. Louis suburb.

No one was injured in the crash. Officers from the Secret Service and the Metropolitan Police Department searched the truck after the crash. Video posted by WUSA-TV shows a police officer at the scene picking up and inventorying several pieces of evidence from the truck, including a Nazi flag.

Based on a preliminary investigation, investigators believe the

driver "may have intentionally struck the security barriers at Lafayette Square," Guglielmi said. Authorities offered no additional details about the possible motive.

The U.S. Park Police said the man was arrested on multiple charges, including threatening to kill, kidnap or inflict harm on a president, vice president or member of their family; assault with a dangerous weapon; reckless driving; destruction of federal property; and trespassing.

Judge dismisses Lake's final claim in election loss for Arizona governor

Associated Press

PHOENIX — A judge on Monday dismissed the only remaining legal claim in Republican Kari Lake's challenge of her loss in last year's race for Arizona governor, affirming the election of Democrat Katie Hobbs.

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Peter A. Thompson said Lake failed to prove her claim that Maricopa County did not verify signatures on mail ballots as required by law.

Lake was among the most vocal of last year's Republican candidates promoting former President Donald Trump's election lies, which she made the centerpiece of her campaign. She has built a loyal following among Trump supporters and is openly considering a run for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Kyrsten Sinema, an independent and former Democrat. Lake is also often mentioned as a potential vice

presidential pick for Trump.

While most other election deniers around the country conceded after losing their races in November, Lake did not. She has touted her legal battle in fundraising appeals and speeches around the country.

Lake did not immediately comment on the ruling.

She filed suit after losing to Hobbs by about 17,000 votes, asking the courts to install her as governor or order a new election. Thompson dismissed the case, but the Arizona Supreme Court revived a claim that challenges how signature verification procedures were used on early ballots in Maricopa County, home to more than 60% of the state's voters. County officials had defended the signature



Lake

Suspect silent in killings of 4 Idaho college students

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The suspect in the stabbing deaths of four University of Idaho students opted Monday to "stand silent" to murder charges, prompting the judge to enter not guilty pleas on his behalf ahead of a trial in which he could face the death penalty.

The Nov. 13, 2022, killings stunned the rural community of Moscow, Idaho, and prompted many students to leave campus early, switching to remote learning for the remainder of the semester.

Bryan Kohberger, 28, was arrested late last year and charged with burglary and four counts of first-degree murder in connection with the slayings of Madison Mogen, Kaylee Goncalves, Xana Kernodle and Ethan Chapin at a rental home near the University of Idaho campus.

Kohberger declined to enter pleas in Latah County District Court, with his defense attorney



Kohberger

Anne Taylor telling the judge that they were going to "stand silent" at this time. In response, 2nd District Judge John Judge entered not guilty

pleas on Kohberger's behalf.

It's uncommon but not unheard of for defendants to "stand silent" in criminal cases. Sometimes it is done because defendants and their attorneys feel they need more time to weigh the ramifications of entering a plea of guilty or not guilty; other times it can be part of a broader legal strategy or simply a defendant's personal choice.

Kohberger declined to waive his right to a speedy trial, so the judge scheduled it to begin Oct. 2. It's still possible that the trial, expected to last six weeks, could be delayed or moved to a different location.

School shooter asks to be given mercy from life sentence in prison

BY JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A school shooter serving a life sentence without parole for killing a first grader on a South Carolina playground when he was 14 is asking a judge to lessen his sentence so he can eventually get out of prison.

Jesse Osborne's lawyer asked Judge Lawton McIntosh on Monday to reconsider his sentence so Osborne, now 21, could have some hope of freedom in his 50s or 60s.

Attorney Frank Eppes said the judge didn't fully consider a psychologist's report that Osborne's lashed out because of abuse and can be rehabilitated.

"Give Jesse some hope to live with," Eppes said at a televised court hearing.

Osborne himself asked for a chance at life outside a prison cell, apologizing to the family of 6-year-old Jacob Hall, who he killed, and everyone at the school that day.

"I would just like to say sorry to every single one of them. Because my evil actions hurt their lives," Osborne said. "I'm just going to try to better myself in the Department

of Corrections the rest of my life."

But the teacher whose class was having recess, the parent of a wounded child, the father of the student celebrating his birthday, the superintendent who saw the bloodstained class rug and the school principal all said at Monday's hearing at the Anderson County Courthouse that they don't want to ever see Osborne out of prison.

Principal Denise Fredericks recognized Osborne as he paced outside Townville Elementary School with a backpack full of ammunition for 12 minutes after his gun jammed before police arrived to arrest him. Osborne had been a student there for seven years.

"I do wish Jesse a life where he can wake up, breathe, eat, work, be productive — but not outside the walls of a prison," Fredericks said. "In my opinion, his current sentence is still so, so much more merciful than the sentence he gave to Jacob and our school family."

Prosecutors said Hall's family didn't wish to speak in court, but also want Osborne to never be released from prison.

NATION

3 states offer cuts to save Colorado River

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM
AND KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Arizona, Nevada and California said Monday they're willing to cut back on their use of the dwindling Colorado River in exchange for money from the federal government — and to avoid forced cuts as drought threatens the key water supply for the U.S. West.

The \$1.2 billion plan, a potential breakthrough in a year-long stalemate, would conserve an additional 3 million acre-feet of water through 2026, when current guidelines for how the river is shared expire. About half the cuts would come by the end of 2024. That's less than what federal officials said last year would be needed to stave off crisis in the river but still marks a notable step in long and difficult negotiations between the three states.

The 1,450-mile river provides water to 40 million people in seven U.S. states, parts of Mexico and more than two dozen Native American tribes. It produces hydropower and supplies water to farms that grow most of the nation's winter vegetables.

In exchange for temporarily using less water, cities, irrigation districts and Native American tribes in the three states will be paid. The federal government plans to spend \$1.2 billion, said Lauren Wodarski, a spokesperson to U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, a Nevada Democrat.

Though adoption of the plan isn't certain, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Lake Mead, a reservoir formed by the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River in Nevada, lost two-thirds of its water between 1992 and 2020, according to a recent study.

Camille Touton called it an "important step forward." She said the bureau will pull back its proposal from last month that could have resulted in sidestepping the existing water priority system to force cuts while it analyzes the three-state plan. The bureau's earlier proposal, if adopted, could have led to a messy legal battle.

"At least they're still talking. But money helps you keep talking," said Terry Fulp, former regional director of the U.S. Bureau of

Reclamation's Lower Colorado Basin region.

The three Lower Basin states are entitled to 7.5 million acre-feet of water altogether from the river. An acre-foot of water is roughly enough to serve two to three U.S. households annually.

California gets the most, based on a century-old water rights priority system. Most of that goes to farmers in the Imperial Irrigation District, though some also goes to smaller water districts and cities across Southern

California. Arizona and Nevada have already faced cuts in recent years as key reservoir levels dropped based on prior agreements. But California has been spared.

Under the new proposal, California would give up about 1.6 million acre-feet of water through 2026 — a little more than half of the total. That's roughly the same amount the state first offered six months ago.

But the threat of forced federal cuts — made more strongly last month — appears to have prompted action.

"It's always a concern when states lose control of their own process," said John Entsminger, general manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

The Imperial Irrigation District would account for more than half of California's cuts. J.B. Hamby, chairman of the Colorado River Board of California, said the district has already taken measures to improve water efficiency and will need to do more. He said the district is working on a pilot summer idling program where farmers would sign up to turn off their water for 60 days for forage crops. During that time of year, yields are already down and more water is required, he said.

Bill Hasencamp, manager of Colorado River resources for the Metropolitan Water District of California, which supplies water to 19 million people in southern California, said the wet winter means the state simply needs less water. His district is planning on leaving 250,000 acre feet this year in Lake Mead, and won't withdraw it until after 2026.

Man gets stuck in Alaska mud flats, drowns

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A man who was walking on tidal mud flats with friends in an Alaska estuary got stuck up to his waist in the quicksand-like silt and drowned as the tide came in before frantic rescuers could extract him, authorities said.

Zachary Porter, 20, of Lake Bluff, Ill., was submerged Sunday evening as the tide came in, and his body was recovered Monday morning, Alaska State Troopers spokesperson Austin McDaniel told The Associated Press. A member of Porter's group called 911 when they couldn't get him out, but it was too late, authorities said.

The accident was the latest tragedy at Turnagain Arm, a 48-mile-long estuary carved out long ago by glaciers that travels southeast from the Anchorage area and parallels a major highway. At low tide, the estuary is known for its dangerous mud flats made of silt created by glacier-pulverized rocks. At least three other people have gotten stuck and drowned there over the years.

Many more have been rescued, including someone who was fishing there last month.

"It's big, it's amazing, it's beautiful, and it's overwhelming," Kristy Peterson, the administrator and lead EMT for the Hope-Sunrise Volunteer Fire Department, said of Alaska. "But you have to remember that it's Mother Nature, and she has no mercy for humanity."

Peterson, who responded to the call, spoke with others in Porter's party but didn't talk to him during the desperate rescue attempt.

"When we respond, we respond with the utmost of good intentions and as mothers and fathers and uncles and brothers," she said. "We respond with as much passion and vigor as we can."

The volunteer members of the department will gather later in the week for a debriefing, she said.

"I have been in contact with all my members, and they're all heartbroken," Peterson said. "This is a hard situation."

The accident occurred near the community of Hope, a quaint community of about 80

people. It lies across Turnagain Arm just 22 miles — but a 90-minute drive — from Anchorage.

The estuary travels southeast from the Anchorage area and parallels the Seward Highway, the only highway that goes south and delivers tourists from Anchorage to the sportsman's paradise of the Kenai Peninsula.

At low tide, Turnagain Arm is known for its mud flats that "can suck you down," Peterson said. "It looks like it's solid, but it's not."

When the tide comes back in, the silt gets wet from the bottom, loosens up and can create a vacuum if a person walks on it.

Signs are posted warning people of hazardous waters and mud flats.

"I've really got to warn people against playing the mud," Peterson said. "It's dangerous."

Some people attempt to walk across Turnagain Arm or walk the 9 miles from Anchorage to Fire Island during low tide, sometimes prompting rescue efforts.

WhatsApp is letting users edit messages

Associated Press

Wish you could reword that snarky text message you just sent?

WhatsApp is allowing users to do just that, for up to 15 minutes after they send a message. The popular chat app announced in a blog post Monday that users can correct misspellings, add more details or otherwise change what they have sent to friends, family and coworkers.

The ability to edit messages has started rolling out to people worldwide and will be available to all users in coming weeks, according to the company owned by Facebook parent Meta.

To fix a text, press and hold the sent message and pick "edit." After the changes, it will then display "edited," but those receiving the message won't be able to see the edit history, WhatsApp says.

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NATION

E. Jean Carroll adds post-verdict remarks to defamation case

Associated Press

NEW YORK — E. Jean Carroll, the advice columnist who won a \$5 million sexual abuse and defamation award against former President Donald Trump, is seeking at least \$10 million more in a court filing Monday that seeks to hold him liable for remarks he made after the verdict.

