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STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Texas school rampage rocks nation

18-year-old gunman kills 19 children, 2 teachers in attack

By ACACIA CORONADO AND JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas — The gunman who massacred 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school legally bought two AR-style rifles just days before the attack, soon after his 18th birthday, and seemed to hint online that something was about to happen.

As details of the latest mass killing to rock the U.S. emerged Wednesday, grief engulfed the small town of Uvalde, population 16,000.

The dead included an outgoing 10-year-old, Eliahna Garcia, who loved to sing, dance and play basketball; a fellow fourth grader, Xavier Javier Lopez, who had been eagerly awaiting a summer of swimming; and a teacher, Eva Mireles, with 17 years' experience whose husband is an officer with the school district's police department.

"I just don't know how people can sell that type of a gun to a kid 18 years old," Eliahna's aunt, Siria Arizmendi, said angrily through tears. "What is he going to use it for but for that purpose?"

The gunman, Salvador Ramos, a resident of the community about



WILLIAM LUTHER, THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS/AP

A woman cries as she leaves the Uvalde Civic Center on Tuesday in Uvalde, Texas. An 18-year-old gunman opened fire Tuesday at a Texas elementary school, killing multiple children and two teachers and wounding others, authorities said. The gunman was killed.

SEE RAMPAGE ON PAGE 9

Court decision may offer line of defense for some American personnel in German tax fights

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A potentially precedent-setting decision by Germany's top fiscal court to overturn tax penalties on a U.S. Army civilian employee is being studied to see what ramifi-

cations it could have for other Americans locked in financially devastating fights with German tax authorities.

The Munich-based tribunal ruled in February 2021 that the finance court in Rheinland-Pfalz, home to the largest American mil-

itary community outside the United States, had ignored provisions in a bilateral tax treaty that makes U.S. government pay off-limits to German tax collectors under certain circumstances.

The little-known case, only now coming to light publicly, centered

on an unidentified active-duty soldier stationed in Germany in the 1990s.

An American official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday that the U.S. is aware of the ruling and is analyzing its implications to determine whether it

could be a model for others in Germany covered by NATO's Status of Forces Agreement.

At some point during the Germany tour of the former soldier in the case, he married a German

SEE DECISION ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Walmart apologizes for 'Juneteenth ice cream'

The Washington Post

Walmart pulled "Juneteenth ice cream" from its freezers and apologized Tuesday after a social media backlash and accusations of commercializing a holiday meant to commemorate the end of American slavery.

The retail giant was set to sell "swirled red velvet and cheesecake" ice cream in a container adorned with Pan-African colors and an image of two Black hands high-fiving each other. "Share and celebrate African American cul-

ture, emancipation and enduring hope," the label read.

But the product drew swift online condemnations from users who said the retailer was treating a solemn day as a moneymaking vehicle.

In a statement to Fox television stations, which first reported on the products, the company said it would "remove items as appropriate" as it reviews its Juneteenth products.

"Juneteenth holiday marks a celebration of freedom and independence," Walmart's statement said. "However, we received feedback

that a few items caused concern for some of our customers and we sincerely apologize."

Juneteenth marks the anniversary of freedom for enslaved people in Texas after the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved people in states that seceded during the war, but it was largely unenforceable, and many enslavers fled to Texas to continue the practice. On June 19, 1865, the Union army took control of Texas and outlawed slavery.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (May 26)	\$1.04	Bahrain (Dinar)	.3769
Dollar buys (May 26)	0.9134	Britain (Pound)	1.2529
British pound (May 26)	\$1.22	Canada (Dollar)	1.2843
Japanese yen (May 26)	124.00	China (Yuan)	6.6951
South Korean won (May 26)	1,232.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.9728
		Egypt (Pound)	18.5934
		Euro	.9375
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8498
		Hungary (Forint)	363.97
		Israel (Shekel)	3.3554
		Japan (Yen)	127.19
		Kuwait (Dinar)	.3059
		Norway (Krone)	9.6163
		Philippines (Peso)	52.33
		Poland (Zloty)	4.32
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7737
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3762
		South Korea (Won)	1,269.04
		Switzerland (Franc)	.9628
		Thailand (Baht)	34.31
		Turkey (New Lira)	16.3647

(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.)

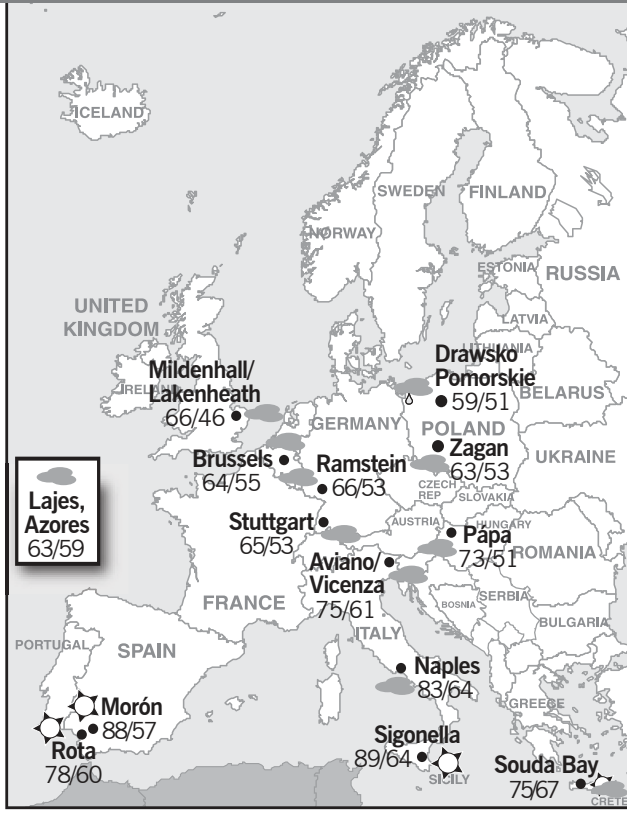
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	4.00
Interest Rates Discount rate	1.50
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	1.07
30-year bond	2.97

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

General prods Congress for Guard funding

Panel hears how spending bill delays hamper program to train Ukrainians

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The inability of Congress to pass timely spending bills is hindering the effectiveness of a National Guard program charged with training Ukrainian forces, the National Guard's highest-ranking officer told House lawmakers on Tuesday.

Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, implored a subpanel of the House Appropriations Committee to avoid delays in funding the State Partnership Program, a collaboration between a state's National Guard and a partner nation that is now teaching Ukrainians how to use American weaponry against Russia.

The initiative cannot function properly when Congress resorts to short-term, stop-gap funding measures because of a failure to agree on defense spending for a full fiscal year on time, Hokanson told lawmakers.

"Sometimes we don't get that money until later in the year and because we get it later and the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, the window is so short that our partner nations can't adjust accordingly and unfortunately, we have to return that money," he said.

Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md., and Tom Cole, R-Okla., pledged to address the issue as Congress deliberates over the Pentagon's \$773 billion budget request for fiscal year 2023, which begins Oct. 1.

"Count me as very much in favor of providing you with the flexibility to be able to keep those funds and deploy them as you see fit," Cole said. "I don't think there's anybody on this subcommittee that has any question about the value of this program and how effec-



TIMOTHY MASSEY/U.S. National Guard

Command Sgt. Maj. John Sampa speaks with 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard attending a basic leadership course while visiting in Yavoriv, Ukraine, in 2019.

tively those dollars have been used. We shouldn't let our own disfunction from time to time keep you from executing your mission."

The program came to the forefront this year as Guard troops took a leading role in preparing Ukrainians for combat. The California National Guard began a partnership with the nation in 1993 and conducted more than 1,000 training exercises with Ukrainians in the years since, Hokanson said. The National Guard maintained a regular presence at the Yavoriv military base near Lviv, Ukraine, since 2016.

When Russian forces launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, Ukrainian military leaders immediately texted members of the California National Guard, Hokanson said.

The Ukrainians first told the Guard members their country was being invaded and then told them

what they would need for battle, he said.

Florida Guard troops were among the last Americans to leave the country before the war began and are now training Ukrainian troops on howitzers, armored personnel carriers, radar systems and other equipment in Germany, Hokanson said.

The success of Ukrainian troops in repelling Russia's attack came as no surprise to the Guard troops who had worked with them, he said.

"A lot of the training we conducted with them when it comes to command and control, logistics, small-unit tactics, development of non-commissioned officers — we're really seeing the result of that on the battlefield today in Ukraine," Hokanson said.

The State Partnership Program began in 1993 with 13 former Soviet Union republics and now boasts

85 partnerships with 93 countries.

In 2021, the program added partnerships between Austria and Vermont, Cape Verde and New Hampshire, and Egypt and Texas, according to Hokanson.

The National Guard is aiming to grow the initiative by another 30 partnerships in the next decade, he said.

Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Calif., said the program could be especially beneficial in Taiwan as China eyes reclaiming the small island nation as its own. He noted last year's National Defense Authorization Act, an annual spending plan for the Pentagon, included a provision for determining the feasibility of enhanced cooperation between Taiwan and the National Guard.

President Joe Biden brought renewed attention to Taiwan during his first visit to Asia as commander in chief this week, vowing to defend the nation against a Chinese

attack.

"Taiwan now is obviously an issue," Calvert said. "I would like to get this going sooner rather than later."

The National Guards of Hawaii, Michigan and Minnesota have already cultivated relationships with Taiwan, Hokanson said, but Indo-Pacific Command and the State Department are examining what other capabilities the National Guard could provide. Hokanson said he met with the chief of staff of the Taiwanese army last October to discuss that army's reserve forces.

"The National Guard is here and our foot is on the gas. We're not slowing anything down and if there's any way we can help, we will do that as quickly as possible," Hokanson said.

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USAF publishes master sergeant promotion list a week early by mistake

BY JONATHAN SNYDER
Stars and Stripes

Nearly 4,000 future Air Force master sergeants were afforded a sneak peek at the service's promotion list Monday, thanks to an early, mistaken post to the service's personnel website.

The list, posted more than a week ahead of the scheduled May 31 release date, was live for about 40 minutes before it was removed from the site.

The promotions, however, were reposted by an anonymous user on

a popular Reddit page, r/Air-Force, which has more than 183,000 subscribers.

"To be clear I didn't leak this! I'm just trying to control the damage," wrote the anonymous Reddit poster.

The Air Force quickly removed the online list to preserve the commanders' "right and privilege" to inform their airmen of their promotions and also inform those who didn't make the list, said Toni Whaley, spokeswoman for the Air Force Personnel Center, in an

email to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

The promotion rate this year is down by 4.11% from last year to 14.8% of eligible candidates.

The Air Force selected 4,040 technical sergeants for promotion, but Reddit users questioned why the list included only 3,946 names.

"The 22E7 Promotion Board selected 4,000 technical sergeants for promotion and set aside an additional 40 allocations for supplemental promotions," Whaley said.

"The list that was inadvertently released does not include the names of Airmen with sensitive [Air Force Specialty Codes]."

The Air Force authorized 0.5% fewer master sergeant positions this year after revising the enlisted grade structure, personnel center spokeswoman Staff Sgt. Kiana Pearson said in a news release Tuesday. This year's promotion cycle saw an increase of 2,575 eligible technical sergeants for promotion over last year thanks to high retention rates, she said.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass addressed the spilled list Tuesday on her Facebook page.

"In this digital age, we are going to have information leaks, and it's easy to share without thinking," Bass said. "Concerning, yesterday's spillage ... I appreciate the Airmen who held fast and allowed command teams the time to properly notify their people."

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MILITARY

New names recommended for 9 Army bases

All are in former Confederate states and were named during Jim Crow era

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army will now have bases named after women and African Americans if Congress and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approve the recommendations offered Tuesday by an independent commission assigned to make the selections.

Congress mandated last year that an appointed Naming Commission come up with potential new names for nine Army installations that now honor Confederate generals from the Civil War.

The nine bases are all in former Confederate states and were named during the 1910s and 1940s amid the South's Jim Crow era.

These are the bases and the suggested name changes, according to retired Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule, a member of the commission:

■ Fort Bragg, N.C., to Fort Liberty.

Fort Bragg, N.C., is home to the 82nd Airborne Division and the name Fort Liberty honors a line in the division's song: "We're all American and proud to be well we're the soldiers of liberty," Seidule said Tuesday in a call with reporters.

"Throughout our history, liberty remains the greatest value ever since the nation created a standing army to provide for the common defense that army's greatest battles have been for liberty," he said.

■ Fort Polk, La., to Fort Johnson after Sgt. William Henry Johnson.