The amended lawsuit was filed in Manhattan by Carroll's lawyers, who said Trump "doubled down" on derogatory remarks about the former Elle magazine columnist during a cable television appearance a day after the verdict.

"It is hard to imagine defamatory conduct that could possibly be more motivated by hatred, ill will, or spite," they wrote of Trump's remarks at a CNN town hall. "This conduct supports a very substan-

tial punitive damages award in Carroll's favor both to punish Trump, to deter him from engaging in further defamation, and to deter others from doing the same."

A nine-person jury two weeks ago decided Trump had sexually abused Carroll at an upscale Manhattan department store in early spring 1996. It also found that Trump had made false statements that damaged her reputation after she went public with her allegations in a 2019 book.

The jury decided Carroll hadn't proved she had been raped, but found that Trump had sexually abused her. Trump continues to deny that the attack happened.

In the new claim, Carroll's lawyers said Trump, "undeterred by the jury's verdict, persisted in maliciously defaming Carroll yet



SETH WENIG/AP

E. Jean Carroll won a \$5 million sexual abuse and defamation award against former President Donald Trump this month.

again" at the CNN event.

"He doubled down on his prior defamatory statements, asserting to an audience all too ready to cheer him on that 'I never met this woman. I never saw this woman,' that he did not sexually assault Carroll, and that her account — which had just been validated by a jury of Trump's peers one day before — was a 'fake,' 'made up story' invented by a 'whack job.' Those statements resulted in enthusiastic cheers and applause from the audience on live TV," the lawyers wrote.

Judge seeks to make clear to Trump he can't share evidence

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The judge in Donald Trump's criminal case is holding a hybrid hearing Tuesday to make doubly sure the former president is aware of new rules barring him from using evidence to attack witnesses.

Trump won't have to show up to court for the afternoon hearing at a Manhattan courthouse, avoiding the mammoth security and logistical challenges that accompanied his arraignment last month.

Instead, the Republican will be connected by video conference, with his face beamed onto courtroom TV monitors. His lawyers and prosecutors must still appear in person.

Judge Juan Manuel Merchan agreed to the extra step of personally instructing Trump on restrictions after listing them May 8 in what's known as protective order.

Trump is allowed to speak publicly about the case, but he risks being held in contempt if he uses evidence turned over by prosecutors in the pretrial discovery process to target witnesses or oth-

ers involved in the case.

Trump pleaded not guilty April 4 to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records related to payments his company made to his former lawyer, Michael Cohen.

Prosecutors say those payments were intended to reimburse and compensate Cohen for orchestrating hush money payments during the 2016 campaign to bury allegations of extramarital sexual encounters. Trump denies having had extramarital flings and says the prosecution is politically motivated.

Merchan's protective order bars Trump and his lawyers from disseminating evidence to third parties or posting it to social media, and it requires that certain, sensitive material shared by prosecutors be kept only by Trump's lawyers, not Trump himself.

Prosecutors sought the order soon after Trump's arrest, citing what they say is his history of making "harassing, embarrassing, and threatening statements" about people he's tangled with in legal disputes.

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WORLD

3 more detained tied to German coup conspiracy

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**
Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's federal prosecutor's office said Tuesday that criminal police have detained three more suspected far-right extremists who are linked to an alleged plot by the Reichsbuerger, or Reich Citizens, movement to topple the country's government.

The three suspects, who were only identified as Johanna F.-J., Hans-Joachim H. and Steffen W. in line with German privacy rules, were detained Monday evening in the southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

The defendants are suspected of membership in a terrorist organization, the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

In December, German police detained 25 people including a self-styled prince, a retired paratrooper and a former judge who are accused of plotting the violent overthrow of the government.

Adherents of the Reich Citizens movement reject Germany's post-war constitution and have called for bringing down the government.

Authorities say the three people who were arrested Monday evening were linked in different ways to the suspects of the alleged coup attempt.

Johanna F.J. is suspected of having been active in the association since May 2022, participating in several meetings with members of the leadership, during which the goals and organization of the group were discussed. In

addition, she allegedly sought contact with a Russian consul general and subsequently met with him twice. The talks were intended to obtain support for the association's actions, prosecutors say.

Hans-Joachim H. is suspected of having been active for the group from the very beginning, providing it with financial contributions totaling more than \$151,000. In addition, he allegedly actively participated in conspiratorial meetings, in events to recruit new members and in so-called sponsor meetings.

Steffen W. is suspected of having joined the association no later than July 2022, and to have assumed a leading role in a so-called homeland security company, in which he assumed the function of a military officer. The defendant allegedly participated in several coordination meetings. His task was to recruit personnel for his area of responsibility and to train them militarily, prosecutors said.

German security agencies have disrupted several plots in recent years by small groups linked to the Reich Citizens movement accused of planning attacks on critical infrastructure, government officials and even the national parliament. While it is unclear how far advanced such plans were, authorities have expressed alarm that the alleged plotters had acquired weapons and included people who aren't usually on the radar of security agencies, such as judges and police officers.

Malaysia seizes Swatch watches linked to gay pride

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Swiss watchmaker Swatch said Tuesday that Malaysian authorities raided its stores and confiscated 164 watches from its Pride Collection.

It said Ministry of Home Affairs officials raided its outlets in various malls across Malaysia on May 13 and 14 and seized the watches because they "bore LGBT connotations."

The watches come in a choice of six colors, matching those on the gay pride flag, and have two rainbow loops on their straps.

"We strongly contest that our collection of watches using rain-

bow colors and having a message of peace and love could be harmful for whomever," Swatch Group CEO Nick Hayek Jr. said in a statement.

"On the contrary, Swatch always promotes a positive message of joy in life. This is nothing political. We wonder how the Regulatory and Enforcement Division of the Home Ministry will confiscate the many beautiful natural rainbows that are showing up a thousand times a year in the sky of Malaysia," he said.

Swatch said it has resumed selling the Pride Collection watches and that its legal department is looking into the seizure.



JOAO MATOS/AP

Police officers talk by an operation tent near Barragem do Arade, Portugal, on Tuesday.

Portugal police resume search for British child missing since 2007

Associated Press

ARADE DAM, Portugal — Portuguese police aided by German and British colleagues on Tuesday resumed their search for Madeleine McCann, the British child who disappeared in the country's southern Algarve region 16 years ago.

Between 20 and 30 officers, some in uniform, could be seen in the area by the Arade dam, about 30 miles from Praia da Luz, where the 3-year-old was last seen alive in 2007.

Witnesses said that police began searching shortly before 8 a.m. Tuesday in an area several miles away from the tent. About three hours later, firefighters could be seen in a dinghy in the reservoir.

Portuguese police have cor-

doned off the area to the media and public. More than a dozen cars and police vans could be seen arriving early Tuesday.

On Monday, Portuguese detectives issued a statement saying the search was being resumed at the request of German authorities and with help from British officials.

Portuguese media say this is the fourth search for McCann, following the initial one in 2007 and then in 2013 and 2014. Another search was held in Germany in 2020.

This search is believed to be the first in the dam area following the German tips.

In mid-2020, German officials said that a 45-year-old German citizen, identified by media as Christian Brueckner, who was in the Algarve in 2007, was a suspect in the case. Brueckner has denied

any involvement.

Brueckner is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence in Germany for a rape he committed in Portugal in 2005.

He is under investigation on suspicion of murder in the McCann case but hasn't been charged. He spent many years in Portugal, including in Praia da Luz, around the time of Madeleine's disappearance.

British, Portuguese and German police are still piecing together what happened on the night when the toddler disappeared from her bed in the southern Portuguese resort on May 3, 2007. She was in the same room as her twin brother and sister, who were 2 at the time, while her parents had dinner with friends at a nearby restaurant.

Sherpa vet guide Kami Rita scales Mount Everest for record 28th time

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Veteran Sherpa guide Kami Rita scaled Mount Everest for the 28th time Tuesday, beating his own record less than a week after setting it, as two guides compete with each other for the title of most climbs of the world's highest peak.

Kami Rita, considered one of the greatest mountain guides, reached the 29,032-foot summit at 9:20 a.m. local time Tuesday, according to expedition organizer Seven Summits Treks.

His latest climb comes a day after fellow Sherpa guide Pasang Dawa matched his record of 27 trips to the summit.

The race for the title began with Pasang Dawa climbing the peak for the 26th time on May 14, equal-



NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/AP

Nepalese Sherpa guide Kami Rita has scaled Mount Everest 28 times.

ing Kami Rita's previous record. Kami Rita went on to the peak three days later for the 27th time.

With a few more days left in the spring climbing season, both

Sherpa guides were on the mountain helping their clients up the snowy peak.

May is the busiest month to make the dangerous climb since it has the best weather conditions.

Kami Rita first summited Everest in 1994 and has been making the trip nearly every year since.

He is one of many Sherpa guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success each year of foreign climbers who seek to stand on top of the mountain.

His father was among the first Sherpa guides.

In addition to his Everest climbs, Rita has scaled several other peaks that are among the world's highest, including K2, Cho Oyu, Manaslu and Lhotse.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman arrested after boyfriend fatally run over

AZ CASA GRANDE — A woman has been arrested in connection with the death of her boyfriend, who was run over by a car after a domestic dispute, according to police in Arizona.

Shelly Shears, 51, was booked on suspicion of second-degree murder, Casa Grande police said.

Officers responded to a motor vehicle versus pedestrian collision and found Billy Stephens, 59, lying near a roadway in serious condition with “significant trauma,” police said. Stephens was flown to a Phoenix hospital where he later died from his injuries.

“Detectives discovered significant evidence to determine Shears and Stephens were in a verbal argument prior to her striking him with her vehicle,” police said in a statement.

Grenade found among relative's items; 1 killed

IN LAKES OF THE FOUR SEASONS — A hand grenade found as a family went through an older relative's belongings exploded, killing an Indiana man and injuring his two teenage children, police said.

The explosion fatally injured the 47-year-old man at the home in the community of Lakes of the Four Seasons in northwestern Indiana, according to the Lake County Sheriff's Department. His two children, a 14-year-old boy and 18-year-old girl, were taken to a hospital with shrapnel wounds.

Sheriff Oscar Martinez said investigators were trying to determine what caused the grenade to explode in the home about 30 miles southeast of Chicago.

Authorities didn't immediately release any additional information about the grenade or why the relative had it.

Widower sues driver, bars after crash killed bride

SC COLUMBIA — The alleged drunken driver who police said slammed into newlyweds riding along a South Carolina beach road now faces a wrongful death lawsuit alongside several establishments accused of overserving her on the night of the crash, which killed the bride.

Four bars gave “copious amounts of alcohol” to a “visibly intoxicated” woman, identified as Jamie Lee Komoroski, last month before she drove 40 miles per hour over the speed limit into a golf cart carrying the couple away from their wedding reception, according to a new lawsuit filed.

The April 28 wreck killed Samantha Miller, 34, and injured the groom, Aric Hutchinson, and two other passengers. A toxicology report showed Komoroski, 25, had a blood alcohol level of 0.261 — over three times the legal limit.

The complaint alleges that Komoroski “slurred and staggered



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Dressed up for the paw-ty

Designer Anthony Rubio presents Chihuahuas Bogie, left, modeling an outfit inspired and worn by Bad Bunny at this month's Met Gala, and Kimba, modeling an outfit inspired by “Choupette the Cat” and worn by Jared Leto at the Met Gala, at the Pet Gala, on Monday, in New York.

her way through” El Gallo Bar & Grill, Snapper Jacks, the Drop In Bar & Dali and the Crab Shack — all of which either allowed her to become intoxicated or continued serving her alcohol when they should have recognized her inebriated state.

School district votes to extend school day

AR LITTLE ROCK — The Little Rock School District has voted to extend the school day beginning in the fall for the 2023-24 school year.

The Little Rock School Board's 9-0 decision means elementary students will start earlier and end later while middle and high school students' day will end later, officials said.

The board agreed with Superintendent Jermall Wright who said the changes were necessary to provide more time for direct instruction of science and social studies in the elementary grades and provide enough time for buses to pick up and drop off elementary students before making second runs for the older students, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported.

Under the change, the elementary day will go from 7:40 a.m. to 2:55 p.m., a change from the current 7:50 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. in place for most schools. Class for middle and high school students will start at 8:45 a.m. and go 15 minutes

longer — to 4 p.m. — next year.

Sharks bite 2 fishermen in separate incidents

FL SUMMERLAND KEY — Two fishermen have been bitten by sharks in separate incidents less than 36 hours apart in the Florida Keys, officials said. A 20-year-old Miami-Dade County man was bitten in the leg while spearfishing with two other people off Marathon, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

A medical helicopter landed on the Seven Mile Bridge to pick up the man, who was brought to shore by a private boat, the report said. He was taken to Jackson South Medical Center in Miami, and his condition was not available.

Another shark bit a 35-year-old fisherman on the foot after he had reeled it in while fishing off a dock in Summerland Key. The shark was on the dock when it bit the man, the release said.

The man was also taken to by a trauma helicopter to a hospital in Miami. His condition was not known, the statement said.

Mom charged after baby abandoned 4 years ago

GA CUMMING — A Georgia woman accused of leaving her newborn daughter in the woods nearly four years ago has been identified, ar-

rested and charged with attempted murder.

Karima Jiwani, 40, was arrested and was being held in the Forsyth County Jail after a judge denied bond, jail records showed. Hospital staff nicknamed the newborn girl Baby India after she was found in a wooded area in Cumming, about 35 miles north of Atlanta, on June 6, 2019.

The girl is now “happy and healthy,” said Forsyth County Sheriff Ron Freeman. He declined to say more, citing the need to protect the girl's privacy.

About 10 months ago, the sheriff's office identified the child's father using DNA, Freeman said. Then authorities again used DNA to identify Jiwani.

Bill allowing people to sue oil firms blocked

CA SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers blocked two big environmental bills: One that would have ramped up the state's emissions targets, and another that would have made oil companies liable for the health problems of people who live close to oil wells.

They are among the hundreds of bills that did not survive the Legislature's suspense file, a mysterious process where lawmakers decide — with no explanation — which bills will get a chance to become law later this year and which ones should not move for-

ward.

“Today, we missed a key opportunity to advance legislation that would hold polluters accountable and prevent further harm to families who are just trying to stay healthy and have a better quality of life,” Sen. Lena Gonzalez, who authored the bill, said.

Kara Greene, a spokesperson for the Western States Petroleum Association, which opposed the bill, said it would have been unfair to oil and gas companies and done more harm than good.

Lake Erie section seeks to be marine sanctuary

PA HARRISBURG — President Joe Biden's administration took the first step toward designating the Pennsylvania-owned section of Lake Erie as the state's first national marine sanctuary.

A formal designation could take several years, and it wouldn't change existing regulations around the use of the lake. The announcement sets up a public comment period before the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration writes a draft plan for the sanctuary.

The designation would attract federal funding to help find and preserve shipwrecks in the lake and boost education and outreach around the area's history.

STARS AND STRIPES.

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Meta's mega-fine is a warning shot on data privacy

BY CHRIS STOKEL-WALKER

Special To The Washington Post

Mark Zuckerberg is in trouble with the authorities again. The Facebook co-founder's famous mantra was "Move fast and break things." Now, it seems, that includes European laws on data privacy.

On Monday, European regulators fined Meta \$1.3 billion for not adequately protecting user data as it was transferred from Europe to the United States. That's a record-breaking fine for a tech company in Europe (though it will have minimal impact on Meta's finances — by the end of the week, Meta will have earned enough to cover it, based on first-quarter results).

This time, though, it's not just Meta that's in the crosshairs. European regulators are signaling they are fed up with Facebook — and expect Big Tech broadly to fall into line, too.

In addition, European regulators are rightly demanding that U.S. authorities get their house in order. Europe's data privacy regime isn't perfect. But a more cooperative and conclusive regulatory framework from U.S. authorities is needed.

Meta's reaction shows this is a significant moment. Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, said the decision "is flawed, unjustified and sets a dangerous precedent" and groused that Meta was being "singled out."

Indeed. That's the point. The regulator wants to make an example of Meta. The fine tells all tech firms that certain behaviors won't be tolerated.

What exactly has the Europeans so upset?

It is against Europe's tough data privacy

rules for firms to process and store data from European users outside of Europe, including in the United States. For years, some of the biggest tech firms have more or less ignored that.

Meta itself was warned in 2020 that the way it handled European users' data was not compliant with European Union laws. Yet the firm has done little to fix that. Europe's privacy watchdogs said in their ruling that Meta "committed the infringement at least with the highest degree of negligence."

At the heart of the decision are two key issues. One is the broader contextual concern: that big tech companies often don't care that they flout rules and laws, because they think their might means they can get away with it.

Then there is the specific problem: User data isn't safe in the United States. This might be hard for Americans to swallow. But what passes for data privacy rights in the United States is not always the same as what is acceptable elsewhere. European politicians, lawyers and data rights activists hold the view that the United States doesn't do enough to protect user data. And European regulators have told Meta its attempts to bridge the data protection gap aren't sufficient. The alternative, building out functional user storage capability in Europe to serve the EU, would be costly, and Meta seems to have decided not to bother.

There is some irony in all of this. The parallel case in the United States relates to Chinese social media app TikTok. American politicians have criticized the app in part because of the perception that data from American users could be shipped back to China for analysis and spying. The U.S. government has compelled TikTok parent ByteDance to

spend billions onshoring data processing and storage facilities solely for U.S. users. Among the biggest supporters of such restrictive measures has been Meta, whose extensive lobbying on Capitol Hill has framed TikTok as a risk to national security.

Now that the shoe is on the other foot, Meta doesn't seem keen on the idea that shipping data across borders is a problem.

In reality, the company is also caught up — like TikTok — in a broader geopolitical brouhaha.

In October, President Joe Biden signed an agreement with his European counterparts for a Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework, pledging to work together on a common set of data privacy safeguards. In February, Europe's Data Protection Board — an independent group that advises the EU on data privacy matters — said it welcomed some initial progress on the U.S.-EU framework but also outlined a long list of issues that are yet to be resolved.

A deal on a final set of rules is expected by the end of the summer. That could be critical to Meta — without a clear set of rules on data privacy that applies on both sides of the Atlantic, the firm could be forced into the near-impossible task of untangling and deleting all the EU user data it has stored in the United States.

That's why this fine is a much bigger deal than the financial hit to Meta. It's also a shot across the bow in a much bigger geopolitical battle and a warning that, in Europe at least, data privacy is a serious matter.

Chris Stokel-Walker is a British journalist who writes about technology. He is the author of "TikTok Boom: China's Dynamite App and the Superpower Race for Social Media."

Job seekers say, 'Bye-bye, New York. Hello, Fayetteville.'

BY CONOR SEN

Bloomberg Opinion

College graduates and more affluent residents are fleeing high-cost cities like New York and San Francisco, according to a recent New York Times article. Of course, major coastal cities have been pricing out the working class for a long time, but that's picked up pace in recent years.

Lower-cost, large metros are benefiting from the migration — also a trend that's been happening for a while. But a new twist we saw begin during the pandemic is that people are choosing to move to midsize and smaller places, as well; metros with fewer than 1 million people.

The bottom line is that the universe of landing spots for college grads from high-cost metros is expanding. That's a healthy trend for the economy that we should try to help along.

One of the big draws of high-cost cities is that they have great amenities — restaurants and retail and services — but it's difficult to build more housing. It can be even more challenging to improve schools that desperately need it.

Smaller cities usually have more affordable housing, especially if a worker is coming from one of the most expensive parts of the country. The public schools are generally more attractive to parents, too. What these places lack is the abundant range of appealing amenities found in the biggest metros.

But here, too, the smaller cities have an advantage: It's easier to build amenities than it is to build housing. So maybe this can be part of

the solution to our housing shortages: a focus on developing the infrastructure bells and whistles needed to attract new residents to places where it's easier to find an affordable place to live.

The idea builds on something I noticed a little over a year ago: a shortage of "Whole Foods neighborhoods" in some of the higher-profile Sun Belt destinations where affluent people moved during the pandemic. At this point, and I can attest that this is the case in Atlanta where I live, the neighborhoods with more upscale amenities have become quite pricey — if you can actually find anything to buy. So the value proposition for would-be migrants is harder to find.

But the search for cheaper housing and good schools will continue, and for many metro areas that weren't previously a natural destination for affluent migrants, this is an economic development opportunity they've never had before. There are plenty of perfectly fine communities with a lot of older households filled with empty nesters. The amenities are dated, with many antiquated commercial real estate developments built decades ago for a different kind of economy and a different way of living.

This is where empty office buildings can be an asset rather than a liability. It's an opportunity for developers to build mixed-use concepts that will be attractive to the kinds of people leaving New York and San Francisco. A midsize metro has no hope of replicating the density and scale of a major city, but a 35-year-old's household with kids might not need or want all that — a lifestyle center with a good

coffee shop, some family-friendly restaurants and plenty of parking might do just fine.

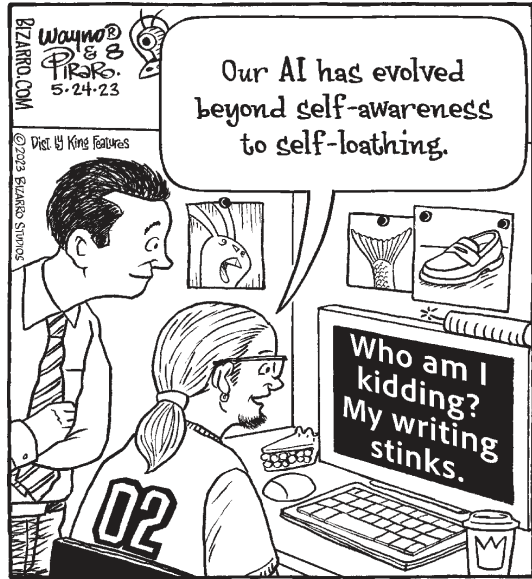
Creating more amenities in previously unhip metros and communities doesn't relieve these places of the need to build more housing. In some of the higher-profile destinations during the pandemic — places like Austin, Texas, and Boise, Idaho — we saw well-off Californians moving in and driving up housing costs, which merely shifted the displacement burden of lower-income residents from one metro to another. College grads with high incomes in places like New York and San Francisco have more migration options than ever — but the flip side of that coin is the threat of displacement has spread from the working class on the coasts to the working class potentially everywhere.