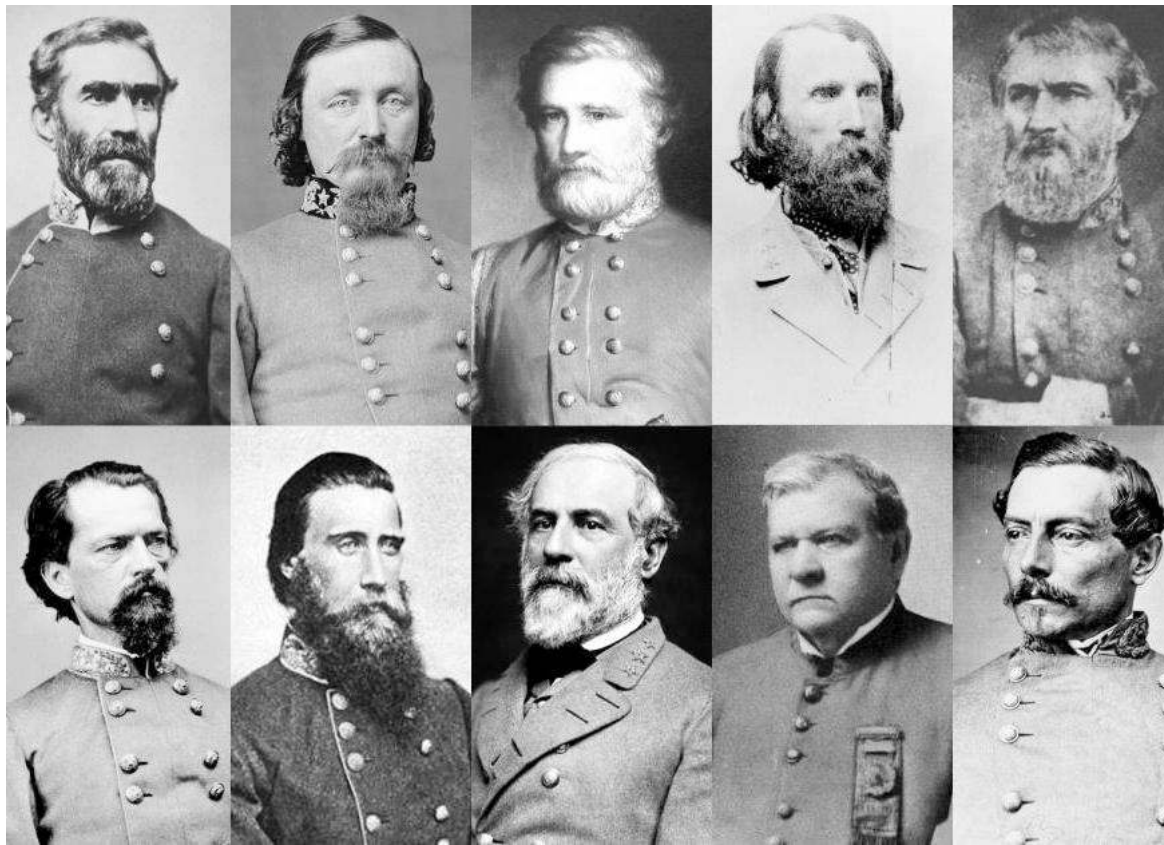
Johnson was a member of an all-Black infantry regiment that later became the 369th Infantry Regiment, according to the Army. Johnson is known for saving his fellow soldiers after suffering a German grenade attack on May 14, 1918, in France during World War I.

"Despite a grenade wound, Johnson attacked the Germans. First, he threw all his grenades, then he fired all his rifle ammunition," Seidule said. "He ran out of bullets to use, [then used] his rifle as a club until it was smashed to bits. [Finally], he took out his bow knife to save his comrades."

■ Fort Benning, Ga., to Fort Moore for Lt. Gen. Hal and Julia Moore.

The couple are honored each for their services to the nation, one in uniform and one as a civilian.

"With Hal and Julia Moore, we



Library of Congress

New names recommended for nine Army posts that honor Confederate generals were made public Tuesday by an independent commission assigned to make the selections. The bases are Fort Polk in Louisiana, Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia, Fort Rucker in Alabama, and Fort Hood in Texas. Officials have said they would not recommend a name change for Camp Beauregard in Louisiana, which was also named for a Confederate general, because it is owned by that state's National Guard.

recognize the Army family that serves the nation together," Seidule said.

The lieutenant general served in the Battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam in 1965 and received the Distinguished Service Cross and later "played a crucial role in the transition to the all-volunteer Army," he said.

Julia Moore is honored for her advocacy that led the Army to establish its casualty notification program and survivor support networks, Seidule said.

"Before her intervention, the Army notified the families of casualties by telegram carried by cab drivers. Horrified, she started accompanying the cabbies to deliver the devastating news to families about their loved ones," he said.

■ Fort Gordon, Ga., to Fort Eisenhower for former President Dwight Eisenhower.

"Eisenhower spent a lifetime in service to the nation starting as a West Point cadet in 1911 and finishing as president 50 years later," Seidule said. "Of course, we know Eisenhower best for leading one of the greatest operations in military history: the D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6, 1944."

■ Fort A.P. Hill, Va., to Fort Walker after Dr. Mary Walker.

Walker is a Medal of Honor recipient who served as a doctor during the Civil War. She was the Army's first female surgeon to go into battle, where "she remained

"It is our honor to unanimously recommend these names."

retired Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule
member of the commission

with wounded soldiers after the U.S. Army unit departed, disregarding her own safety," Seidule said.

"The enemy captured her and she spent four months in a prisoner of war camp," he said.

■ Fort Hood, Texas, to Fort Cavazos after Gen. Richard Cavazos.

Cavazos was a Distinguished Service Cross recipient who fought in the Korean and Vietnam wars and later commanded the Army's III Corps, which is headquartered at the installation, Seidule said.

"As a young lieutenant in Korea, [Cavazos] led his company on three separate charges of an enemy position," he said. "Then he returned to the field five times to evacuate his wounded soldiers before allowing medics to treat his wounds."

■ Fort Pickett, Va., to Fort Barfoot for Tech. Sgt. Van T. Barfoot.

Barfoot was a Medal of Honor recipient who served in the Army for more than 34 years, Seidule said.

"On May 23, 1944. Tech. Sgt.

Barfoot was in Northern Italy with his unit attacking a well-entrenched German position," Seidule said. "Barfoot moved out alone against the enemies left blank. [Took] out three separate machine gun emplacements one after the other capturing 17 prisoners."

■ Fort Rucker, Ala., to Fort Novosel after Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel Sr.

Novosel was a Medal of Honor recipient who flew more than 2,500 extraction missions in Vietnam, rescuing more than 5,500 wounded soldiers, Seidule said.

"On one extraordinary mission on Oct. 2, 1969, he saved 29 men despite suffering severe wounds," Seidule said. "Incredibly, on another mission, he rescued his son, a fellow helicopter pilot."

Seidule said he hoped the name would inspire "the next generation of Army aviators."

"Novosel represents the many families who served the nation," he said.

■ Fort Lee, Va., to Fort Gregg-Adams after Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams.

"The local community suggested we consider a hyphenated name, we thought that was a great idea," Seidule said.

Gregg, who is now 95 years old, enlisted in the Army at 17 at the end of World War II. He commanded logistics units "in war and peace all over the globe" during his career and still makes time

to mentor soldiers and families, Seidule said.

Adams left her teaching job in 1941 to join the military, later becoming one of the highest-ranking female soldiers in World War II. She commanded a postal battalion in Europe from 1944-45, "working under the motto, 'no mail, no morale,'" Seidule said.

"Adams and her unit made it their mission to sustain soldiers at the front and keep the families at home connected to soldiers, handling more than 6 million pieces of mail a month," Seidule said. "They cleared a six-month backlog in half the time expected and delivered tens of millions of envelopes to soldiers in the field."

The commission also considered changing the name of Fort Belvoir, Va., which was named after Union Army Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys from 1917-35 before it was renamed in 1935 after the family who owned the plantation where the installation now sits.

However, the group decided Belvoir "does not meet the criteria Congress provided" for the renaming recommendation, "but will recommend the Department of Defense conduct its own naming review of the post," the commission said Tuesday in a statement.

Army and Pentagon leaders began looking at stripping bases of Confederate-linked names in 2020 amid a nationwide racial reckoning after the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

In the commission's selection process, the members of the group visited the bases last year for listening sessions with military commanders and community leaders "to gain feedback on their process, preferences for new names and an understanding of local sensitivities," the commission said.

They also opened a website for the public to make suggestions between September and December, which resulted in the commission receiving 3,670 different name suggestions in more than 34,000 submissions, Seidule told reporters.

"We believe that these new names will inspire soldiers to achieve the highest standards demanded by their nation, in peace and in war," he said. "I speak for all eight commissioners when I tell you, it is our honor to unanimously recommend these names."

The names will be delivered in a report due to Congress in October. Lawmakers must give their approval on the names, which will then go to Austin to carry out the renaming formally, Seidule said.

MILITARY

Navy climate strategy lacks ship, plane emission targets

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

An ambitious plan to make the U.S. Navy greener aims to raise the energy efficiency of the service's ground vehicles, boost its supply of lithium batteries and install cyber-secure microgrids, among other goals.

But there's a glaring omission in the strategy. It lists no emission-reduction targets for the Navy's ships and planes, widely regarded as the hardest to decarbonize because of the amount of energy they require and the missions they perform.

Still, the Navy says in its new plan unveiled Tuesday that it should be able to reduce its overall emissions by 65% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050. The term means some greenhouse gases are released but are offset by the removal of an equivalent amount of the gases from the atmosphere.

Climate Action 2030 commits the Navy to exploring electrification, alternative low-carbon fuels and advanced propulsion for its land, sea and air vehicles.

"For the Department of Navy, this is existential," Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said in a forward to the strategy. "Our naval forces, the United States Navy and Marine Corps, are in the crosshairs of the climate crisis: the threat increases instability and demands on our forces while simultaneously impacting our capacity to respond to those demands."

The goals listed meet targets included in an executive order issued last year to all federal agencies by President Joe Biden.

In addition to those targets, the Navy pledged to cut 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2027, which is the equivalent of removing 1 million cars from roads.

The service says it also plans to get all of its elec-

tricity through "carbon pollution-free" means by 2030; have a fleet of zero-emission vehicles by 2035; and halve the CO2 emissions from its installations by 2032.

Cyber-secure microgrids are one of the ways the Navy will operate carbon pollution-free power at its installations, the strategy said. Microgrids are small-scale power generators, often creating energy from several sources, that can operate independently or collaboratively. At the same time, the service would draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and ensure a domestic supply of lithium batteries to help meet its climate goals.

Scientists say rising sea levels, recurrent flooding and more frequent and destructive hurricanes result from man-made climate change and are a particular challenge for the Navy.

"Climate change increases risk, exposes vulnerabilities to our people, installations, platforms, operations, and allies and partners," Meredith Berger, assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment, said in a statement Tuesday.

The Navy says in its strategy that it will equip sailors to operate in a world with more volatile weather. For example, climate threats will be incorporated into war games and training exercises.

The Biden administration's targets pose a formidable challenge to the Defense Department, which is the world's largest institutional consumer of petroleum and the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. However, DOD says it is taking the threats posed by climate change seriously and released an overarching climate plan in October.

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Decision: Tax specialist says more all-encompassing ruling needed to fully resolve issue

FROM PAGE 1

and bought real estate, actions that tax offices view as grounds for targeting U.S. personnel regardless of their SOFA status.

He was put in the taxing authority's crosshairs after leaving the service and transitioning to an Army civilian job in Germany.

The case did not delve into the main dispute over whether SOFA offers blanket tax protection for U.S. personnel on orders in Germany. Still, the crux of the issue is an American's motive for coming to Germany, according to the Munich court.

Local tax offices have argued that if Defense Department employees are not in Germany "solely" for their job and have other ties to the country, such as a German spouse, they can be taxed as an ordinary German resident regardless of their SOFA protections.

The Munich court asserted that "what is decisive is the point in time at which the applicant became resident in Germany."

That means local tax officials "need to look at the reason for this person coming to Germany in the first place," said Georg Weishaupt, a tax specialist representing three American families in separate SOFA-related tax cases. He analyzed the ruling for Stars and Stripes.

If the American arrived in Germany "solely" for the job and later married a German or bought German real estate, military pay would be exempt from taxation, Weishaupt said. But arriving in Germany with a German spouse or anything else that could be perceived as a special tie to the country is still problematic, he said.

"(The court decision) doesn't work for everybody," Weishaupt said. "Maybe (the problem) has been solved for some people who are affected but not for all."

It's been nearly two years since the U.S. lodged a formal complaint about the tax issue facing hundreds of Americans with military ties in Germany, and the countries remain at a standstill on the matter.

In the meantime, U.S. personnel have been left to their own devices to fight the tax collection efforts in court. The toll exacted by the assessments and costly legal challenges has left some Americans in financial ruin.

The unidentified U.S. official who spoke about the ruling said it doesn't completely solve the issue for targeted Americans because it's inapplicable in some scenarios. Weishaupt concurred that it is not a full remedy.

He said the decision applies on-



DANIEL SCHWARZ/Bundesfinanzhof

In 2021, the Bundesfinanzhof, the federal supreme court for taxes and customs in Germany, overturned monetary penalties imposed on a U.S. Army civilian.

ly to the family involved in the case at issue, so the question now is how local German tax offices will apply the ruling going forward.

Still, the case could set a precedent for Americans in similar circumstances who find themselves in the sights of the German version of the IRS.

Among the personnel who could stand to benefit from the court's decision are people who have been in Germany for an extended period, such as teachers in DOD schools, who often spend the bulk of their careers overseas and sometimes buy real estate in Germany, he said.

Active-duty personnel who arrived in Germany with no special ties and later transitioned to a civilian posting in Germany also would benefit from the decision, Weishaupt said.

However, the ruling would not help SOFA-protected contractors because the decision dealt only with Americans paid directly by the U.S. government. Also, service members or Defense Department civilian workers who marry a German while on tour or redeploy to a different country and return to Germany for another military assignment couldn't use the ruling as a defense, he said.

Weishaupt said a more all-encompassing court decision is still needed to resolve the issue permanently.

The Americans' cases he has working their way through the German legal system center on the contention that local finance offices are basing their right to tax on a fundamental misreading of SOFA.

"My position is anybody who is here under NATO SOFA is protected regardless of any intent or not to return to the U.S. or reasons for coming to Germany in the first place," he said. "If my position holds in court, this issue dies and it dies for good."

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Trial opens for Army reservist charged with entering the US Capitol on Jan. 6

Associated Press

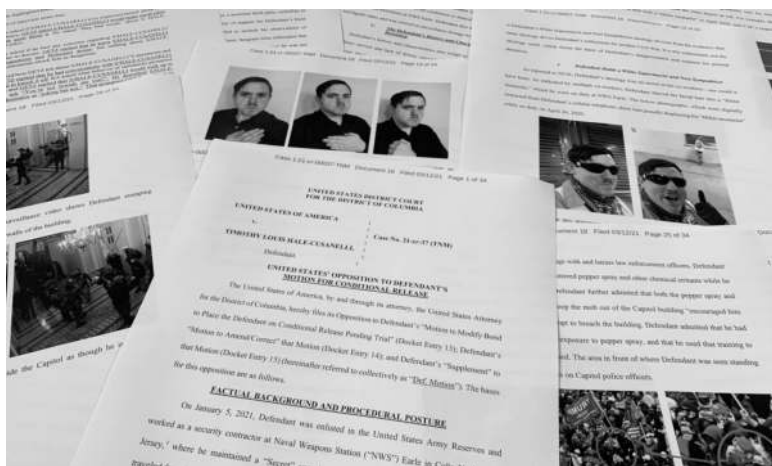
WASHINGTON — A U.S. Army reservist who worked on a Navy base stormed the U.S. Capitol because he wanted to kick off a civil war and create "a clean slate," a federal prosecutor said Tuesday at the start of the New Jersey man's trial.

But a lawyer for Timothy Hale-Cusanelli told jurors that "grouphink" and a desperate desire "to be heard" drove him to follow a mob into the Capitol. Hale-Cusanelli shouldn't have entered the building on Jan. 6, 2021, defense attorney Jonathan Crisp acknowledged during the trial's opening statements.

"But the question of why he was there is what is important," Crisp added.

Hale-Cusanelli is charged with obstructing the joint session of Congress convened to certify President Joe Biden's electoral victory. He isn't charged with engaging in any violence or property destruction that day.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathryn Fifield played a video that captured Hale-Cusanelli yelling profanities at police officers guarding the Capitol and screaming, "The revolution will be televised!"



JON ELSWICK/AP

The Department of Justice motion to oppose the conditional release of Timothy Hale-Cusanelli ahead of his trial on charges stemming from the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, is photographed Tuesday.

"This was not a peaceful protest," she said.

In pretrial court filings, prosecutors presented evidence that co-workers described Hale-Cusanelli as a white supremacist, a Nazi sympathizer and a Holocaust denier who wore a Hitler-style mustache to work. On Hale-Cusanelli's cellphone, investigators found photos of him with the distinctive mustache along with pro-Nazi cartoons.

It's unclear from online court filings how much of that evidence, if any, will be admissible at trial. In her opening statements, Fifield only made a brief reference to Hale-Cusanelli having bigoted views about Jewish people.

Crisp has argued that any testimony about Hale-Cusanelli's alleged statements about Jewish people would be "highly prejudicial in nature without substantive value."

PACIFIC

US, S. Korea respond to North's missile tests

BY DAVID CHOI
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea fired three ballistic missiles Wednesday morning off its eastern coast, prompting the United States and South Korea to respond with a show of force of their own launches.

North Korea's missiles, fired hours after President Joe Biden wrapped up his first presidential trip to Seoul and Tokyo, came from the Sunan area, where the regime's airport is located, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The three missiles were fired at 6 a.m., 6:37 a.m. and 6:42 a.m. The first, believed to be an intercontinental ballistic missile, flew roughly 224 miles at a peak altitude of 336 miles; the second "disappeared" at an altitude of 12 miles; and the third, believed to be a short-range ballistic missile, flew about 472 miles at an altitude of 37 miles, according to South Korea's military.

The Japan Ministry of Defense confirmed at least two ballistic missiles were fired Wednesday morning and landed outside of the country's exclusive economic zone, Minister Nobuo Kishi told news reporters.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in an unsigned press release Wednesday said the incident did not pose "an immediate threat to U.S. personnel or territory" and that it highlights the "destabilizing impact of



SOUTH KOREA DEFENSE MINISTRY/AP

A missile is fired during joint training between U.S. and South Korea at an undisclosed location in South Korea, on Wednesday. North Korea test-launched a suspected intercontinental ballistic missile and two shorter-range weapons into the sea Wednesday, South Korea said.

[North Korea's] illicit weapons program."

Following the launches, U.S. Forces Korea announced in an unsigned press release that it had fired surface-to-surface missiles toward its eastern coast "to demonstrate the ability of the combined [U.S.-South Korea] force to respond quickly to crisis events."

USFK, which is responsible for roughly 28,500 troops on the Ko-

rean Peninsula, said in the release it used the Army's Tactical Missile System and South Korea's Hyunmu-2 missile system for the live-fire exercise.

South Korea's military also conducted an armed exercise consisting of 30 South Korean F-15K jets, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement Wednesday.

"This armed protest by our military showed our will to firmly deal

with any provocation, including North Korean ICBM launches," the statement said. "We have the ability and the posture to conduct pinpoint strikes on starting points of provocations with our overwhelming fighting power."

North Korea's launches mark the regime's 16th round of missile tests so far this year. It last conducted a missile test on May 12, roughly a week before Biden arrived in

South Korea as part of his five-day trip to Asia.

U.S., South Korean and Japanese officials have warned in recent weeks that the North could conduct another missile or nuclear test as soon as this month. South Korean government officials braced for a possible weapons test during Biden's visit and said they prepared adequate countermeasures.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday condemned the North's tests and described them as a "grave provocation."

Pyeongyang's continued provocations will inevitably lead to "stronger and swifter [South Korea]-U.S. joint deterrence and invite only its international isolation," Yoon's office said in a statement.

Yoon, who was inaugurated this month, pledged with Biden to initiate talks to increase the scope and scale of U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises due to North Korea's "evolving threat."

"We are going to step up our exercises," Yoon said during a press briefing with Biden on Saturday.

Yoon, a member of the country's conservative People Power Party, has vowed to increase cooperation with the U.S. military and respond decisively against North Korea's provocations.

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China, Russia sent bombers near Japan as Quad met

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Japan scrambled fighter jets Tuesday in response to Chinese and Russian bombers flying near its airspace just as President Joe Biden met with leaders of the Quad grouping in Tokyo, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi told reporters Tuesday.

On the same day, South Korea scrambled fighter jets as Chinese and Russian warplanes passed through its air defense identification zone several times, Reuters reported Tuesday.

Near Japan, two Chinese H-6 bombers flew from the East China Sea to the Sea of Japan, where they joined a pair of Russian TU-95 bombers, Kishi said in a statement posted on the Ministry of Defense's website. The Sea of Japan is also known as the East Sea.

The two Chinese bombers were later replaced by a second pair of warplanes believed to be Chinese, and the four aircraft then flew out toward the Pacific Ocean, Kishi said.

None of the aircraft entered

Japan's national airspace, he said.

A nation's air defense identification zone, or ADIZ, is a broad territorial boundary over which it maintains air traffic control for the sake of national security. It is much more expansive than national airspace, an area over which a state exercises full sovereignty and into which foreign military aircraft cannot enter without permission.

Kishi characterized the bomber flights as a "provocation" timed with the meeting of the Quad nation's leaders.

Biden met with Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese, Australia's newly elected prime minister.

The four nations make up the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad, a loosely formed security pact with a stated purpose of promoting "a free-and-open Indo-Pacific."

The cooperative is essentially a means of countering China's growing economic, political and military influence in the region,



JAPAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

A Russian TU-95 bomber flies with Chinese H-6 bombers over the East China Sea, on Tuesday. None of the aircraft entered Japan's national airspace, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said.

and the collaboration has not been welcomed by Beijing.

The China Ministry of Defense described Tuesday's sorties as "a joint aerial strategic patrol," in a statement posted online Tuesday.

"The militaries of China and Russia staged the joint aerial strategic patrol in accordance with their annual military cooperation plan," the statement said.

Kishi said this was the fourth long-distance joint flight between China and Russia around

Japan since November.

A Russian IL-20 reconnaissance plane also flew over the "high seas" from the northern island of Hokkaido to the Noto peninsula on Japan's main island, Kishi said.

Meanwhile, four Russian and four Chinese warplanes entered South Korea's ADIZ on Tuesday, according to Reuters. The aircraft passed through the defense zone several times throughout the day, entering and leaving via the Sea of Japan, Reuters said in

a report attributed to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The aircraft included fighter jets and bombers from both China and Russia, the report said.

This was the first reported excursion of Russian or Chinese warplanes into South Korea's ADIZ since South Korea's newly elected president, Yoon Suk Yeol, took office on May 10, Reuters said.

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VETERANS



JOSH REYNOLDS/AP

Retired Marine Gunnery Sgt. Bob Workman of Boston, the past commander of the Boston Police VFW, replaces flags at veteran's graves ahead of Memorial Day on May 27, 2021, in the Fairview Cemetery in Boston.

Bill would let former service members keep clearances

Springfield News-Sun

Legislators have introduced a bill that, if passed, would allow service members to take security clearances with them into certain civilian jobs on leaving the military.

The "Security Clearance Portability for Departing Servicemembers" Act aims to expand employment opportunities for departing service members to transition into civilian national security contractor jobs by making it easier to transfer Department of Defense clearances, according to the bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, and two fellow House

members, Stephanie Bice, R-Kla., and Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich.

In an interview, Turner said the bill would provide a "bridge" from military work to civilian employment in the national security realm.

"We need to encourage ways for their security clearances to be preserved," he said. Applications for new clearances are "backlogged in the system," he added.

Such an ability would save time and may have a big impact in the Dayton area, home to dozens of private defense-oriented contractors serving the Air

Force and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

"Wright-Patterson Air Force Base certainly has a huge amount of individuals who are working in the classified space," Turner said. "This asset really is a national asset."

"American businesses of all sizes are still facing workforce shortages, and that certainly includes defense and intelligence contractors," Bice said in a release.

She said the bill would "allow those departing military service to transition smoothly and effectively into the private sector."

VA to again host public Memorial Day ceremonies at national cemeteries

By SARA SAMORA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs will host public ceremonies throughout the United States for the first time in two years since the coronavirus pandemic began.

VA officials said veterans, families and the public are welcome to attend in-person traditional VA Memorial Day ceremonies held May 28 through May 30, which is Memorial Day. The VA's National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries and 34 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 43 states and Puerto Rico.

When the pandemic began in March 2020, the VA's national cemeteries were opened from dawn to dusk on Memorial Day, but the usual memorial events to honor service members were brief and closed to the public.

The VA also issued guidelines about how its 142 national cemeteries should observe Memorial Day in May 2020. Cemeteries were open for people to visit gravesites, but visitors were asked to distance themselves. Moreover, the VA restricted all public ceremonies and barred groups from placing flags at veterans' headstones — a Memorial Day tradition.

In May 2021, the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relaxed its guidance on mask-wearing and social distancing. However, it didn't give the VA enough time to coordinate large events for Memorial Day weekend last year.

Nevertheless, the VA lifted masks and social distancing requirements at its national veterans cemeteries for people who were fully vaccinated against the

coronavirus. But the agency maintained restrictions on gathering sizes at funeral services.

This year, the usual ceremonies with large public gatherings to honor fallen veterans and service members will resume, including wreath-laying ceremonies and flags being placed at each gravesite.

"There is no more fitting place to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of America's veterans and service members than in a national cemetery," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said. "Here lie those who served, sacrificed and — in many cases — gave their lives for us and our country. We are forever in their debt."

McDonough will officiate the wreath-laying ceremony at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on Memorial Day. VA Deputy Secretary Donald Remy will preside the wreath-laying ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in Texas, and Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs Matt Quinn will attend the wreath-laying ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. Quinn will also give the keynote address at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

The VA also said live streaming and recorded video and photographs of the ceremonies will be posted on the National Cemetery Administration's Facebook and Twitter pages.

To view the list of Memorial Day events, visit <https://www.cem.va.gov/Memorial-Day/>.

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EUROPE

Ukraine: For talks, Russia must return to pre-war position

By RICARDO MAZALAN
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's president said Wednesday that Russia must pull back to its pre-war positions as a first step before diplomatic talks, a negotiating line that Moscow is unlikely to agree to anytime soon as it focuses its fire on key regions in the east three months into the war.

Speaking by video link at this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed a willingness to negotiate with Russian President Vladimir Putin directly, but stressed that Moscow needs to make clear it too is ready to "shift from the bloody war to diplomacy."

"It's possible if Russia shows at least something. When I say at least something, I mean pulling back troops to where they were before Feb. 24," the day Russia's invasion began, he said. "I believe it would be a correct step for Russia to make."

Zelenskyy also made clear that Ukraine wants to drive Russian troops out of all captured areas.

"Ukraine will fight until it reclaims all its territories," he said. "It's about our independence and our sovereignty."

Attending the Davos forum in person, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the situation in his country's eastern Donbas region was "extremely bad."

He called for friendly countries — particularly the United States — to provide the Ukrainian military with multiple launch rocket systems so they could try to recapture territory.

"Every day of someone sitting in Washington, Berlin, Paris and other capitals, and considering whether they should or should not do something, costs us lives and territories," Kuleba said.

A regional governor in eastern Ukraine said at least six civilians have been killed by the latest Russian shelling in a town at the epicenter of fighting.

Luhansk region Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Wednesday that another eight people have been wounded in the shelling of Sievierodonetsk over the past 24 hours. He accused the Russian troops of deliberately targeting shelters where civilians were hiding.

"The situation is serious," he said in written comments in response to questions from The As-

sociated Press. "The city is constantly being shelled with every possible weapon in the enemy's possession."

Sievierodonetsk is located in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where Russian forces have been pressing their offensive despite stiff Ukrainian resistance.

Ukrainian forces continue to hold the city, but a key supply route is coming under pressure, Haidai said.

Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas for eight years and hold large swaths of territory.

Sievierodonetsk and the nearby city of Lysychansk are the largest remaining settlements held by Ukraine in the Luhansk region, of which Haidai is the Kyiv-backed governor. The region is "more than 90%" controlled by Russia, he said.

The road between Lysychansk and the city of Bakhmut to the southwest is widely considered crucial to keeping Ukrainian troops in the area supplied. Haidai said it was "constantly being shelled" and that Russian sabotage and reconnaissance teams were approaching the area.

The head of the Donetsk region's military administration, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said two rockets which hit the town of Pokrovsk early Wednesday morning injured four civilians, who were treated in the hospital.

One strike left a crater at least 10 feet deep, with the remnants of what appeared to be a rocket still smoldering. A row of low terraced houses near the strike suffered significant damage.

"There's no place to live in left, everything is smashed," said Viktoria Kurbonova, a mother of two who lived in one of the terraced houses. The windows had been blown out by an earlier strike about a month ago, and they had replaced them with plastic sheeting. That, she said, probably saved their lives as at least there was no glass flying around.