Even so, I find this trend encouraging. The shrinking geography of opportunity that we saw in the United States between the 1970s and 2010s was generally a bad thing. By the end of it, even the "winners" didn't seem to like it very much, with local political backlashes against the wealth and clout of tech and finance workers in the cities where those industries clustered.

Now, more communities are able to compete for that talent and economic opportunity, and there's a better chance of addressing persistent housing shortages if dozens of metros are tasked with doing something about it rather than merely a few.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Conor Sen is founder of Peachtree Creek Investments. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbers 1-61 indicating starting positions for words.

ACROSS

- 1 Upper limit
4 Accomplishes
8 Ale variety
12 Furtive laugh
13 Car bar
14 Throat clearer
15 Hot temper
16 Omelet side dish
18 Hair dryer
20 Luau bowlful
21 "My — are sealed"
24 Maya Angelou piece
28 Believed
32 Roll call reply
33 Mined matter
34 Offered one's seat
36 Sony rival
37 Mend socks
39 Desires
41 Daisy Mae's guy
43 Stead
44 Crony
46 Green sauce
50 Celebratory slaps
55 Bruins legend
56 Hand lotion ingredient
57 Eat in style
58 "30 Rock" role
59 Cat call

- 60 Long story
61 Tic-tac-toe win

- 27 Once around the sun
28 Kotb of "Today"
29 The "A" of UAE
30 Laura of "Big Little Lies"
31 Pueblo people
35 Type of diving
38 Sister's son
40 "Glee" character — Sylvester
42 U.K. military fliers
45 Pot covers
47 Without help
48 Small combo
49 Rice-shaped pasta
50 Scene stealer
51 — de-France
52 Stickum
53 By means of
54 Chang's brother

DOWN

- 1 Voucher
2 Saab model
3 "Close one!"
4 Mexican flowers
5 Kitchen gadget brand
6 Shade tree
7 Leak out slowly
8 Diocese part
9 Sashimi fish
10 Writer Harper
11 German river
17 Nemesis
19 Santa's helper
22 Core
23 Pub seating
25 Lowly worker
26 Not pizzicato

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Completed crossword grid with words filled in.

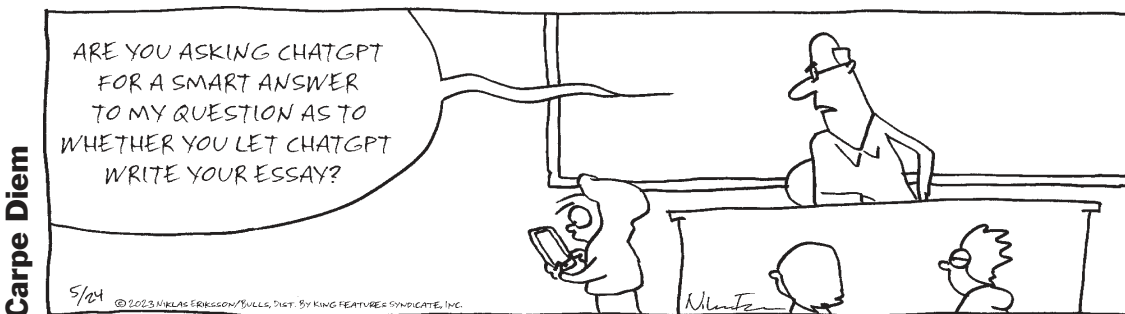
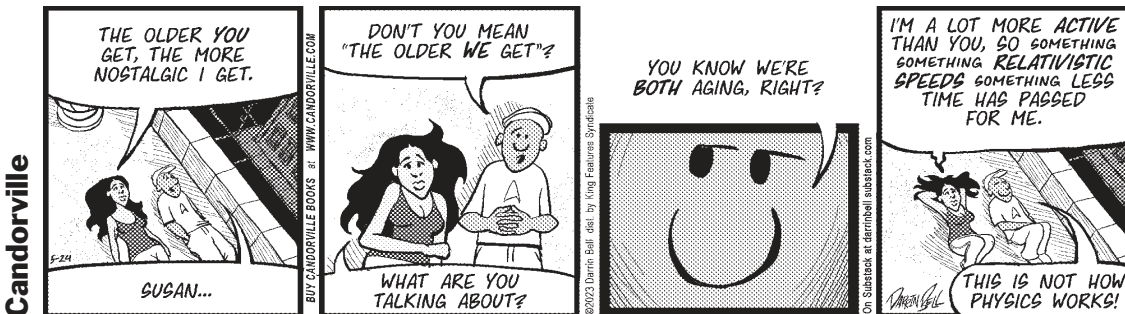
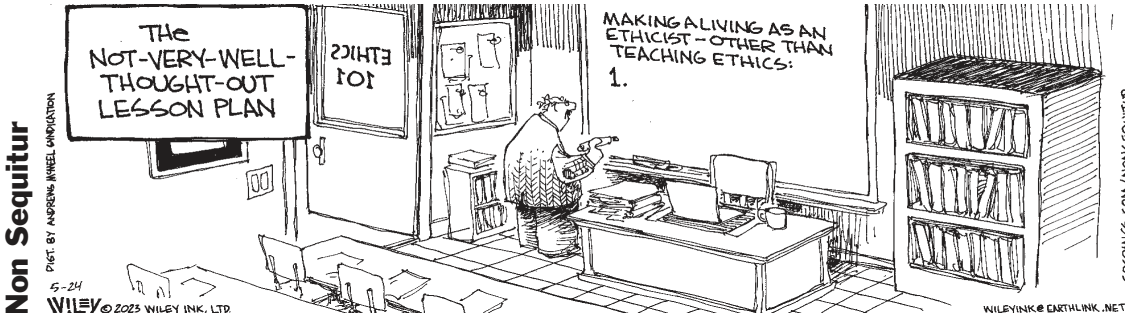
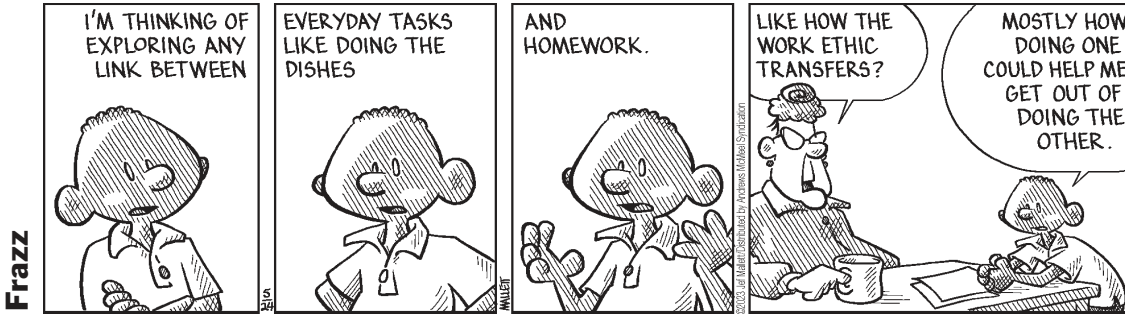
5-24

CRYPTOQUIP

HOCZ GVIDX UVI GCDD TVEB
CXIDZ ECDB XBBW ZOCZ HBWB
WBCDDU TAKDBX CZ ACWCZB?
ECWZKCD OCWZT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RAKING LEAVES IS TEDIOUS. EVERY TIME I DO IT, IT FEELS LIKE I'M ONLY SCRATCHING THE SURFACE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals H



FACES

New this week: 'John Wick,'
'American Born Chinese'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ It can be hard to believe when corporate folks make genuinely altruistic gestures, especially involving their fortunes, but neither Kris McDivitt Tompkins, the first CEO of Patagonia, nor her late husband, Doug Tompkins, the founder of the North Face and Esprit, were ones to play by the rules. "Wild Life," a new documentary from the Oscar-winning "Free Solo" filmmakers, tells the story of this couple, their love of the outdoors, their adventurous spirits and how they funneled their fortunes to "rewilding" conservation efforts by buying up roughly 2.2 million acres in Argentina and Chile. "Wild Life" starts streaming on Disney+ and Hulu on Friday.

■ "Victim/Suspect," a documentary from director Nancy Schwartzman, follows reporter Rae de Leon's investigation into a disturbing pattern: That in the United States, women reporting sexual assaults often become suspects. The film, now streaming on Netflix, delves into possible flaws and loopholes in the system that may be enabling the chilling trend.

■ For more escapism, Keanu Reeves' tireless assassin John Wick returns for a fourth film, which made its way to video on demand Tuesday. This time, Wick goes to Paris. He's still being hunted but has also gone on the offensive. The film also serves as a bittersweet farewell to Continental Hotel concierge Charon, played by Lance Reddick, who died shortly before the film came out.

— AP Film Writer
Lindsey Bahr

Music

■ Matchbox Twenty ends more than a decade away with the pop-

rockers' fifth studio album, "Where The Light Goes," which will be released Friday. The set is an upbeat collection, opening with the horn-drenched sing-along "Friends," which features vocals from bandmember Paul Doucette's son. Other highlights include singer-songwriter Amanda Shires' duet with frontman Rob Thomas on the cheerful "No Other Love" and the single "Wild Dogs (Running In a Slow Dream)," which captures that time in your youth when you finally find your people.

■ Celebrate the end of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" by singing along with an album of the fifth and final season's music. The album features songs like "Relax Max" by Dinah Washington, "I Love The Way You Say Goodnight" by Doris Day with The Page Cavanaugh Trio, Barbra Streisand's "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf" and Tony Bennett's "I Wanna Be Around." Fans will appreciate actor Hank Azaria doing "Nancy (With The Laughing Face)" and the cast belting out "Everything Grows!"

— AP Entertainment Writer
Mark Kennedy

Television

■ The new action-comedy series "American Born Chinese" is based on the graphic novel by Gene Luen Yang. It stars Ben Wang as a high schooler trying to survive the daily life as a first generation American in a Chinese family. He meets an exchange student from Taiwan and finds himself caught up in a war of ancient Chinese gods. The series strikes a balance between a coming-of-age story and mythology with the spirit of the graphic novel. It also boasts a cast that includes Oscar winners Ke Huy Quan and Michele Yeoh, plus Chin Han and Daniel Wu. Recurring cast members include Stephanie Hsu, Ronnie Chieng and Jimmy O. Yang. "American Born Chinese" premieres Wednesday on Disney+.

— Alicia Rancilio

'Rome,' 'Thor' actor Ray Stevenson dies

Ray Stevenson, who played the villainous British governor in "RRR," an Asgardian warrior in the "Thor" films, and a member of the 13th Legion in HBO's "Rome," has died. He was 58.

Representatives for Stevenson, who was born in Northern Ireland in 1964, told The Associated Press that he died Sunday but had no other details to share on Monday.