Zelenskyy acknowledged late Tuesday that his country's forces in the region faced a difficult situation.

"Practically the full might of the Russian army, whatever they have left, is being thrown at the offensive there," he said in his nightly address to the nation. "Liman, Popasna, Sievierodonetsk, Slaviansk — the occupiers want to destroy everything there."



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

A boy plays in front of houses ruined by shelling in Borodyanka, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

Scars of war seem to be everywhere across Ukraine after 3 months of war

Associated Press

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine — Piano music wafted from an apartment block on a recent spring evening in Kramatorsk, blending with distant artillery fire for a surreal soundtrack to a bomb-scarred neighborhood in the eastern Ukrainian city.

No matter where they live, the 3-month-old war never seems to be far away.

Those in towns and villages near the front lines hide in basements from constant shelling, struggling to survive with no electricity or gas — and often no running water.

But even in regions out of the range of the heavy guns, frequent air raid sirens wail as a constant reminder that a Russian missile can strike at any time — even for those walking their dogs, riding their bicycles and taking their children to parks in cities like Kyiv, Odesa and Lviv.

Curfews, checkpoints and fortifications are commonplace. So are fresh cemeteries, uprooted villagers and war-scarred landscapes, as Moscow intensifies its attacks in eastern and southern Ukraine.

"City residents are trying to return to regular life, but with every step, they stumble upon either a crater or a ruined house or a grave in the yard," said Andriy Pustovoi, speaking by phone to The Associated Press from the northern city of Chernihiv. "No one is cooking food over a bonfire or drinking water from a river anymore, but there's a long way to go to a normal life."

Chernihiv was in the way of Russian forces as they advanced toward Kyiv early in the war. It was heavily bombarded, and Mayor Vladyslav Atroshenko said about half of its buildings were damaged or destroyed. At least 700 residents were killed, and part

of a city park now holds a cemetery, where some of them are buried.

Its streets are mostly empty now, half of the shops have not reopened and public transportation is not working properly, said Pustovoi, a 37-year-old engineer.

Rail service to Kyiv was only restored this month, but people who fled are in no rush to return.

"The scariest thing is that neighboring Russia and Belarus are not going away from Chernihiv, which means that some of the residents that left when the war started may not come back," Atroshenko said sadly.

Few people are seen on the streets of Kramatorsk, where storefront windows are boarded up or protected by sandbags, and it's no wonder.

The eastern city has been hit several times, with the deadliest attack on April 8, when a missile struck near its train station where about 4,000 people had gathered to be evacuated before fighting intensified. In an instant, the plaza was turned into a scene of horror, with bodies lying on bloodstained pavement amid discarded luggage. A total of 57 people were killed with over 100 wounded.

Kramatorsk is one of the largest in the industrial Donbas region of eastern Ukraine that has not been taken over by Russian forces. The region has been the site of battles between Moscow-backed separatists and Ukrainian government forces since 2014.

Elsewhere in the Donbas, the picture is even bleaker.

Ryisa Rybalko fled the village of Novomykhailivka, where she had been living first in a basement and then a bomb shelter at a school because of frequent shelling.

"We haven't been able to see the sun for three months. We are al-

most blind because we were in darkness for three months," Rybalko said. She arrived with her family in the town of Kiurakhove, driven by a fellow villager, and waited on Monday for a west-bound bus.

Her son-in-law, Dmytro Khaliapin, said their village was pounded by artillery.

"Houses are ruined. It's a horror," he said.

In neighboring Luhansk province, 83-year-old Lida Chuhay left the hard-hit town of Lyman, also near the front line.

"Ashes, ruins. The northern parts, the southern parts, all are ruined," she said Sunday as she sat on a train heading west from the town of Pokrovsk. "Literally everything is on fire: houses, buildings, everything."

In cities farther from the front lines, air raid sirens sound so often that few pay attention and continue about their daily business.

After Russian forces failed to capture Kyiv in the opening weeks of the invasion and withdrew to the east, residents started to flow back into the capital. The nightly curfew has been cut by an hour, and public transportation started running longer to accommodate passengers.

Residents face long lines at gas stations, and the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnya, has weakened from 27 to the dollar at the start of the war to 37.

"Ukraine is being destroyed — not just by Russian bombs and missiles," said Volodymyr Sidenko, an analyst at the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think tank. "The fall in GDP (gross domestic product) and the sharp reduction in the revenue side of the budget have already been felt by every Ukrainian today. And this is just the beginning."

NATION



BILLY CALZADA/AP

Kladys Castellón prays during a vigil for the victims of a mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday.

Desperation becomes more sorrow after elementary school shooting

Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas — Desperation turned to heart-wrenching sorrow for families of grade schoolers killed after an 18-year-old gunman barricaded himself in their Texas classroom and began shooting, killing at least 19 children and their two teachers.

Relatives who gathered at a civic center following the shooting Tuesday at Robb Elementary School in the southwestern Texas town of Uvalde pleaded for information and turned to social media for help. By Wednesday morning, many were left with the grim reality of an unimaginable horror as the names of the young victims began to emerge.

One man walked away from the civic center late Tuesday sobbing into his phone “she is gone.” Behind the building, a woman stood alone, alternately crying and yelling into her phone, shaking her fist and stamping her feet.

All of the dead were in the same fourth-grade classroom, where the shooter barricaded himself and opened fire on the children and teachers, Texas Department of Public Safety Lt. Christopher Olivarez told CNN on Wednesday morning.

Manny Renfro said he got word Tuesday that his grandson, 8-year-old Uziyah Garcia, was among those killed.

“The sweetest little boy that I’ve ever known,” Renfro said. “I’m not just saying that because he was my grandkid.”

Renfro said Uziyah last visited him in San Angelo during spring break.

“We started throwing the football together and I was teaching

him pass patterns. Such a fast little boy and he could catch a ball so good,” Renfro said. “There were certain plays that I would call that he would remember and he would do it exactly like we practiced.”

Lisa Garza, 54, of Arlington, Texas, mourned the death of her cousin, Xavier Javier Lopez, who had been eagerly awaiting a summer of swimming.

“He was just a loving 10-year-old little boy, just enjoying life, not knowing that this tragedy was going to happen today,” she said. “He was very bubbly, loved to dance with his brothers, his mom. This has just taken a toll on all of us.”

She also lamented what she described as lax gun laws.

“We should have more restrictions, especially if these kids are not in their right state of mind and all they want to do is just hurt people, especially innocent children going to the schools,” Garza said.

Slain fourth-grade teacher Eva Mireles, 44, was remembered as a loving mother and wife.

“She was adventurous. ... She is definitely going to be very missed,” said 34-year-old relative Amber Ybarra, of San Antonio.

As Ybarra prepared to give blood for the wounded, she wondered how no one noticed trouble with the shooter in time to stop him.

“To me, it’s more about raising mental health awareness,” said Ybarra, a wellness coach who attended Robb Elementary herself. “Someone could possibly have seen a dramatic change before something like this happened.”

Mireles posted a letter on the school’s website at the start of the

school year, introducing herself to her new students.

“Welcome to the 4th grade! We have a wonderful year ahead of us!” Mireles wrote, noting she had been teaching 17 years, loved running and hiking, and had a “supportive, fun, and loving family.” She mentioned that her husband was a school district police officer, and they had a grown daughter and three “furry friends.”

In the hours after the shooting, pictures of smiling children were posted on social media, their families begging for information. Classes had been winding down for the year and each school day had a theme. Tuesday’s was Footloose and Fancy. Students were supposed to wear a nice outfit with fun or fancy shoes.

Adolfo Cruz, a 69-year-old air conditioning repairman, remained outside the school Tuesday night, waiting for word about his 10-year-old great-granddaughter, Eliajha Cruz Torres. He had driven to the scene after a tearful and terrifying call from his daughter shortly after the first reports. He called the waiting the heaviest moment of his life.

Federico Torres rushed to the school Tuesday and waited for news about his 10-year-old son Rogelio. He told KHOU-TV on Tuesday he was praying that “my son is found safe. ... Please if you know anything, let us know.”

Hillcrest Memorial Funeral Home, which is located across the street from Robb Elementary School, said in a Facebook post that it would be assisting families of the shooting victims with no cost for funerals.

Rampage: Killer blocked door and started shooting

FROM PAGE 1

85 miles west of San Antonio, opened fire Tuesday at Robb Elementary. Lt. Christopher Olivarez of the Texas Department of Public Safety told CNN that all of the victims were in the same fourth-grade classroom.

The killer “barricaded himself by locking the door and just started shooting children and teachers that were inside that classroom,” Olivarez said. “It just shows you the complete evil of the shooter.”

Law enforcement officers eventually broke into the classroom and killed the gunman. Police and others responding to the attack also went around breaking windows at the school to enable students and teachers to escape.

Investigators did not immediately disclose a motive. But in chilling posts on social media in the days and hours before the massacre, an account that appeared to belong to Ramos displayed photos of his guns and seemed to indicate something was going to happen.

The attack in the predominantly Latino town of Uvalde was the deadliest school shooting in the U.S. since a gunman killed 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn., in December 2012.

The bloodshed was the latest in a seemingly unending string of mass killings at churches, schools, stores and other sites in the United States. Just 10 days earlier, 10 Black people were shot to death in a racist rampage at a Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket.

In a somber address to the nation hours after the attack in Texas, President Joe Biden pleaded for Americans to “stand up to the gun lobby” and enact tougher restrictions, saying: “When in God’s name are we going to do what has to be done?”

But the prospects for any reform of the nation’s gun regulations appeared dim. Repeated attempts over the years to expand background checks and enact other curbs have run into Republican opposition in Congress.

Days before the attack, an Instagram account investigators say apparently belonged to Ramos posted a photo of a hand holding an ammunition magazine. On the day Ramos bought his second weapon last week, the account carried a photo of two AR-style rifles.

In that post, Ramos apparently tagged another Instagram user, one with more than 10,000 followers, asking her to share the picture with her followers.

“I barely know you and u tag me in a picture with some guns,” replied the Instagram user, who has since removed her profile. “It’s just scary.”

On the morning of the attack, the account linked to the gunman replied: “I’m about to.”

Instagram confirmed to The Associated Press that it is working with law enforcement to review the account but declined to answer questions about the postings. Investigators are also looking at a separate account on TikTok, possibly belonging to the shooter, with a profile that reads: “Kids be scared IRL,” an acronym meaning “in real life.” The profile is not dated.

Officers found one of the rifles in Ramos’ truck, the other in the school, according to the briefing given to lawmakers. Ramos was wearing a tactical vest, but it had no hardened body-armor plates inside, lawmakers were told. He also dropped a backpack containing several magazines full of ammunition near the school entrance.

One of the guns was purchased at a federally licensed dealer in the Uvalde area on May 17, according to state Sen. John Whitmire. Ramos bought 375 rounds of ammunition the next day, then purchased the second rifle last Friday.

Tuesday morning, Ramos shot and wounded his grandmother, then fled the scene, crashing his truck near the school and entering the building, authorities said.

Dillon Silva, whose nephew was in a nearby classroom, said students were watching the Disney movie “Moana” when they heard several loud pops and a bullet shattered a window.

Moments later, their teacher saw the attacker stride past the door.

“Oh, my God, he has a gun!” the teacher shouted twice, according to Silva. “The teacher didn’t even have time to lock the door,” he said.

A tactical team forced its way into the classroom where the attacker was holed up and was met with gunfire from Ramos but shot and killed him, according to Olivarez.

In the aftermath, families in Uvalde waited hours for word on their children.

At the town civic center where some gathered Tuesday night, the silence was broken repeatedly by screams and wails. “No! Please, no!” one man yelled as he embraced another man.

Staff members in scrubs and devastated victims’ relatives could be seen weeping as they left Uvalde Memorial Hospital, where many of the children were taken. Three children and an adult were being treated at a San Antonio hospital, where two of them — a 66-year-old woman and 10-year-old girl — were listed in serious condition.

NATION

Trump rebuked in Ga. contests; Sanders wins

BY STEVE PEOPLES
AND JEFF AMY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia easily dispatched Donald Trump's hand-picked challenger on Tuesday in a Republican primary that demonstrated the limits of the former president and his conspiracy-fueled politics in a critical swing state.

Kemp will face Democrat Stacey Abrams this fall in what will be one of the nation's most consequential governor's races.

The GOP results, combined with the loss of the Trump-backed candidate for secretary of state, served as a stinging rebuke for the former president in a state he prioritized above almost all others. Angered by Kemp's refusal to go along with his extraordinary effort to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia, Trump personally recruited former Sen. David Perdue to challenge the sitting governor. He also helped clear the primary field and spent more than \$3 million on the failed effort.

Kemp ultimately emerged as a powerful candidate able to draw prolific fundraising totals that helped him flood Georgia with television and other ads. He tapped into the power of his office to show voters what he could do for them, unveiling a \$5.5 billion, 8,100-job Hyundai Motor plant near Savannah in the final days of the campaign.

"Even in the middle of a tough primary, conservatives across our state didn't listen to the noise. They didn't get distracted," Kemp told cheering supporters, before calling on his party to rally behind his cam-

paign.

In defeat, Perdue struck a unifying tone that has become increasingly rare in a Republican Party dominated by Trump's hardline tactics.

"I want you to know tonight that I am fully supporting Brian Kemp in his run to beat Stacey Abrams," Perdue said. "It's emotional for all of us, we're disappointed, I get that. Let's take a few hours, lick our wounds, and tomorrow morning, you're going to hear me going to work for Brian Kemp to make damn sure that Stacey Abrams is never governor of Georgia."

In all, five states were voting Tuesday, including Alabama, Arkansas, Texas and Minnesota. But none had been more consumed than Georgia by Trump and his lie that the 2020 election was stolen.

Altogether, Trump failed to replace all four Republican incumbents he targeted in the state, including the governor, attorney general and secretary of state. Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who refused to support the former president's direct calls to overturn the 2020 election, defeated Trump's choice, Rep. Jody Hice.

Still, the totality of Tuesday's contests underscored the sustained power of Trumpism in Republican politics 18 months after he was voted out of office. His preferred Senate candidate in Georgia, Herschel Walker, easily won the GOP nomination despite warnings from Walker's Republican competitors about his history of domestic violence and mental health struggles. He will face Democratic incumbent Sen. Raphael Warnock in the fall in a



THOMAS METTHE, THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE/AP

Former Trump White House press secretary Sarah Sanders won the Republican nomination for Arkansas governor on Tuesday.



BEN GRAY/AP

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who refused to support Donald Trump's calls to overturn the 2020 election, defeated the former president's choice, Rep. Jody Hice, in a GOP primary.

race that could determine control of the chamber.

Meanwhile, Republicans and Democrats elsewhere were navigating challenging primaries.

Democrats were especially focused on a runoff election in south Texas, where longtime incumbent Rep. Henry Cuellar was facing a fierce challenge from progressive Jessica Cisneros in a race where abortion was a prominent issue. Cuellar is the last anti-abortion Democrat serving in the House. The race was too early to call with the candidates separated by 175 votes, or 0.38 percentage points, out of 45,209 ballots counted as of 2 a.m. ET Wednesday.

In Alabama, conservative firebrand Rep. Mo Brooks and Katie Britt advanced to a June runoff to represent the GOP in the race to replace retiring Sen. Richard Shelby. Britt served as Shelby's former chief of staff, while Brooks, a leading figure at the Jan. 6 "Stop the Steal" rally that preceded the Capitol attack, initially won Trump's endorsement. Trump rescinded his backing after watching Brooks struggle in the polls.

And former Trump White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, who was the face of an administration that contributed to the nation's stark divide, won the Republican governor's nomination in Arkansas.

FDA chief to address formula plant woes

BY MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal plans to inspect a baby formula factory linked to the nationwide shortage were slowed by COVID-19, scheduling conflicts and other logistical problems, according to prepared testimony from the head of the Food and Drug Administration.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf was to answer questions Wednesday from House lawmakers probing the events leading to the formula shortage, which has forced the U.S. to begin airlifting products from Europe while many parents still hunt for scarce supplies in stores.

The issue is largely tied to problems at Abbott Nutrition's Michigan plant, the largest in the U.S., which the FDA shut down in February due to contamination. In prepared remarks, Califf gives the first detailed account of why it took his agency months to inspect the plant after first learning of potential problems last fall.

Members of an Energy and Commerce subcommittee will also hear from three infant formula makers, including a top executive from Abbott.

FDA staff began honing in on Abbott's plant last year while tracking four bacterial infections in infants who had consumed formula from the facility. The cases occurred between September and January, causing four hospitalizations, including two deaths.

Califf will tell lawmakers that the FDA began planning to visit the Sturgis, Mich., plant in early December, with inspectors set to arrive on Dec. 30. But Abbott said that about a dozen of its employees had recently tested positive for COVID-19 and requested a delay. As a result, the FDA didn't begin its inspection until Jan. 31.

After detecting positive samples of bacteria in multiple parts of the plant, the FDA closed the facility and Abbott announced a massive recall of its formula on Feb. 17.

Abbott and the FDA have reached an agreement to reopen the plant next week, requiring the company to regularly undergo outside safety audits. But Califf's testimony suggests FDA efforts to reopen the plant were slowed by negotiations with Abbott, which had to be codified in a court agreement.

The FDA has also faced questions about its timeline for reviewing an October whistleblower complaint alleging safety violations at Abbott's plant. Califf's testimony details a two-month gap between when regulators received the report and when they interviewed the whistleblower.

Feds: Iraqi man plotted visit to Texas to kill President Bush

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Iraqi man who came to the United States two years ago and applied for asylum hatched a plot to assassinate former President George W. Bush in retaliation for casualties against his compatriots during the Iraq War, the U.S. government announced Tuesday.

Shihab Ahmed Shihab Shihab, 52, also schemed to smuggle other Iraqis into the U.S. from Mexico to aid in the plot, after which they'd be smuggled back out through Mexico, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Columbus.

Shihab insinuated he had contacts with Islamic State, but it did not appear the plot came close to materializing, with confidential informants briefing the FBI from April 2021 through this month, the complaint said.

Shihab was ordered held without bond by federal Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Preston Deavers during a short hearing in court Tuesday. Deavers scheduled a detention hearing for Friday.

Shihab was not required to enter a plea. Soumyajit Dutta, a federal public defender representing Shihab at the hearing, declined to comment. If convicted, Shihab could face up to 30 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines.

Freddy Ford, the chief of staff at the 75-year-old former president's office, said, "President Bush has all the confidence in the world in the United States Secret Service and our law enforcement and intelligence communities."

Shihab worked at restaurants in and around Columbus and also at a market in Indianapolis where he had an apartment, the government said.

Shihab told a confidential informant that he assisted in the killing of American soldiers during the Iraq War, and said he and others "wished to kill former president Bush because they felt that he was responsible for killing many Iraqis and breaking apart the entire country of Iraq," the complaint said.

Shihab traveled in February to Dallas, where he took video of the entrance gate to the neighborhood where Bush lives, and also traveled to Detroit in November to investigate smuggling Iraqi nationals into the U.S., the government said.

Shihab met a confidential informant in a Columbus hotel room in March to examine weapons and U.S. border patrol uniforms, according to the complaint. Shihab allegedly planned to use a Columbus car dealership to help transfer money from an ISIS official into the U.S.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Jaws' extra named police chief where flick filmed

MA OAK BLUFFS — A man who as a child had a brief role in "Jaws" was named police chief on the Massachusetts island on which the 1975 Oscar-winning movie was partially filmed.

Jonathan Searle was offered the job of police chief in Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard last week.

The movie centers on the efforts of a police chief in a fictional resort town trying to rid the local waters of a killer shark. Scenes were filmed in various locations on Martha's Vineyard, according to IMDB.com.

In the movie, Searle played one of two boys who send beachgoers into a panic by swimming around with a fake shark's fin.

Couple kills bear that attacked them in home

WI MEDFORD — A Wisconsin couple said they killed a bear that attacked them inside their home after they spotted it eating from their bird feeder.

The Taylor County Sheriff's office said the attack happened at a home near Medford in north-central Wisconsin. The couple told authorities that the bear charged through a window after they yelled at it to go away.

Both the husband and wife were injured before they were able to stab the bear with a kitchen knife. Eventually, the man was able to grab a firearm and kill the animal.

Retired warrant officers can now join Guard

TN NASHVILLE — Beginning this month, warrant officers retired from active duty in the U.S. Army will be able to join the Tennessee National Guard.

The program has been talked about for years, but Tennessee is the first to implement it, Brig. Gen. Warner Ross, Tennessee's assistant adjutant general-Army, said in a news release. Previously it was allowed only for soldiers deemed indispensable by the secretary of the Army. Now, nearly all retired active duty Army warrant officers are eligible.

The U.S. Army and National Guard Bureau updated their policies to make the change possible last year. Tennessee formalized its own state policy this month, according to the release.

Official arrested, charged with stealing cattle

TX MENTONE — The top elected official in a rural and sparsely populated West Texas county was arrested after being accused of stealing cattle.

Loving County Judge Skeet Jones, 71, and three other men were arrested on charges of livestock theft and engaging in orga-



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Goat crossing

Traffic comes to a halt as Henry Ambrosio leads a herd of goats across Jefferson Boulevard to a new field to graze in West Sacramento, Calif. The city of West Sacramento hired Blue Tent Farms of Redding to bring their goats to graze along the Barge Canal and Clarksburg Branch Line Trail to reduce the potential fire hazard in the area.

nized criminal activity.

The arrests came after a year-long investigation, according to a statement from the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. The association's special rangers allege that Jones and the others gathered stray cattle and sold them without following procedures set forth in the Texas Agriculture Code.

The theft of livestock charge carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison while the organized criminal activity charge carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

Resort parent firm fined \$27K after zip line death

VT STOWE — Vail Resorts was fined more than \$27,000 for safety violations after a Stowe Mountain Resort employee was thrown from a zip line ride and died last fall.

Scott Lewis, 53, of Stowe, hit the anchoring platform that was holding the line and could not be revived on Sept. 23, 2021, police said.

Investigators found that a component of the lanyard supporting Lewis had not been properly inspected or replaced as the manufacturer recommended, WCAX-TV reported. Investigators also

found in the report that the resort failed to provide training to each employee required to use the equipment, the news station reported. The report also noted that Lewis was traveling at more than 80 mph.

Vail Resorts, the parent company of Stowe, said it continues to work with Vermont authorities concerning the accident.

Workers fend off heist of jewelry store

CA HUNTINGTON BEACH — Four intruders armed with hammers attempted to rob a Southern California jewelry store but were blocked by employees who fought back.

The Orange County Register reported four people dressed in black burst into Princess Bride Diamonds in a busy outdoor shopping mall in Huntington Beach and smashed a display case.

Employees rushed forward and kicked at the intruders, and one used a chair to fend off the heist.

An hour later, another smash and grab robbery occurred about 7 miles away at Don Roberto's Jewelry Store in Santa Ana, police said. In that incident, four thieves took \$7,000 in jewelry.

Three suspects were arrested in

connection with the Santa Ana heist. It was not immediately clear whether the incidents in the two cities were connected.

Gun-sniffing dog added to security at mall

SC COLUMBIA — A dog trained to sniff out guns was added to the security team at a South Carolina mall where 15 people were hurt in a shooting last month.

The dog, named Carlos, will walk around Columbiana Centre with its handler, alerting the human if he smells a weapon. Security guards will then remove the person from the mall, which has a policy prohibiting weapons, mall officials said in a statement.

Nine people were shot and another six injured in the rush to exit Columbiana Centre in Columbia after the April 16 shooting. Three people face charges in the shooting, which police said stemmed from a long-running dispute.

\$300K hospital bill tossed for promised tab

CO DENVER — Colorado's Supreme Court ruled in favor of a woman who expected to pay about \$1,300 for spi-

nal fusion surgery but was billed more than \$300,000 by a suburban Denver hospital that included charges it never disclosed she might be liable for.

The ruling in favor of Lisa French, who underwent two surgeries in 2014, follows efforts by many U.S. states and the federal government to help curb health care costs by restricting or eliminating so-called "surprise billing" and requiring increased price transparency for consumers.

In a unanimous opinion, the Colorado justices ruled that agreements French signed before surgery at St. Anthony North Health Campus in Westminster don't compel her to pay the extra charges, which stemmed from a then-secret list of prices for services that hadn't been disclosed to her.

French had expected to pay \$1,337 out of pocket after her medical insurance covered the rest, believing St. Anthony's was an in-network provider.

But a hospital employee provided her an incorrect estimate after apparently misreading her insurance card; in fact, the hospital wasn't in-network, The Denver Post reported.

NATION

Pandemic-weary US plans for summer despite virus surge

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A high school prom in Hawaii where masked dancers weren't allowed to touch. A return to virtual city council meetings in one Colorado town after the mayor and others tested positive following an in-person session. A reinstated mask mandate at skilled nursing facilities in Los Angeles County after 22 new outbreaks in a single week.

A COVID-19 surge is underway that is starting to cause disruptions as the school year wraps up and Americans prepare for summer vacations. Many people, though, have returned to their pre-pandemic routines and plans, which often involve travel.

Case counts are as high as they've been since mid-February, and those figures are likely a major undercount because of unreported positive home test results and asymptomatic infections. Earlier this month, an influential modeling group at the University of Washington in Seattle estimated that only 13% of cases were being reported to U.S. health authorities.

Hospitalizations are also up and more than one-third of the U.S. population lives in areas that are considered at high risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Northeast has been hit the hardest.

Yet vaccinations have stagnated and elected officials nationwide seem loath to impose new restrictions on a public that's ready to move on even as the U.S. death toll surpassed 1 million peo-

ple less than 2½ years into the outbreak.

"People probably are underestimating the prevalence of COVID," said Crystal Watson, public health lead in the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security's Coronavirus Resource Center. "I think there's a lot more virus out there than we recognize, and so people are much, much more likely than they anticipate to be exposed and infected."

A major metric for the pandemic — the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases in the United States — skyrocketed over the last two weeks, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. The figure was about 76,000 on May 9 and jumped to nearly 109,000 on Monday. That was the highest it had been since mid-February, when the omicron-fueled surge was winding down.

Deaths are still on the decline and hospital intensive care units aren't swamped like they were at other times during the pandemic, likely because vaccinations and immunity from people who have already had the disease are keeping many cases less severe.

"The nature of the disease has changed. Two years ago, I was seeing a steady flow of bad pneumonia cases. Now we are in a situation where people should be able to avoid that outcome by taking advantage of vaccines, pre-exposure prophylaxis (for high risk) and early anti-viral therapy," Dr. Jonathan Dworkin, a clinical infectious diseases physician in Hawaii, said by email.



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Sven Spichiger, Washington state Department of Agriculture managing entomologist, displays a canister of Asian giant hornets vacuumed from a nest in a tree behind him in Blaine, Wash., on Oct. 24, 2020.

Scientists will set 1K traps for murder hornets this year

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Scientists will set about 1,000 traps this year in their quest to wipe out the Asian giant hornet in Washington, the state Department of Agriculture said Tuesday.

Scientists believe the hornets, first detected in the Pacific Northwest state in 2019, are confined in Whatcom County, which is located on the Canadian border north of Seattle.

"We are doing pretty good right now," said Sven-Erik Spichiger, who is leading the fight to eradicate the hornets for the state Department of Agriculture. "We know about where the nests are located in Whatcom County."

The insects are the world's largest hornets, with queens

reaching up to 2 inches long. They are considered invasive in North America for their ability to kill other bee and hornet species, which is how they got the nickname "murder hornets."

Hornets caught in traps help scientists find the location of nests. The state eradicated three nests last year, all near the town of Blaine, Wash., and there have been no confirmed reports of Asian giant hornet nests so far this year, Spichiger said.