Aside from the first three "Thor" films, in which he played Volstagg, his other prominent film roles included the "Divergent" trilogy and "G.I. Joe: Retaliation." On the small screen, he was the ro-

guish Titus Pullo in "Rome," a role he said really got his career going in the U.S. The popular series ran from 2005 to 2007.

Other news

■ Adam Driver will serve as the honorary starter for the 107th Indianapolis 500 on Sunday. The actor, who grew up in Mishawaka in northern Indiana, is a two-time Academy Award nominee and also a former Marine, which dovetails with the Indy 500's placement on Memorial Day weekend.

From The Associated Press



SCOTT GARFITT, INVISION/AP

From left: Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and director Martin Scorsese pose for photographers at the premiere for "Killers of the Flower Moon" May 20 at the Cannes Film Festival in France. The audience gave the film a nine-minute standing ovation, the longest so far at this year's festival.

There's more than minutes
to length of Cannes ovations

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

The Cannes Film Festival is on, which means stopwatches are out.

Nowhere are the length of standing ovations at high-wattage premieres more carefully recorded and parsed than in Cannes. Did a movie garner a triumphant eight-minute standing ovation? Or did the audience stand for a mere four or five minutes?

How has such an unlikely metric come to reverberate around the world within minutes of a premiere? And why is everyone standing for so long? Doesn't anyone's hands get tired?

Such effusive displays of enthusiasm have come to be a hallmark of Cannes and, sometimes, a bit of marketing gimmick for films looking to resonate far from the Croisette. If Cannes, the world's largest and glitziest film festival, stands for cinematic excess, its thunderous standing ovations can seem like its greatest indulgence. No one needs a bathroom break?

Less widely understood, though, is how the pageantry of Cannes shapes and distorts standing ovations. When audiences rise after the credits roll in the Grand Theatre Lumière, Cannes' biggest screen, they aren't just standing and applauding the movie they just watched.

Immediately after a film wraps, a cameraman swoops in and begins shooting the filmmaker and cast members, who are sitting in the middle of the theater. That video plays live on the screen for everyone inside while the camera — often very patiently — puts each prominent actor in close-up. Applause is only partly for the movie; it's also for each star.

When "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" premiered in Cannes, the camera gave Mads Mikkelsen, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Ethann Isidore, Harrison Ford and director James Mangold each their own moment to bask in adulation. In the end, trade publications — which have reporters inside the theater to keep time — clocked the standing ovation at five minutes. Variety pronounced it a "lukewarm" reception.

Inflation may be such a scourge that it's even affecting standing O's. In most places in the world, a five-minute standing ovation would count as a dream

response. In Cannes, it's supposedly as tepid as a day-old espresso.

Reviews for "Dial of Destiny" were, indeed, mixed. But it's also possible that the audience — or the movie's stars — had had enough after a 142-minute movie that was preceded by a much-cheered tribute to Ford. The next day, a visibly emotional Ford called the experience "indescribable."

Much of how long a standing ovation endures relates to whether the film's stars push it along or cater to the camera. At the premiere of Martin Scorsese's "Flowers of the Killer Moon," after the film's expansive cast had gotten their close-ups, Leonardo DiCaprio and others in the film kept clapping, even when most of the auditorium had stopped. Then, Osage tribe members rallied more life into the applause with loud, celebratory whooping.

Nine minutes was ultimately the call for "Flowers of the Killer Moon," enough to mark a high for this year's festival. Scorsese's period epic draw the kind of headlines that every film wants out of Cannes. Movies don't get second chances for a first impression, after all.

A stopwatch-breaking ovation doesn't always translate to quality. Lee Daniels' "The Paperboy" isn't exactly considered a modern-day classic, but it managed a 15-minute standing O in 2012.

Cannes has long been known for its passionate responses. Some hugely revered films, like Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," have famously been booed at the festival. But boos are more likely to be heard in the press screenings than the gala formal-attire premieres. At those, a standing ovation is more or less a matter of etiquette.

At this year's festival, the most star-studded films have gone over well. Todd Haynes' "May December," with Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore, nearly matched the response to his "Carol," with an eight-minute ovation. Karim Aïnouz's historical drama "Firebrand," starring Alicia Vikander and Jude Law, clocked in with the same. Vikander called the high-decibel roar of the crowd a stirring, unforgettable experience.

"I was shivering a bit," Vikander said. "It really gets to you."

22

Minutes in the longest Cannes ovation on record, for Guillermo del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth" in 2006.
The Associated Press

SCOREBOARD/INDY 500

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	9	1	3	30	21	14
Nashville	7	3	4	25	19	9
New England	7	3	3	24	19	14
Atlanta	6	4	4	22	28	24
Philadelphia	6	4	3	21	20	14
D.C. United	5	5	4	19	19	16
Orlando City	5	4	4	19	16	16
Columbus	5	5	3	18	25	17
Charlotte FC	5	6	3	18	19	25
NYCFC	4	5	4	16	15	16
New York	3	4	7	16	10	12
Inter Miami CF	5	8	0	15	14	17
CF Montréal	5	8	0	15	12	22
Chicago	3	4	6	15	18	21
Toronto FC	2	5	7	13	13	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	7	1	4	25	23	10
Seattle	7	5	2	23	20	13
Saint Louis SC	7	4	1	22	26	13
FC Dallas	6	3	4	22	16	13
San Jose	5	5	3	18	17	18
Minnesota	5	5	3	18	12	14
Vancouver	4	4	5	17	18	14
Portland	4	6	4	16	18	20
Austin FC	4	5	4	16	13	18
Houston	4	5	3	15	11	11
Real Salt Lake	4	6	3	15	13	22
Colorado	2	6	6	12	12	21
Sporting KC	2	8	4	10	9	21
LA Galaxy	2	8	3	9	10	23

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

Saturday's games

Miami at CF Montréal
 Chicago at New England
 Philadelphia at New York City FC
 Atlanta at Orlando City
 D.C. United at Toronto FC
 Austin FC at Houston
 Real Salt Lake at Minnesota
 Vancouver at Saint Louis City SC
 Cincinnati at Colorado
 Charlotte FC at LA Galaxy
 FC Dallas at San Jose
 New York at Seattle

Sunday's games

Portland at Sporting Kansas City
 Columbus at Nashville

Wednesday, May 31

New England at Atlanta
 Colorado at Columbus
 CF Montréal at D.C. United
 New York at Miami
 Cincinnati at New York City FC
 Charlotte FC at Philadelphia
 Chicago at Toronto FC
 Minnesota at Austin FC
 FC Dallas at Sporting Kansas City
 LA Galaxy at Real Salt Lake
 Saint Louis City SC at Los Angeles FC
 ppd.
 San Jose at Seattle
 Houston at Vancouver

Saturday, June 3

New England at New York City FC
 Portland at Seattle
 Chicago at Cincinnati
 Charlotte FC at Columbus
 D.C. United at Miami
 Orlando City at New York
 CF Montréal at Philadelphia
 Real Salt Lake at Austin FC
 Nashville at FC Dallas
 Toronto FC at Minnesota
 Houston at Saint Louis City SC
 San Jose at Colorado
 Atlanta at Los Angeles FC
 Sporting Kansas City at Vancouver

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	5	2	1	16	11	7
Portland	4	1	3	15	22	10
San Diego	5	3	0	15	15	10
Washington	4	1	3	15	11	7
OL Reign	4	3	1	13	13	10
North Carolina	3	3	2	11	8	9
Louisville	2	2	4	10	11	9
Orlando	3	4	1	10	7	12
Angel City	2	3	3	9	11	13
Houston	2	3	3	9	5	9
Kansas City	2	6	0	6	9	16
Chicago	1	6	1	4	11	22

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

Friday's games

Houston at Kansas City
 Portland at San Diego

Saturday's games

Angel City at OL Reign
 North Carolina at Louisville
 Orlando at Chicago

Sunday's game

Gotham FC at Washington

Saturday, June 3

Portland at OL Reign
 Louisville at Washington
 Orlando at Houston
 North Carolina at Kansas City

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	2	0	1.000	—
Connecticut	2	0	1.000	—
New York	1	1	.500	1
Washington	1	1	.500	1
Atlanta	0	1	.000	1½
Indiana	0	2	.000	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	1	0	1.000	—
Los Angeles	1	0	1.000	—
Dallas	1	0	1.000	—
Seattle	0	1	.000	1
Phoenix	0	2	.000	1½
Minnesota	0	1	.000	1

Sunday's games

Connecticut 80, Washington 74
 New York 90, Indiana 73
 Chicago 75, Phoenix 69

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

Connecticut at Washington
 Atlanta at Minnesota

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled.

Thursday's games

Las Vegas at Los Angeles
 Minnesota at Phoenix

Friday's games

Washington at Chicago
 Dallas at Seattle

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

NCAA Super Regionals

(Best-of-three; x-if necessary)

Host school is home team for Game 1; visiting school is home team for Game 2; coin flip determines Game 3 home team

At Norman, Okla.

Friday: No. 1 Oklahoma (53-1) vs. No. 16 Clemson (46-9)

Saturday: Oklahoma vs. Clemson

x-Sunday: Oklahoma vs. Clemson

At Durham, N.C.

Friday: No. 8 Duke (46-10) vs. No. 9 Stanford (41-13)

Saturday: Duke vs. Stanford

x-Sunday: Duke vs. Stanford

At Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Friday: No. 5 Alabama (42-19) vs. No. 12 Northwestern (39-11)

Saturday: Alabama vs. Northwestern

x-Sunday: Alabama vs. Northwestern

At Knoxville, Tenn.

Friday: No. 4 Tennessee (45-8) vs. No. 13 Texas (43-13-1)

Saturday: Tennessee vs. Texas

x-Sunday: Tennessee vs. Texas

At Tallahassee, Fla.

Thursday: No. 3 Florida St. (51-8) vs. No. 14 Georgia (40-13)

Friday: Florida St. vs. Georgia

x-Saturday: Florida St. vs. Georgia

At Stillwater, Okla.

Thursday: No. 6 Oklahoma St. (42-14) vs. Oregon (36-15)

Friday: Oklahoma St. vs. Oregon

x-Saturday: Oklahoma St. vs. Oregon

At Seattle

Friday: No. 7 Washington (40-13) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (48-13)

Saturday: Washington vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

x-Sunday: Washington vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

At Salt Lake City

Friday: No. 15 Utah (40-13) vs. San Diego St. (37-15)

Saturday: Utah vs. San Diego St.

x-Sunday: Utah vs. San Diego St.

TENNIS

Morocco Open

Monday

At Club des Cheminots

Rabat, Morocco

Purse: \$259,303

Surface: Red clay

Women's Singles

Round of 32

Peyton Stearns, United States, def. Panna Udvardy, Hungary, 6-1, 6-1.

Julia Riera, Argentina, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-0.

Jana Fett, Croatia, def. Sada Nahimana, Burundi, 6-0, 6-4.

Yulia Putintseva (6), Kazakhstan, def. Aya El Aouni, Morocco, 6-1, 6-4.

Martina Trevisan (1), Italy, def. Nuria Parrizas Diaz, Spain, 6-2, 0-0, ret.

Sloane Stephens (2), United States, def. Vera Zvonareva, Russia, 7-5, 6-4.

Strasbourg International

Monday

At Strasbourg Tennis Club

Strasbourg, France

Purse: Euro 225,480

Surface: Red clay

Women's Singles

Round of 32

Clara Burel, France, def. Sorana Cirstea (5), Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-5.

Bernarda Pera (4), United States, def. Sophie Chang, United States, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, def. Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, 7-6 (2), 1-6, 6-1.

Lauren Davis (7), United States, def. Sarah Illiev, France, 7-5, 6-0.

Emma Navarro, United States, def. Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3.

Varvara Gracheva (6), Russia, def. Zhuoxuan Bai, China, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

Anna-Lena Friedsam, Germany, def. Zhang Shuai (3), China, 6-0, 6-0.

Viktoria Tomova, Bulgaria, def. Alize Cornet, France, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Kimberly Birrell, Australia, def. Elena

Malygina (6), Estonia, 6-2, 6-3.

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, def. Angelina Gabueva, Russia, 6-3, 6-1.

Geneva Open

Monday

At Tennis Club de Geneve Eaux-Vives

Geneva

Purse: Euro 562,815

Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles

Round of 32

Nicolas Jarry, Chile, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-2.

Bernabe Zapata Miralles (7), Spain, def. Vitaliy Sachko, Ukraine, 6-2, 6-4.

Adrian Mannarino (8), France, def. Filip Krajinovic, Serbia, 7-5, 6-1.

Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, def. Daniel Rincon, Spain, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.

Yibing Wu, China, def. Marc-Andrea Huesler, Switzerland, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (6).

Marcos Giron, United States, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-0, 6-4.

Lyon Open

Monday

At Parc de la Tete d'Or

Lyon, France

Purse: Euro 562,815

Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles

Round of 32

Miomir Kecmanovic (5), Serbia, def. Oriol Roca Batalla, Spain, 6-1, 6-3.

Brandon Nakashima (8), United States, def. Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, 7-5, 6-3.

Arthur Rinderknech, France, def. Lloyd Harris, South Africa, 6-4, 6-2.

Arthur Fils, France, def. Zhang Zhizhen, China, 6-3, 6-2.

Mikael Ymer, Sweden, def. Richard Gasquet (7), France, 6-3, 7-5.

David Goffin, Belgium, def. Alvaro Lopez San Martin, Spain, 6-1, 6-3.

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Placed LHP Richard Bleier on the 15-day IL. Recalled LHP Brennan Bernardino from Worcester (IL).

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Recalled RHP Jesse Scholtens from Charlotte (IL).

CLEVELAND GAUDIANS — Recalled RHP Hunter Gaddis from Columbus (IL). Optioned C Bo Naylor and LHP Tim Herrin to Columbus.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Reinstated LHP Parker Mushinski from the 10-day IL. Optioned LHP Matt Gage to Sugar Land (PCL).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Reinstated SS Nicky Lopez from the 10-day IL. Designated 1B Hunter Dozier for assignment.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated OF Seth Brown from the 10-day IL. Optioned 3B Jordan Diaz to Las Vegas (PCL).

SEATTLE MARINERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Marcus Walden on a minor league contract. Assigned 1B Dylan Moore to Tacoma for a rehab assignment.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Placed LHP Jake Diekmann on the paternity list. Recalled RHP Zack Burdi from Durham (IL).

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed INF Santiago Espinal on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 21. Recalled INF Otto Lopez from Buffalo (IL).

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Returned RHP Gus Varland from Milwaukee. Designated RHP Wander Suero for assignment. Placed LHP Clayton Kershaw on the bereavement list. Recalled RHP Gavin Stone from Okla-

homa City (PCL). Selected the contract of RHP Taylor Scott from Oklahoma City.

MIAMI MARLINS — Acquired Jonathan Davis from Detroit in exchange for OF Brady Allen.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed LHP Eric Lauer on the 15-day IL, retroactive to May 21. Recalled RHP Tyson Miller from Nashville (IL).

NEW YORK METS — Optioned LHP Josh Walker to Syracuse (IL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Sent 3B Miguel Andujar outright to Indianapolis (IL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Optioned LHP Jose Castillo to El Paso (PCL).

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed WR JJ Arcega-Whiteside. Placed WR Jared Bernhardt on the reserve/retired list.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Waived OLB Daelin Hayes. Signed QB Josh Johnson.

BUFFALO BILLS — Re-signed S Dean Marlowe to a one-year contract. Signed TE Joel Wilson.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed T Dawand Jones.

MLB

ROUNDUP

Rays hit 3 more HRs in win over Jays

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — After hitting 139 homers last season, the Tampa Bay Rays could blow past that total before this year's All-Star break.

Jose Siri, Randy Arozarena and Luke Raley homered, and the major league-leading Rays beat the sliding Toronto Blue Jays 6-4 on Monday night.

Tampa Bay (35-14) leads the major leagues with 94 home runs. The Rays opened a three-game lead over Baltimore in the AL East.

"The team that we have, we have a team that can run, that can field, that can hit," Siri said through a translator. "It doesn't matter what pitcher is up there, we feel confident in our ability to hit."

After opener Trevor Kelley pitched two scoreless innings, Josh Fleming (1-0) allowed two runs and five hits over the next six as the Rays improved to 22-4 at home.

Tampa Bay is the ninth team since 1901 to win 22 of its first 26 home games.

The announced crowd at Tropicana Field was a season-low 8,857. Tampa Bay started the day averaging 18,045, 10th in the American League.

Toronto's Chris Bassitt (5-3) pitched 28 consecutive scoreless inning before the Rays scored three times in the second. He allowed six runs — two earned — and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Whit Merrifield and Daulton Varsho homered for the Blue Jays (25-23), who have lost seven of eight and dropped 9 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay.

Dodgers 8, Braves 6: Freddie Freeman's three-run homer in the fifth inning gave visiting Los Angeles the lead, J.D. Martinez had four hits, including two homers, and the Dodgers rallied to beat Atlanta.

The Dodgers, who trailed 4-0 in the first, won the opener of a



STEVE NESIUS/AP

The Tampa Bay Rays' Isaac Paredes, left, and teammates congratulate Luke Raley, center, after his solo home run during the seventh inning on Monday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

three-game series between the top two teams in the National League. Freeman, a longtime Braves star, made the most of his second Atlanta homecoming with three hits to join Martinez in leading the comeback.

Dodgers rookie Gavin Stone allowed five runs on five hits and five walks in four innings in his second start for Los Angeles.

Angels 2, Red Sox 1: Mickey Moniak homered in the eighth inning and host Los Angeles won for the fourth time in five games.

Moniak drove a changeup from Kutter Crawford (1-2) over the wall in the right field to lead off the eighth.

Masataka Yoshida had two hits and an RBI for the Red Sox, who have dropped two straight after winning four in a row.

Pirates 6, Rangers 4: Tucupita Marcano hit his first career grand slam, rookie Luis Ortiz pitched into the eighth inning and earned his first major league victory and host Pittsburgh beat AL West-leading

Texas.

Ortiz (1-2) allowed two runs and five hits in 7 2/3 innings for the win in his eighth career start. The 24-year-old right-hander struck out four and walked two in a 93-pitch effort.

Guardians 3, White Sox 0: Rookie Hunter Gaddis pitched six strong innings for his first major league win and struggling catcher Mike Zunino connected for a two-run homer in a win for host Cleveland.

Gaddis (1-1) was recalled from Triple-A Columbus and gave the Guardians a badly needed quality start after they were swept over the weekend in New York. He gave up just two hits, combining with four relievers on a three-hitter.

Reds 6, Cardinals 5 (10): Nick Senzel hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th and host Cincinnati snapped a four-game losing streak.

Tigers 8, Royals 5 (10): Javier Báez hit a bases-clearing double in the 10th inning for his third hit

of the night to lift visiting Detroit.

Diamondbacks 6, Phillies 3: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. extended the longest active hitting streak in the majors to 15 games with a homer, double and two RBIs to lead visiting Arizona.

Rockies 5, Marlins 3: Elías Díaz homered and doubled to drive in two runs, and Jurickson Profar doubled twice to extend his on-base streak to 30 games and drive in another pair to lead host Colorado.

Giants 4, Twins 1: Michael Conforto hit a three-run homer and the first four San Francisco batters scored en route to the sixth win in seven games for the visiting Giants.

Mariners 11, Athletics 2: Jarred Kelenic hit his 10th homer of the season and Luis Castillo pitched six scoreless innings for host Seattle.

Astros 12, Brewers 2: Yordan Alvarez had a grand slam among his two homers, and visiting Houston won its eighth straight.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	14	.714	—
Baltimore	31	16	.660	3
New York	29	20	.592	6
Boston	26	22	.542	8½
Toronto	25	23	.521	9½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	25	23	.521	—
Detroit	21	24	.467	2½
Cleveland	21	26	.447	3½
Chicago	19	30	.388	6½
Kansas City	14	35	.286	11½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	29	18	.617	—
Houston	28	19	.596	1
Los Angeles	26	23	.531	4
Seattle	23	24	.489	6
Oakland	10	39	.204	20

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	29	18	.617	—
New York	25	23	.521	4½
Miami	24	24	.500	5½
Philadelphia	22	25	.468	7
Washington	20	27	.426	9

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	25	22	.532	—
Pittsburgh	25	22	.532	—
Chicago	20	26	.435	4½
St. Louis	21	28	.429	5
Cincinnati	20	27	.426	5

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	30	19	.612	—
Arizona	28	20	.583	1½
San Francisco	23	24	.489	6
San Diego	21	26	.447	8
Colorado	20	28	.417	9½

Monday's games

Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 0
Pittsburgh 6, Texas 4
Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 4
San Francisco 4, Minnesota 1
Houston 12, Milwaukee 2
Detroit 8, Kansas City 5, 10 innings
L.A. Angels 2, Boston 1
Seattle 11, Oakland 2
Arizona 6, Philadelphia 3
Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 5, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 8, Atlanta 6
Colorado 5, Miami 3

Tuesday's games

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

Wednesday's games

Texas (Perez 5-1) at Pittsburgh (Oviedo 3-3)
Arizona (Gallen 6-2) at Philadelphia (Suarez 0-1)
Chicago White Sox (Kopech 2-4) at Cleveland (Quantrill 2-2)
Houston (Bielak 1-1) at Milwaukee (Houser 0-0)
San Francisco (DeSclafani 3-3) at Minnesota (Ryan 6-1)
St. Louis (Matz 0-5) at Cincinnati (Lively 1-2)
Toronto (Kikuchi 5-1) at Tampa Bay (McClanahan 7-0)
San Diego (Weathers 1-2) at Washington (Williams 1-2)
Baltimore (Wells 3-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 4-2)
L.A. Dodgers (Gonsolin 2-1) at Atlanta (Elder 3-0)
Detroit (Boyd 3-3) at Kansas City (Greinke 1-5)
N.Y. Mets (Megill 5-2) at Chicago Cubs (Stroman 3-4)
Miami (Alcantara 1-5) at Colorado (Kauffmann 0-1)
Boston (Paxton 1-0) at L.A. Angels (Anderson 1-0)
Oakland (Waldichuk 1-3) at Seattle (Miller 2-1)

A's broadcaster Kuiper fired after racial slur

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Oakland Athletics broadcaster Glen Kuiper was let go by NBC Sports California after using a racial slur during a telecast while describing a trip to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

Kuiper was suspended by the network following his slur that aired during a pregame segment of an A's game against the Kansas City Royals on May 5. Kuiper talked about a trip to the museum with colleague Dallas Braden but seemingly mispronounced the word "Negro," making it sound instead like a slur.