Most of the traps will be set in northern Whatcom County, but a few will be set in the city of Bellingham, he said.

The agency is also encouraging residents to set their own traps to cover more ground.

The hornets will not be consi-

dered eradicated until Washington has gone three full years with no detections, the agency said. The first confirmed detection of an Asian giant hornet in Washington was made in December 2019.

Spichiger said the Entomological Society of America is also working to establish an official name for the insect. Asian giant hornet, or the popular nickname murder hornet, are not official names, he said.

The hornets can also deliver a painful sting, which can result in death if a person is stung repeatedly. Asian giant hornets rarely attack humans unless provoked. About 30 to 50 people die annually from Asian giant hornet stings in Japan, one of their native habitats.

Suspect under arrest in deadly New York City subway shooting

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man suspected of abruptly pulling a gun and killing a stranger on a New York City subway train was arrested Tuesday, with police saying his motive for the unprovoked attack was "a big mystery."

Andrew Abdullah, 25, was expected to face a murder charge in the death of 48-year-old Daniel Enriquez, who was shot to death while heading to Sunday brunch.

Abdullah "targeted this poor individual for reasons we don't know," Chief of Detectives

James Essig said at a news conference.

The arrest came hours after police posted Abdullah's name and photo on social media and implored the public to help find him. But after the arrest, police disclosed that officers briefly

stopped him after the shooting but let him go because his clothes didn't match the description they were given.

The Legal Aid Society, which is representing Abdullah, said it was just beginning to review evidence and urged the public not to

make assumptions about the case.

"Mr. Abdullah deserves vigorous representation from his defense counsel, and that is what The Legal Aid Society will provide," the organization said in a statement.

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WORLD

Lockdown parties report blames UK leadership

Associated Press
LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and other senior officials bear responsibility for a culture of rule-breaking that resulted in several parties that breached the United Kingdom's COVID-19 lockdown rules, a report into the events said Wednesday.

Revelations that Johnson and his staff repeatedly flouted the rules they imposed on others have elicited outrage in Britain and led to calls from opponents for the prime minister to resign.

Johnson said he took "full responsibility for everything that

took place" but that he would not step down.

In her report into the "party-gate" scandal, senior civil servant Sue Gray said the "senior leadership team ... must bear responsibility" for a culture that allowed events to take place that "should not have been allowed to happen."

Gray investigated 16 gatherings attended by Johnson and his staff in 2020 and 2021 while people in the U.K. were barred from socializing, or even from visiting sick and dying relatives, because of coronavirus restrictions.

Gray said there had been "fail-

ures of leadership and judgment in No. 10," a reference to the address of the prime minister's office.

"Those in the most junior positions attended gatherings at which their seniors were present, or indeed organized," she said.

A separate police investigation resulted in 83 people getting hit with fines, including Johnson — making him the first British prime minister ever found to have broken the law while in office.

Speaking to lawmakers after the report was published, Johnson said he was sorry but again insisted again that he did not

knowingly break any rules.

The prime minister said he was "humbled" and had "learned a lesson", but that it was now time to "move on" and focus on the government's priorities.

Critics, some of them inside Johnson's Conservative Party, have said the prime minister has lied to Parliament about the events. Ministers who knowingly mislead Parliament are expected to resign.

Johnson said Wednesday that when he told Parliament last year that no rules were broken and there were no parties, "it was what I believed to be true."

Germany to loosen COVID entry orders over summer

Associated Press
BERLIN — Germany's health minister said the government plans to suspend a pandemic rule requiring people to show proof of vaccination, a negative test result or recent recovery from COVID-19 to enter the country over the summer.

Health Minister Karl Lauterbach told the Funke newspaper group in comments published Wednesday that the rule, which applies to everyone age 12 and above regardless of where they are traveling from, will be suspended from June 1 to the end of August.

Germany has not had any countries on its list of "high-risk areas" for the coronavirus since early March.

Confirmed coronavirus case numbers have declined steadily in Germany in recent weeks, and most restrictions have been lifted.

Sweden advises 5th COVID shot for pregnant women, people over 65

Associated Press
STOCKHOLM — Sweden is recommending a fifth COVID-19 vaccine dose for people with an increased risk of becoming seriously ill, including pregnant women and anyone aged 65 and over, authorities said Tuesday, adding that the country must "be prepared for an increased spread during the up-

coming autumn and winter season."

"The vaccine is our strongest tool for preventing serious illness and death," Swedish Social Affairs Minister Lena Hallengren said, adding that the pandemic is not over.

As of Sept. 1, Sweden recommends that another booster shot is given to people aged 65 and older

and people over 18 in the risk groups. The Swedish Public Health Agency said the latter includes pregnant women, people with weakened immune systems and people with heart and lung disease.

"In general, the risk of serious illness is assessed as low for adults under the age of 65 who have been vaccinated with three doses, but the

risk increases with age and varies within the group," agency chief Karin Tegmark Wisell said.

For most of the pandemic, Sweden stood out among European nations for its comparatively hands-off response. It never went into lockdown or closed businesses, largely relying instead on individual responsibility.



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Biden must stop the promiscuous publicizing of intel

By JOHN R. BOLTON

Special to The Washington Post

Before Russia invaded Ukraine in February, the Biden administration released substantial intelligence analyses about Russia's capabilities and intentions, purportedly to deter the attack by making public the extent of U.S. knowledge about Vladimir Putin's planning. Similar unprecedented revelations continued after hostilities commenced.

Neither President Joe Biden's intelligence releases nor his other deterrence efforts stopped the invasion. Nonetheless, his advisers and media acolytes, piling speculation upon speculation without concrete evidence, claimed that publicizing the information — rather than simply sharing it privately with allies — bought time and helped unite NATO. The media did precious little reporting of the costs involved or other possible motivations.

Publicly revealing sensitive intelligence makes sense when a president has clear objectives, a coherent strategy and, ultimately, when the revelations advance U.S. interests. That can be an aspect of intelligence statecraft: the use of data, analysis and advocacy to advance U.S. national-security objectives. But intelligence is a valuable commodity, often acquired at great cost and risk. Publicizing it promiscuously can endanger sources and methods. It can also prove counterproductive and embarrassing when inaccurate, and encourage the bureaucratic propensity to leak.

Does the Biden administration have a strategy, or did these scattershot efforts reflect larger failures in information statecraft?

Divergent bureaucratic, political and policy cultures disagree on publicizing intelligence. The State Department suffers from institutional logorrhea, whereas career intelligence personnel generally make "Silent Cal" Coolidge seem chatty. Some policymakers in the current executive branch, with roots in liberal academia, think tanks or politics, suffer from "mirror imaging"—the idea that "adversaries" are typically reasonable people just

like us, ready to find common solutions to common problems. If only they had the same information we had, this view holds, they, too, would behave responsibly.

That doesn't describe the worlds of Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping. As Putin told me on more than one occasion: "You have your logic, we have ours; let's see who prevails." And even if Russia or China have superior information-warfare capabilities, releasing classified information shouldn't be our knee-jerk response.

In this matter, Biden seems to be largely re-fighting his last war. The catastrophic strategic and operational failure of the United States' humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan unnerved his administration — and made Biden look clueless. Contrary to Biden's repeated assertions that Afghanistan's government and military could withstand Taliban attacks, they swiftly collapsed. The White House response was contradictory and confused, ineffective in stemming the flood of public criticism.

Seemingly determined to prevent renewed perceptions of incompetence, Biden's team tried to show that, with Ukraine, unlike in Afghanistan, they were on top of events and knew what Russia was about. Nonetheless, its performance has been spotty and sometimes incautious, including revealing less-than-certain intelligence during the war. Biden had to contradict his advisers' release of information indicating Putin was poorly briefed by timid subordinates. The administration's hunger to disclose extended to foreshadowing, inaccurately, North Korean ICBM or nuclear tests before or during Biden's Asia trip.

Even after Biden tried reining in "leaks" about the war in Ukraine, which amounted to bureaucratic boasts about agency successes, the deluge continued.

Most damaging were articles on U.S. information-sharing with Ukraine, which by explaining what was impermissible, told Russia exactly what we were sharing with Kyiv. Providing "kill chain" intelligence (information that directly facilitates attacking enemy forc-

es) to a foreign military can place the United States in or very near combatant status. Publicly discussing it is risky business, especially considering Putin's repeated threats, and Biden's evident fear of doing anything possibly deemed "escalatory," such as supplying Ukraine with Polish MiGs. Some "leaks" about such intelligence sharing indeed looked "defensive," authorized anonymous conversations intended to protect the United States, but which were accidentally quite revealing.

What was inexplicably underreported and under-analyzed by the pro-Biden media is why the United States was so mistaken in its pre-invasion intelligence assessment that Russia would gain swift victory in Ukraine, with Kyiv falling in days and the entire country in weeks. Fearing sudden Russian successes, the administration leaked that it would support guerrilla operations afterward, presumably to deter Moscow from invading. A U.S. offer to provide Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy safe passage from Kyiv showed little confidence in his government's survivability. You can be sure that China noted these intelligence failures carefully.

It is not just a coincidence that the intelligence and communications strategy mistakes in Ukraine echoed errors in Afghanistan. Now recognizing these failures, two major blunders hardly six months apart, the U.S. intelligence community is, quite rightly, reviewing its performance. They have much to do.

These patterns must change. Revitalizing the now-dilapidated Cold War legacy of effective U.S. international communications has supposedly been a national priority for decades. If Congress is looking for bipartisan reform projects, this one should be top of mind. Repeated congressional battles over organization charts and personnel—all self-inflicted wounds—have to stop. We knew how to do this once; try doing what worked 50 years ago.

John R. Bolton served as national security adviser under President Donald Trump and is the author of "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir."

Holding just 6 Capitol riot hearings won't do the job

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion

The incredibly shrinking public face of the congressional committee investigating the riot at the U.S. Capitol of Jan. 6, 2021, has apparently ... shrunk again.

Last we heard, the long-delayed public hearings from this committee of the House of Representatives were finally at hand, with eight sessions planned beginning in early June. Yes, that seemed too little, too late. But it was also, we now learn, more than we'll actually get. The new plan? Six hearings, lasting two weeks. The Guardian reports that they'll begin with a prime-time session on June 9, end with another evening event two weeks later, and fit in four daytime hearings in between.

The Senate Watergate committee held 51 public hearings, over six months. Not six public hearings, over two weeks. And that panel began its hearings within a year of the June 1972 arrests at the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate Hotel in Washington, despite the fact that a coverup succeeded in hiding the enormity of the scandal until January 1973. The Senate created the committee in February of that year, the hearings began in May, and President Richard Nixon resigned on Aug. 8, 1974.

It's not that the Jan. 6 committee has been lazy. By all accounts, it's done a tremendous amount of work. Perhaps that work will, once it's eventually turned over to the Department of Justice, result in important prosecutions. But the public side of the investigation? The committee may just not consider that important. Or maybe it's just bad at it. No matter how dramatic the dozen hours of hearings turn out to be, the members are basically abandoning any attempt to build momentum in the way that the Watergate committee did, and that the Iran-Contra committee did in 1987.

The Jan. 6 committee did hold a single public hearing soon after it was convened, way back on July 27, 2021, in which the attack on the Capitol was portrayed through the eyes of the law-enforcement officials who attempted to defend against an invading mob bent on overturning President Donald Trump's defeat in the 2020 presidential election.

The hearing made for riveting TV viewing. But it also demonstrated that the impact of a single, well-scripted, polished presentation fades quickly once it's over. The Watergate hearings were such a cultural event in part because of their length. People didn't watch every moment. Many probably didn't watch at all. But because it was so thorough, and just so long, it was impossible to avoid it.

The Watergate hearings also worked as TV in part because they weren't polished, and didn't appear to be scripted. Witnesses were generally interviewed in private before the public sessions, and the committee certainly cared about the public case it was making, but the actual sessions consisted of lawyers and senators asking questions of witnesses, rather than (as is expected in June) presentations by the committee carefully designed to tell a specific story.

Perhaps it will work! But I'm not sure exactly which audience the committee is targeting, and whether a carefully controlled presentation is the best option for holding the attention of the media and of those opinion leaders who are open to being convinced that the events of Jan. 6 are important. Because they, more than anyone else, are the main audience.