"Following an internal review, the decision has been made for NBC Sports California to end its relationship with Glen Kuiper, effective immediately," the network said in a statement Monday. "We thank Glen for his dedication to Bay Area baseball over the years."

A person familiar with the investigation said "the decision was based on a variety of factors, including information uncovered in the internal review." The person spoke on the condition of anonymity and didn't divulge specific details because the network had not publicly disclosed the results of the investigation.

Kuiper said in a statement Monday night that he mispronounced the word "negro" out of his excitement talking about his visit to the museum.

"It was a terrible but honest mispronunciation, and I take full responsibility," he said.

Kuiper said "racism is in no way a part of me; it never has been, and it never will be."

"I am an honest, caring, kind, honorable, respectful husband and father who would never utter a disparaging word about anybody. Those who know me best know this about me," he said. "I wish the Oakland A's and NBC Sports would have taken into consideration my 20-year career, my solid reputation, integrity and character, but in this current environment, traits like integrity and character are no longer considered. I will always have a hard time understanding how one mistake in a 20-year broadcasting career is cause for termination, but I know something better is in my future."

NBA PLAYOFFS

Finals: Series marked several firsts for Denver

FROM PAGE 24

are,” Jokic said. “You don’t care about minutes, fouls, shots, percentage. You just want to win a game. Some plays today we weren’t playing good defense sometimes, (but) you can win it in every kind of possible way.”

James finished with 40 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists after the highest-scoring postseason half of his career, but even the top scorer in NBA history couldn’t keep the deep, dynamic Nuggets from their sixth consecutive victory overall.

James missed two tying shots in the final seconds, with Aaron Gordon getting official credit for blocking his tying try at the buzzer.

The Nuggets will cap their superb season by playing for their first NBA championship. Denver both eliminated the Lakers for the first time in eight playoff meetings and swept a playoff series for the first time, likely earning several days off before the Finals.

Unless the Boston Celtics make basketball history by rallying from their 3-0 deficit in the East finals, Denver will host the eighth-seeded Miami Heat to open the NBA Finals, beginning June 1.

“Me and AD were just talking in the locker room (and) we came to the consensus this is one of the best teams, if not the best team, we’ve played together for all four years,” James said of the Nuggets. “Just well-orchestrated, well put together. They have scoring. They have shooting. They have playmaking. They have smarts. They have length. They have depth. And one thing about their team, when you have a guy like Jokic, who as big as he is but also as cerebral as he is, you can’t really make many mistakes versus a guy like that.”

The Lakers erased a seven-point deficit and tied it with five minutes to play, but Jokic hit a 25-foot fallaway three-pointer — the

kind of ridiculously impressive shot for a big man that Jokic makes routinely. After Davis hit two free throws to tie it with 1:13 left, Jokic put the Nuggets ahead again.

James then badly missed a strange fallaway jumper with 26 seconds left. Murray missed a turnaround to give the Lakers one last chance, but James’ drive at the buzzer was thwarted by Murray and Gordon, who scored 22 points.

“For that game to go down to the wire and for the ball to be in LeBron James’ hands, those seconds were an eternity,” Denver coach Michael Malone said. “When the buzzer went off, it was almost surreal for a second. Couldn’t be more proud of this group.”

James scored 21 points in the first quarter and worked desperately to keep the Lakers competitive in the final game of his 20th NBA season. But the Lakers couldn’t even force a Game 5, with an apparently exhausted Davis scoring 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and adding 14 rebounds.

Austin Reaves scored 17 points for the Lakers, who were swept in a playoff series for the 11th time in team history, including nine best-of-seven series.

The loss ended seventh-seeded Los Angeles’ incredible turnaround after starting the season 2-10 under new coach Darvin Ham. After bolstering their roster at the trade deadline and surging into the postseason with two months of strong play, the Lakers then knocked off second-seeded Memphis and eliminated defending champion Golden State.

“Nothing but love and respect for the Denver Nuggets,” Ham said. “Love the way they play and what they are about. We also saw ways that ... I think we have an opportunity to do something special here, also, and we’ve just got to build off of this.”



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James set a personal record for points in a postseason half Monday when he had 31 through the first two quarters. He finished with 40 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

James mulls retirement after Lakers eliminated

BY GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James questioned retirement after his Lakers were swept by the Denver Nuggets despite the highest-scoring postseason half of James’ matchless NBA career.

James set a personal record with 31 points in the first half of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals on Monday night, but he missed two potential tying shots in the final minute as the Nuggets ended the Lakers’ season with a 113-111 victory.

The 38-year-old James finished with 40 points, 10 rebounds, nine assists and immense frustration after Los Angeles’ remarkable late-season surge ended with four consecutive defeats. Although the top scorer in NBA history spoke about himself as part of the Lakers next season, James also said he hasn’t made up his mind on retirement.

“We’ll see what happens going forward,” James said in the final answer of his postgame news conference. “I don’t know. I don’t know. I’ve got a lot to think about, to be honest. Just for me personally going forward with the game of basketball, I’ve got a lot to think about.”

James is under contract for \$46.9 million next season with the Lakers, but he is in charge of his future after surpassing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar’s career scoring record earlier this year. He hasn’t previously suggested much personal conflict about finishing his

Scoreboard

Conference finals (Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)	
Eastern Conference	
Miami 3, Boston 0	
Miami 123, Boston 116	
Miami 111, Boston 105	
Miami 128, Boston 102	
Tuesday: at Miami	
x-Thursday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Friday CET; 9:30 a.m. Friday JKT	
x-Saturday: at Miami, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT	
x-Monday, May 29: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9:30 a.m. Tuesday JKT	
Western Conference	
Denver 4, L.A. Lakers 0	
Denver 132, L.A. Lakers 126	
Denver 108, L.A. Lakers 103	
Denver 119, L.A. Lakers 108	
Monday: Denver 113, L.A. Lakers 111	

contract alongside Anthony Davis, and his play hasn’t significantly declined after two decades in the NBA — although his health has grown less sturdy, particularly in his balky feet and ankles.

“It’s all about availability for me and keeping my mind sharp, and things of that nature,” James said. “Being present on the floor, being present in the locker room and bus rides and plane rides, things of that nature. It’s challenging, for sure. It was a very challenging season for me, for our ballclub, and obviously we know whatever went on early on (in the Lakers’ 2-10 start to the season). It was cool, a pretty cool ride.”

James missed a month of the regular season with a foot injury down the stretch, but he returned with a series of stellar playoff performances while the Lakers knocked off second-seeded Mem-

phis and eliminated defending champion Golden State. That didn’t matter much to James, whose frustration broke through at several points after Game 4.

“I don’t like to say it’s a successful year, because I don’t play for anything besides winning championships at this point in my career,” James said. “You know, I don’t get a kick out of making a conference (finals) appearance. I’ve done it a lot, and it’s not fun to me to not be able to be a part of getting to the (NBA) Finals.”

In his NBA-record 282nd career playoff game, James dropped 21 points in a dynamic first quarter in Game 4. He added 10 more in the second while playing nearly the entire half of a do-or-die game against the top-seeded Nuggets.

But James had only nine points on 4-for-12 shooting in the second half, and he missed two chances to score in the final minute. He took a strange fallaway jumper that missed badly with 26 seconds left, and his final drive was thwarted by Denver’s Jamal Murray and Aaron Gordon at the buzzer.

But the first half was vintage LeBron: He made 11 of his 13 shots and hit four three-pointers without a miss in the highest-scoring playoff half of his career, which began in 2003 and has included four NBA championships. James added four rebounds and four assists, and he also got a technical foul after a physical exchange with Gordon when the two got locked up on the Lakers’ end of the court.



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic is mobbed by teammates Monday after accepting the series MVP trophy following Game 4 of the Western Conference finals in Los Angeles.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Panthers beat Canes for 3-0 series lead

BY TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The chants of fans in Florida drowned out the public-address announcer at the end of the game Monday night, making it impossible to hear his call of the first star of the game.

Then again, they already knew who it was going to be.

“Bobby!”

“Bobby!”

“Bobby!”

Sergei Bobrovsky earned those cries from the 20,000 or so who chanted in unison, after leaving no doubt in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals — and putting the Panthers are on the brink of their first trip to the Stanley Cup Final in 27 years. Bobrovsky stopped 32 shots for his first playoff shutout, and the Panthers blanked the Carolina Hurricanes 1-0 on Monday night.

“No matter what the score is, we’re just trying to make it as easy as possible for him,” said Panthers forward Sam Reinhart, who got the game’s lone goal on the power play midway through the second period.

He’s rewarded their work, and then some. Bobrovsky is now 10-1 in his last 11 appearances and has been almost perfect in the last eight games. Going back to Game 1 of Round 2 against Toronto, Bobrovsky has not allowed more than two goals in any contest, with 296 saves on 309 shots — a .958 save percentage.

And if that doesn’t sound absurd enough, try this one: Out of



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Florida Panthers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky stops a shot from Carolina Hurricanes right wing Stefan Noesen during the second period of Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals Monday in Sunrise, Fla.

the last 110 shots he’s faced, Bobrovsky has stopped 109 — starting in the third period of the four-OT win in Game 1.

“We’re happy with the ‘W,’ we’re happy with the win, but the next game is going to be a big game,” Bobrovsky said.

It could be Florida’s biggest since 1996. That was the last year

in which the Panthers played for the Stanley Cup, but they can clinch a trip to the title round with a win in Game 4 on Wednesday.

This marks the 205th time that a team has taken a 3-0 series lead in NHL playoff history. Of the first 204, 200 went on to win the series. The Panthers are 2-0

when taking the first three games of a series; the Hurricanes are 0-5 when dropping the first three.

“We can’t do much more,” Hurricanes coach Rod Brind’Amour said. “We like how we’re playing, clearly. It’s just, we’ve got to find a way to put one in.”

Matthew Tkachuk and Sam Bennett had the assists on Rein-

Scoreboard

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Florida 3, Carolina 0

Florida 3, Carolina 2, 4OT

Florida 2, Carolina 1, OT

Monday: Florida 1, Carolina 0

Wednesday: at Florida, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m.

Thursday JKT

x-Friday: at Carolina

x-Sunday: at Florida

x-Tuesday, May 30: at Carolina

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Vegas 2, Dallas 0

Vegas 4, Dallas 3, OT

Vegas 3, Dallas 2, OT

Tuesday: at Dallas

Thursday: at Dallas, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m.

Friday CET; 9 a.m. Friday JKT

x-Saturday: at Vegas

x-Monday, May 29: at Dallas

x-Wednesday, May 31: at Vegas

hart’s goal for Florida. It wasn’t a perfect night for Florida, however: Captain Aleksander Barkov left with about 7 minutes left in the first period with a lower-body injury and did not return, even though the team listed him as questionable. Panthers coach Paul Maurice did not have an update on Barkov’s condition after the game.

Frederik Andersen stopped 16 shots for Carolina. The Hurricanes pulled him with 3:22 left, desperate for the tying goal, but barely even managed to test Bobrovsky the rest of the way. And when it was over, the Hurricanes’ Jesperi Kotkaniemi was seen smashing his stick on the way to the locker room, the frustration so obvious.

That’s what a night of facing Bobrovsky does right now.

“He’s been incredible, all playoffs long,” Bennett said.

Golden Knights keep rallying, lead Stars 2-0 in West finals

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Golden Knights certainly know how to rally when they have fallen behind in these NHL playoffs because it has happened so much.

“We’ve got a thick skin,” Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said. “It’s veteran guys that know that one goal, getting scored on first, shouldn’t dictate the rest of the game.”

Even though the Knights have trailed in 11 of their 13 games this postseason, including 10 times when the opposing team scored first, they have a 2-0 series lead over Dallas in the Western Conference finals. The Stars, who scored first in both of those road games before losing in overtime, hosted Game 3 on Tuesday night.

“Just trying to stick with our game,” Vegas center Jack Eichel said. “You know you’re not going to be your best every night. But some nights when you’re not at your best, you find ways to win hockey games. ... You just keep working and you hope you get a

bounce or someone makes a play.”

That was true Sunday in Game 2, when Eichel’s slick backhand pass late in regulation after a Dallas turnover set up Jonathan Marchessault’s tying goal. And when Chandler Stephenson made the game-winner 1:12 into overtime by knocking in a rebound during a sloppy line change by the Stars.

“We could have won both games,” Dallas coach Pete DeBoer said. “I don’t think it’s less troubling that we lost both games in overtime. ... There’s mistakes made, and they cashed in.”

The Knights’ current streak of four consecutive comeback victories matches the longest in NHL playoff history — they are 8-3 overall after falling behind, and 7-3 when surrendering the game’s first goal. Their two wins over Dallas made them only the fourth team to score in the opening two minutes of overtime in consecutive games in the same postseason.

Their plus-30 goal differential in the first period during the regular season trailed only East final-



SAM MORRIS/AP

Golden Knights center Brett Howden celebrates center Chandler Stephenson’s goal against the Dallas Stars during overtime of Game 2 of the Western Conference finals Sunday in Las Vegas.

ist Carolina, and they were only a plus-12 combined the rest of those games. The Knights have been outscored by seven goals in the first period during the postseason.

“Now in the playoffs, it seems like we’re chasing a bit,” Cassidy said. “Yet, I don’t think we played poorly in the first period in a lot of

games.”

Dallas has back-to-back losses for the first time since mid-March. The Stars became the first team ever with OT losses in three consecutive series openers in the same postseason, but didn’t rebound with a win in Game 2 against Vegas like they did against

Minnesota and Seattle.

“We’ve got a really resilient group,” said Stars defenseman Ryan Suter. “Everyone showed up to play (Sunday) after Game 1 wasn’t very impressive. And then guys got it together. And now we need to go home and have that same effort.”

The Stars franchise overcame an 0-2 deficit in its very first best-of-seven NHL series, when the Minnesota North Stars rallied to beat the Los Angeles Kings in the first round of the 1968 playoffs. The Stars have since lost their last 12 series when falling in an 0-2 hole, six while still in Minnesota and six in Dallas, the last a first-round series against Anaheim in 2014.

The Stars went 8-14 in games that went past regulation in the regular season, two of those shoot-out wins while sweeping all three of their games against Vegas. Dallas is now 0-4 in overtime this postseason.

“The teams that go deep find ways to win in overtime,” DeBoer said.

NFL



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Panthers quarterback Bryce Young, right, talks with teammates during rookie minicamp on May 13 in Charlotte, N.C. Young, the No. 1 overall pick, impressed coach Frank Reich at Carolina's workout Monday.

Practices begin with eyes on first-year QBs, Rodgers

BY ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

Rookie quarterbacks will get much of the attention this week when most NFL teams hit the field for non-contact practices.

Twenty teams kicked off their voluntary organized team activities on Monday and 10 more will do so on Tuesday. Only the defending NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles and the AFC runner-up Cincinnati Bengals aren't holding workouts this week.

Teams are allowed, per the collective bargaining agreement, to hold 10 days of practices without pads and no live contact over a four-week span. They can run 7-on-7, 9-on-7 and 11-on-11 drills.

Aaron Rodgers, who didn't participate in some of these offseason workouts the past few seasons with the Green Bay Packers, was on the field with his new team. Wearing a green New York Jets helmet, black shorts and a red, No. 8 practice jersey, Rodgers pumped on one play and scrambled for a TD, holding both his hands in the air to signal a score.

Lamar Jackson, who signed a five-year, \$260 million contract extension earlier this month, was absent from Baltimore's session on Monday.

Bryce Young, the No. 1 overall pick, impressed coach Frank Reich at Carolina's first practice.

"Just complete command, control, poise," Reich said after the Panthers held Monday's workout. "You could tell the way he was seeing it, the way he was working through progressions, accuracy in the throw, ball placement of the



RON SCHWANE/AP

Todd Monken is the Ravens' new offensive coordinator, but several key players didn't show up for the first day of workouts to learn the nuances of the new offense, including the NFL's highest-paid quarterback, Lamar Jackson.

throw, it was all very good."

Though it's early and there's a long way to go before training camp, all eyes will be on Young, Houston's C.J. Stroud and Indianapolis' Anthony Richardson this week.

Here are some of the top story lines to follow:

Rookie QBs: Young, Stroud and Richardson, who were among the top picks in the draft, are getting acclimated to life in the NFL while also learning new offenses and shouldering the burden of high expectations.

Aaron Rodgers: Rodgers flashed a big smile as he ran into the end zone on his TD scramble in a video that had Jets fans buzzing on Monday. His attendance is a big deal for a franchise desper-

ate for a turnaround. Rodgers is already familiar with offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett's system from their time together in Green Bay. But the four-time NFL MVP has been spending time at the Jets' facility since his arrival and it should help him build chemistry with his new teammates.

Lamar Jackson: Todd Monken is Baltimore's new offensive coordinator, so the Ravens would prefer the NFL's highest-paid quarterback shows up to learn the nuances and work with his teammates. However, new Ravens wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., fellow wideout Rashod Bateman, tight end Mark Andrews and running backs J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards weren't in attendance on the first day, either. Plenty of starting players across the league prefer to work out on their own instead of attending voluntary practices and many often skip a few days until mandatory minicamp.

Sean Payton: The former Super Bowl-winning head coach with New Orleans returned to the NFL after a one-year absence and is trying to turn the Denver Broncos into a winner again. It starts with getting Russell Wilson to play more like the potential Hall of Famer he was in his first 10 seasons in Seattle.

Packers' new era: The Green Bay Packers will start a season without Rodgers or Brett Favre for the first time since 1991. Jordan Love will be under scrutiny as the team transitions to the fourth-year QB. He has the youngest group of wide receivers and tight ends in the NFL.

Owners approve limited flexing of Thursday games

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — Thursday nights in the NFL have long been the most drastic feature of its made-for-TV schedule, a prime-time slot that raised concerns about player safety and produced plenty of competitive duds.

Now the league will have the power, albeit limited, to change the matchups.

NFL owners approved Monday a flexible scheduling policy for Thursday night games on Amazon Prime Video, for Weeks 13-17 only and with at least 28 days' notice given to the affected teams. The league could push a Thursday night matchup in that range to Sunday afternoon if there's a more desirable game, a mechanism currently in place for Sunday night and Monday night games.

No team would be required to play more than twice on Thursday night in a season. The rule is just for 2023, for now. Any game could be selected for the move to Thursday, but the league said the bar for such a shuffle would be high.

"We're incredibly judicious and incredibly sensitive to flexing a game and all the dynamics that go into that," said Hans Schroeder, executive vice president and chief operating officer of NFL Media. "We're also trying to balance how we get the best games in the best windows for our fans."

In addition to the prime-time allowances for flexing games, the

NFL now puts the entire Week 18 schedule up for grabs until the week of so it can show two games with playoff implications on Saturday.

New York Giants owner John Mara, a critic of the proposal for its negative impact on fans, said after the vote that he was disappointed but not surprised.

Also approved Monday was a rule that allows teams to play an emergency quarterback from the inactive list if the first two are injured during a game, a decision that stems from San Francisco's depth-chart challenge in the NFC championship game.

The 49ers' Brock Purdy injured his elbow but was forced to return to the game when Josh Johnson suffered a concussion. Purdy was unable to throw the ball more than 10 yards.

The third quarterback designation will not count against the limit of active players that is determined 90 minutes before kickoff.

The emergency activation can only occur after injury or disqualification, not for a performance-related decision or other conduct. If either of the first two quarterbacks are cleared by the team's medical staff to return to play, the third must be removed from the game and can only return as a quarterback if an injury scenario arises again.

The league also awarded two major events for the 2025 season. The Green Bay Packers were given the NFL Draft, and San Francisco got Super Bowl 160.

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SPORTS



Close to closing it out
Bobrovsky, Panthers take 3-0 lead
in East finals » **NHL playoffs, Page 22**

NBA PLAYOFFS

Nuggets sweep into Finals

Brilliant Jokic gives Denver first title shot

By **GREG BEACHAM**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nikola Jokic is a player unlike almost anything the NBA has ever seen, and now he's taking his Denver Nuggets somewhere they've never been.

Jokic had 30 points, 14 rebounds and 13 assists, and the Nuggets advanced to the NBA Finals for the first time in team history Monday night, sweeping the Western Conference finals with a 113-111 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.



Malone

Jamal Murray scored 25 points for the top-seeded Nuggets, who overcame LeBron James' 31-point first half and a 15-point halftime deficit with a tenacious finish in Game 4 to earn their first conference title in their 47 NBA seasons.

"It's incredible," Murray said. "It's a lot of fun. It's surreal. We're going to keep making history, that's the thing. We're going to keep that mindset."

Jokic earned his eighth triple-double of the playoffs by the third quarter, breaking Wilt Chamberlain's 1967 NBA record for triple-doubles in a single postseason. The bulky Serbian center with a point guard's grace also led the Nuggets' gritty defensive effort despite picking up his fifth foul midway through the fourth quarter.

Jokic didn't leave the floor for the final 33 minutes of Game 4 — and when Denver needed a big basket, Jokic delivered that as well. He muscled past Anthony Davis for the game's final points on a layup with 51 seconds to play.

"I think that's why playoffs are so nice and so interesting, because you don't care about how tired you



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic celebrates as Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James asks for a foul call Monday after he missed a layup attempt as time expired in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals in Los Angeles. Denver won 113-111 to sweep the series.

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Rays hit 3 home runs in win over Blue Jays » MLB, Page 20



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