The good news for the committee is that this audience, even after the long delay, is probably willing to pay attention. But it just doesn't seem, despite mountains of evidence of truly important malfeasance, that the committee has much to give them. I hope I'm wrong.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Jonathan Bernstein is a former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePaul University. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

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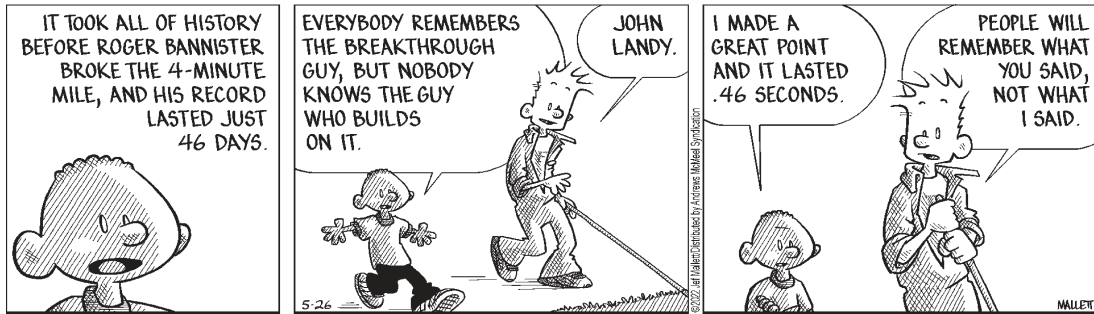
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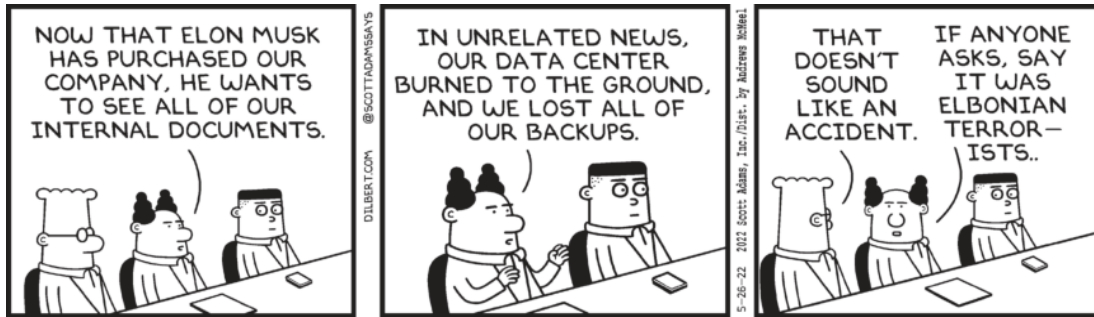


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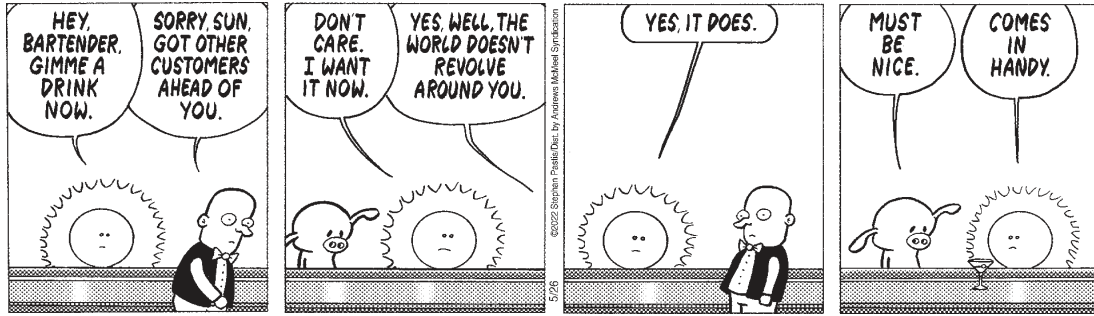
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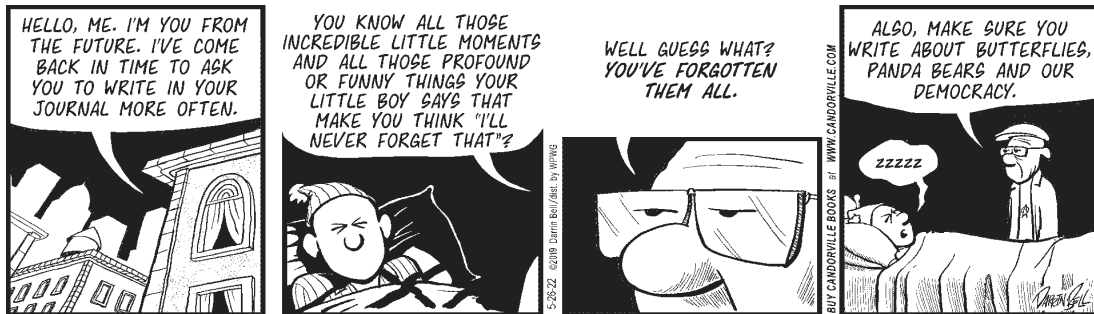
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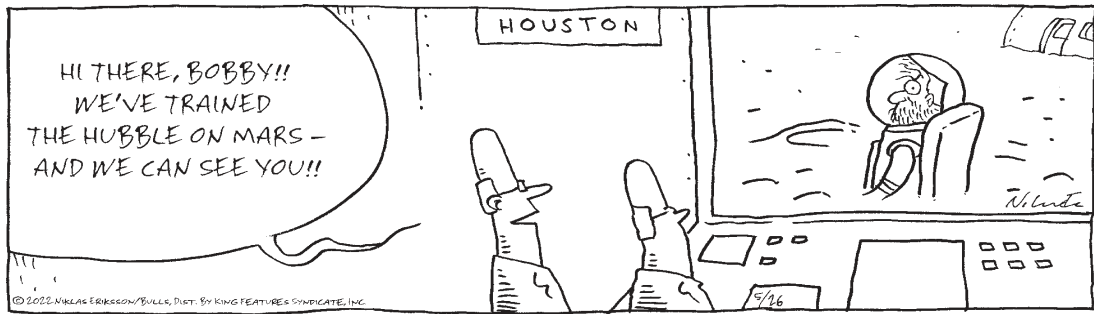
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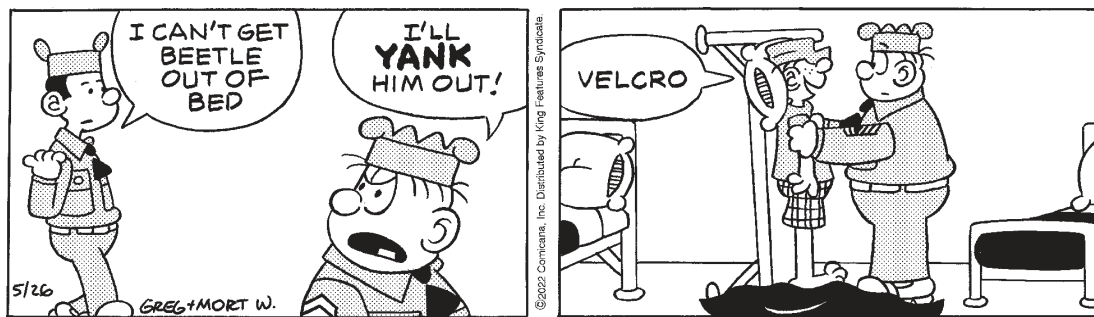
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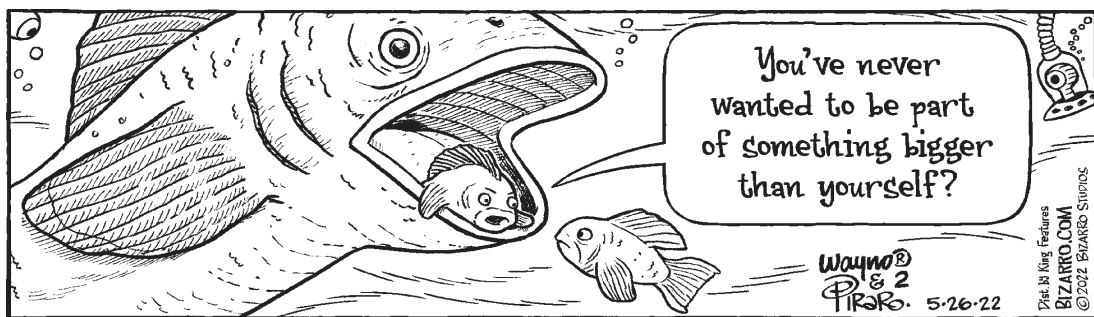
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
21	22			23		24						
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45			
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

ACROSS

- 1 Insult, slangily
- 4 Weeps
- 8 Tiny bit
- 12 Genetic letters
- 13 Head light?
- 14 Overconfident
- 15 PBS drama based on a Jane Austen manuscript
- 17 Bowling spot
- 18 — Lancelot
- 19 Crazy
- 21 Bread seller
- 24 Crater part
- 25 Mess up
- 26 U-boat, for one
- 28 Plains grazers
- 32 Maui souvenirs
- 34 Cattle call
- 36 Nicolas of "Moonstruck"
- 37 Ryan's daughter
- 39 Twitch
- 41 New Deal agcy.
- 42 Diner dessert
- 44 Surgeon's cutter
- 46 Sunshine State
- 50 Permit
- 51 Queue
- 52 Picnic snack
- 56 "E Pluribus —"
- 57 Sea flier
- 58 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 59 Lighten

- 60 Ogler's look
- 61 Thither

- 23 "Delicious!"
- 27 Droid
- 29 Holiness
- 30 Monster
- 31 Spruced up
- 33 Paramount
- 35 Peanut product
- 38 Roman 1002
- 40 Mobile-creating artist Alexander
- 43 Bygone Ford
- 45 Up-to-date
- 46 Chimney part
- 47 Director
- 9 Yemen neighbor
- 10 Casserole base
- 11 Mellows
- 16 Conk out
- 20 Pen tip
- 21 Karate level
- 22 Bailiwick
- 48 Burden
- 49 Swiss river
- 53 Away from SSW
- 54 Corp. boss
- 55 Solo of "Star Wars"

DOWN

- 1 ER workers
- 2 — tizzy
- 3 Classical language of India
- 4 Bakes eggs
- 5 Granola grain
- 6 Shapeless mass
- 7 Ping producer
- 8 Of the Muslim faith
- 9 Yemen neighbor
- 10 Casserole base
- 11 Mellows
- 16 Conk out
- 20 Pen tip
- 21 Karate level
- 22 Bailiwick

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	A	Y		N	A	S	H		B	R	I	T
O	X	O		U	P	T	O		R	E	F	I
S	O	Y		T	R	U	E		F	A	L	S
T	N	O	T	E					D	O	H	
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T	R	U	E	L	I	F	E		S	O	R	E
E	O	S		A	L	I	M	B		S	N	L
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5-26

CRYPTOQUIP

O V I Z E X V H ' C Y S V A Z C V N

O V A V W H I H Z F M L W C M W Z Y S V F ' X

E A C Z A A V N Z H F I F Z W Y , H Z C

S V H F Y L Y S V N F L A V .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CHEF GOES THROUGH CLOSE TO TEN CANS OF SHORTENING, HAS HE USED THE WHOLE NINE LARDS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals C

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FACES

Lamar has biggest No. 1 debut of 2022

Kendrick Lamar has retained his status as the king of the Billboard 200.

The 14-time Grammy-winning rapper's newest album, "Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers," landed in the No. 1 spot in its first week of release on the Billboard charts, with the equivalent of 295,500 sales.

According to the Luminate music tracking service (formerly known as MRC Data), the eagerly anticipated opus amassed 343 million clicks on streaming services.

Marking the 34-year-old's fourth consecutive No. 1 album, "Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers" also had the largest number of first week sales of 2022.

Released on May 13, the album follows 2017's "DAMN," which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for music, heralded as "a virtuosic song collection unified by its vernacular authenticity and rhythmic dynamism."

Last week, Lamar announced plans to kick off his international tour, The Big Steppers Tour, featuring Baby Keem and Tanna Leone. It's scheduled to begin June 23 in Milan, Italy.

Bruce Springsteen, band to tour in US, Europe

The Boss is hitting the road again, and the E Street Band band is coming with him.

The rockers announced Monday that they will begin an arena tour in February in the United States, followed by stadium shows beginning in April in Europe.

Details on U.S. sites will be announced later, but it'll be the first time the group has toured since wrapping The River Tour in Australia in February 2017.

The European concerts will begin April 28th in Barcelona, the announcement said. Other stops in Europe will include Dublin, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, Copenhagen with the last European show announced so far happening July 25 in Monza, Italy. Concerts in Britain and Belgium will also be announced later.

Aerosmith cancels shows as Tyler treats addiction

Aerosmith is canceling a set of shows that would have kicked off the band's residency in Las Vegas.

The classic rock giants made the announcement on Instagram, citing 74-year-old singer Steven Tyler's struggles with addiction for the change in plans.

"As many of you know, our beloved brother Steven has worked on his sobriety for many years," the band wrote. "After foot surgery to prepare for the stage and the necessity of pain management during the process, he has recently relapsed and voluntarily entered a treatment program to concentrate on his health and recovery."



FX/TNS

From left, Lane Factor as Cheese, Paulina Alexis as Willie Jack, D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai as Bear and Devery Jacobs as Elora Danan are the young stars of FX's "Reservation Dogs," which is also available on Hulu.

Community matters

'Reservation Dogs' actors discuss Indigenous inclusion, close-knit set

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA

Los Angeles Times

Given an array of seating options, the four young stars of "Reservation Dogs" pile onto a couch. They look sharp, dolled up for a photo session, but that doesn't stem their good-natured ribbing. But they settle down as "big sister" Devery Jacobs — at 28 by far the eldest of the four — explains what the series means to them.

"Not only were the character breakdowns reflective of Muscogee Creek kids," she says of the Oklahoma-based Native American tribe, "but also us being Indigenous kids, being able to infuse all our own cultures and backgrounds, coming from our own specific nations and tribes and communities. That it's taken so long to see geeky Native kids on screen ... that was me growing up. It's really special."

The series, created by showrunner Sterlin Harjo, a member of the Seminole Nation with Muscogee ancestry, and Oscar winner Taika Waititi, who is Maori on his father's side, follows four Indigenous Oklahoma teens we meet stealing a delivery truck to sell off. The limits of their larceny are small-time, their purpose much bigger. They're working toward fleeing the reservation to the Promised Land: California.

Jacobs plays Elora, the most reasonable of the group; D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai plays Bear, who thinks he's the leader and has mystic, though mediocre, visions; Lane Factor plays go-with-the-flow guy Cheese; Paulina Alexis is plainspoken tomboy Willie Jack (whom the show's creators intended to be male, but rewrote after meeting her).

"Growing up, I never had a show like this to watch," Alexis says. "When I got to do it, I just knew I had to express myself, how I am."

It's funny to encounter them glammed up after seeing them only in their rural, run-down "Dogs" setting. Yet all four say they bear strong similarities to their characters. When Factor, who had never acted before, says, "I dress a lot like Cheese," the others laugh, calling out examples.

The other three are fondly impressed with how quickly Factor picked up the brass tacks of acting, this being not just his first professional gig but also the 16-year-old's first audition.

Alexis, 20, has been in two movies ("Ghostbusters: Afterlife" and "Beans," with Woon-A-Tai), but before that had focused on covering rock songs with her family. She has belted out AC/DC and Guns N' Roses since she was 10, though she also loves "singing and dancing pow-wow. ... I fell in love with the tradish."

Woon-A-Tai, 20, has collected seven credits so far and says the "Dogs" set, with its almost entirely Native American cast and crew, is unlike any experience he has had: "I did an Indigenous-led project and the majority of the crew wasn't. There were a few times there were racist remarks being said on set; people got fired from that."

The actor, the cast agrees, is the smart one. They cite Woon-A-Tai's knowledge of music history, philosophy and particularly the histories of Native tribes. "You know, in 1882 ..." Alexis says in teasing admiration of her friend.

For his part, Woon-A-Tai is just pleased to have found such a close-knit environment. "We shot the pilot in a week, and after that, all these guys, everyone in the crew, they're all family. Just off the pilot, we built this community."

"Before this experience, I didn't know that community could coexist with industry," agrees Jacobs, who has roughly 25 credits since 2007. (The others refer to her as a big sister, someone to whom they turn for help and guidance, who "is always there" for them, as Woon-A-Tai puts it.)

Jacobs gives full credit for the close-knit set to Sterlin. "Everyone [down to] background performers were Sterlin's family and his community. We had elders on set."

Jacobs notes that on traditional sets, there is a hierarchy of who gets to eat first — cast, crew and finally background performers. "But on our set, it was making sure elders eat first, that background performers eat with everybody because it's a communal project. It's reflective of Sterlin's upbringing."

"It's not just that we have Indigenous creators on this project; it's that we're bringing our ways, every step through. Whether it's FX bringing on Indigenous publicists or focusing on Indigenous media; we're including community members every step of the way. I didn't even know that could happen."

Ringo Starr NFT artwork to be sold at auction

Ringo Starr is drumming up a new virtual venture.

Digital artwork created by the Beatles drummer will be sold next month at an online auction titled the "Ringo Starr NFT Collection — The Creative Mind of a Beatle."

Fans will be able to bid on the non-fungible tokens, which feature animated paintings by Starr along with a "custom-made drum composition recorded and played" by the artist, according to Julien's Auctions, which is holding the event.

The purchases also include a canvas print signed by Starr.

"I only ever wanted to be a drummer yet you never know where a new idea or path will lead you," Starr, 81, said in a statement. "This new technology is so far out it's inspired me and I loved creating these NFTs combining my art and my music. Who'd have thought I would be spreading Peace and Love in the Metaverse."

The auction, which is scheduled for June 13, includes five different NFTs, with four of each set to be sold. Bids can be made that day on the juliensauctions.com website.

Rita Moreno joins 'Fast X' as Diesel's grandmother

The "Fast and the Furious" family just got a little bigger.

Vin Diesel announced on Instagram that Rita Moreno will play his onscreen grandmother in the upcoming film "Fast X." The action star, who portrays street racer Dom Toretto in the movie franchise, posted a celebratory video Tuesday featuring Moreno and Michelle Rodriguez, who plays his onscreen wife, Letty Ortiz.

"It's been my dream forever to work with Rita Moreno, and the fact that she's here playing my grandmother makes my soul smile," Diesel said in the clip. "I am so blessed."

The 90-year-old screen legend recently appeared in Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning adaptation of "West Side Story."

'FBI' season finale pulled after Texas shooting

CBS pulled the season finale of "FBI" after a deadly elementary school shooting in Texas.

The network said Tuesday that it will not air the show's season four finale titled "Prodigal Son." The decision was made by CBS after a gunman killed at least 19 students and two adults at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

The finale's storyline involved a suspected student's participation in a deadly robbery.

The synopsis reads: "As the team investigates a deadly robbery that garnered a cache of automatic weapons for the killers, they discover one of the perps is a classmate of Jubal's son, who is reluctant to cooperate."

MLB

ROUNDUP

Pederson drives Giants past Mets

He hits 3 homers, has 8 RBIs in team's 13-12 win

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Joc Pederson turned a pair of pregame chats with home run king Barry Bonds into the best night of his career.

Pederson homered three times and drove in a career-high eight runs, including a tying single with two outs in the ninth inning, and the San Francisco Giants outslugged the New York Mets 13-12 on Tuesday in one of the wildest games imaginable.

"Just getting knowledge from such a good hitter and the way he thinks about baseball and hitting, it just helped to connect some dots to free my mind up at the plate," Pederson said. "I'm not ever going to be Barry Bonds. He's the best hitter to touch a bat. But it definitely helped free my mind up in the box."

Brandon Crawford hit a game-winning single off closer Edwin Díaz and the Giants — after blowing a late six-run lead — somehow recovered to pull off two improbable comebacks of their own.

Francisco Lindor homered and drove in six runs for the Mets, including a bases-loaded triple that put them ahead in a seven-run eighth.

Pederson was preparing for the game when he and teammate LaMonte Wade Jr. spent 30 minutes with Bonds in the clubhouse.

Yankees 7, Orioles 6 (11): Jose Trevino hit a game-ending single in the 11th inning and ailing New York overcame injuries to two All-Stars to end its first three-game skid of the season by beating Baltimore.

Trevino hit his second homer of the season earlier in the game and also had a tying single in the seventh.

Red Sox 16, White Sox 3: Trevor Story and Christian Vazquez



TONY AVELAR/AP

The San Francisco Giants' Joc Pederson, right, celebrates with Mike Yastrzemski (5) and Darin Ruf (33) after hitting a three-run home run against the New York Mets during the eighth inning. Pederson had two other homers in a 13-12 win Tuesday in San Francisco.

each hit a three-run home run and drove in four runs as Boston extended its winning streak to six games with a rout at Chicago.

Story's homer off Dylan Cease (4-2) capped a four-run first inning. Vazquez hit a three-run shot off Matt Foster to highlight a six-run sixth.

Brewers 4, Padres 1: Corbin Burnes outlasted Blake Snell in a showdown of recent Cy Young Award winners and Tyrone Taylor hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer to help Milwaukee win at San Diego.

Mike Brosseau also homered for the Brewers, who ended the Padres' winning streak at five.

Angels 5, Rangers 3: Noah Syndergaard allowed one run over eight strong innings of four-hit ball in his longest appearance

since returning from elbow surgery, and Jared Walsh homered in Los Angeles' win over visiting Texas.

Luis Rengifo and Tyler Wade had RBI singles during a four-run fourth inning for the Angels, who have won three straight following a four-game skid that began with three losses on the road against the Rangers last week.

Dodgers 9, Nationals 4: Mookie Betts homered twice and Los Angeles won at Washington.

Betts smacked a three-run homer off former Dodgers prospect Josiah Gray (4-4) and hit solo shot off Victor Arano for his 21st career multihomer game.

Braves 6, Phillies 5: William Contreras singled home Ronald Acuña Jr. in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift host Atlanta over Philadelphia.

Bryce Harper put the Phillies ahead 5-4 in the top of the ninth with a two-run homer off closer Kenley Jansen (3-0). Harper finished with four RBIs.

Rockies 2, Pirates 1 (10): Connor Joe singled home the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning and Colorado won at Pittsburgh.

With one out, Joe grounded his hit up the middle off David Bednar (1-1), scoring automatic runner Sam Hilliard from second base.

Twins 2, Tigers 0: Sonny Gray struck out a season-high 10 over seven sharp innings, carrying host Minnesota past Detroit for its sixth straight victory.

Gray (2-1) allowed four hits and one walk in by far his best of six

starts with his new team. The Twins, who are 23-8 since April 21, have won each of the last four games with Gray on the mound after he returned from a strained hamstring.

Blue Jays 8, Cardinals 1: Danny Jansen hit a three-run homer and a solo shot, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. also went deep and Toronto won at St. Louis.

Kevin Gausman (4-3) threw six scoreless innings with eight strikeouts and no walks. He allowed four hits and beat the Cardinals for the first time in eight appearances.

Cubs 11, Reds 4: Frank Schwindel homered twice in a game for the first time in his career, Marcus Stroman recovered from a rough start to pitch five effective innings, and Chicago rolled at Cincinnati.

Rays 4, Marlins 0: Kevin Kiermaier hit Pablo López's first pitch for an inside-the-park home run and host Tampa Bay beat Miami.

Astros 7, Guardians 3: Framber Valdez pitched seven strong innings and Kyle Tucker hit a three-run homer as host Houston beat Cleveland.

Diamondbacks 8, Royals 6: Pavin Smith and pinch-hitter Jordan Luplow homered in a five-run sixth inning as host Arizona beat Kansas City.

Athletics 7, Mariners 5: Elvis Andrus hit a tying homer in the sixth inning, then singled and scored in a two-run seventh as visiting Oakland snapped a 13-game losing streak to Seattle.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	30	13	.698	—
Tampa Bay	25	17	.595	4½
Toronto	23	20	.535	7
Boston	20	22	.476	9½
Baltimore	18	26	.409	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	27	16	.628	—
Chicago	21	21	.500	5½
Cleveland	18	21	.462	7
Detroit	14	28	.333	12½
Kansas City	14	28	.333	12½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	28	16	.636	—
Los Angeles	27	17	.614	1
Texas	18	23	.439	8½
Seattle	18	26	.409	10
Oakland	18	27	.400	10½

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	29	16	.644	—
Atlanta	20	23	.465	8
Philadelphia	20	23	.465	8
Miami	18	23	.439	9
Washington	14	30	.318	14½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	27	16	.628	—
St. Louis	24	19	.558	3
Chicago	18	24	.429	8½
Pittsburgh	17	25	.405	9½
Cincinnati	12	30	.286	14½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	29	13	.690	—
San Diego	28	15	.651	1½
San Francisco	23	19	.548	6
Arizona	23	22	.511	7½
Colorado	20	22	.476	9

Tuesday's games

Tampa Bay 4, Miami 0
 Minnesota 2, Detroit 0
 N.Y. Yankees 7, Baltimore 6, 11 innings
 Houston 7, Cleveland 3
 Toronto 8, St. Louis 1
 Boston 16, Chicago White Sox 3
 L.A. Angels 5, Texas 3
 Arizona 8, Kansas City 6
 Oakland 7, Seattle 5
 Chicago Cubs 11, Cincinnati 4
 Colorado 2, Pittsburgh 1, 10 innings
 L.A. Dodgers 9, Washington 4
 Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 5
 Milwaukee 4, San Diego 1
 San Francisco 13, N.Y. Mets 12

Wednesday's games

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

Thursday's games

N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 3-1) at Tampa Bay (TBD)
 Cleveland (Civale 2-3) at Detroit (Skubal 3-2)
 Kansas City (Lynch 2-3) at Minnesota (Ryan 5-2)
 Boston (Wacha 3-0) at Chicago White Sox (Keuchel 2-4)
 Toronto (Ryu 1-0) at L.A. Angels (Ohtani 3-2)
 Texas (Pérez 3-2) at Oakland (Montas 2-4)
 Chicago Cubs (Steele 1-4) at Cincinnati (Greene 1-6)
 Colorado (Márquez 1-4) at Washington (Corbin 0-7)
 Philadelphia (Nola 1-4) at Atlanta (Wright 4-2)
 Milwaukee (Lauer 4-1) at St. Louis (Wainwright 5-3)
 L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at Arizona (Castellanos 3-1)

Friday's games

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



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Boston's Trevor Story, left, celebrates his three-run home run off Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Dylan Cease with third base coach Carlos Febles. The homer came during the first inning of the Red Sox's 16-3 win Tuesday in Chicago.

NHL PLAYOFFS



PHOTOS BY JEFF MCINTOSH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Above: Oilers center Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, front left, celebrates his third-period goal against the Flames. He scored twice in a 5-3 win Tuesday in Edmonton as the Oilers took a 3-1 lead in their second-round series. Below: Flames goalie Jacob Markstrom blocks the net against Oilers winger Zach Hyman, center.

Oilers push Flames to the brink of elimination

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Ryan Nugent-Hopkins has suffered through plenty of heartache in Edmonton.

The top pick at the 2011 draft missed the playoffs in seven of his first eight NHL seasons as the Oilers repeatedly fumbled and bumbled their way through what must have felt like a never-ending rebuild.

After a stunning turn of events midway through the third period on Tuesday night, Nugent-Hopkins rose to the occasion when he was needed most.

Nugent-Hopkins scored his second goal of the game with 3:27 left in regulation, and Edmonton beat the Calgary Flames 5-3 to take a 3-1 lead in the second-round playoff series.

“The main thing was that we had to keep pushing,” Nugent-Hopkins said after Rasmus Andersson scored short-handed from 150 feet away as the Flames rallied all the way back from a 3-0 deficit to tie the game. “Stuff like that happens, it’s hockey. Bounces happen.”

“There was no quit.”

Oilers interim head coach Jay Woodcroft credited Nugent-Hopkins, who was playing just the 32nd playoff game of his 11-season career, for stepping up with Edmonton wobbling.

“It’s inspiring,” said Woodcroft, whose Oilers are now one win from making the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2006. “There’s room for greatness from everybody on our team.”

“Tonight was Ryan’s moment.”

Evander Kane scored his NHL-leading 11th and 12th goals of the postseason, and Zach Hyman added a goal for Edmonton. Leon Draisaitl added three assists and Mike Smith made 29 saves.

Connor McDavid also had two assists. He has 25 points in 11 playoff games for the Oilers, who earned a third straight victory over their provincial rival.

Andersson, Elias Lindholm and Mikael Backlund scored for Calgary. Jacob Markstrom stopped 21 shots.

“We all believe in this group,” Andersson said. “We’ve been a good team all year and we’ve been strong on home ice. We’ve just got to go home and fo-



cus on winning one game and take it from there.

“Obviously we’re in a tough situation.”

The Flames will look to stave off elimination on Thursday at home in Game 5.

After trailing 3-0 after the first period and 3-2 through two periods, Calgary tied the game in the third on an Edmonton power play when Andersson fired a 150-foot clearing attempt from his own end that somehow fooled Smith at 10:56.

With the Oilers wavering, Nugent-Hopkins poked in his fourth goal of the playoffs from in front of Markstrom.

Andersson then took a four-minute penalty for high-sticking with 2:40 left to effectively kill off the game before Kane iced it by scoring into an empty net.

“I can laugh now, right?” a relieved Smith said. “I don’t think there’s been a time in my career where I’ve lost the puck, where I have no idea where it went.”

“You don’t want that to happen ... ever. It was an unbelievable goal by Nuge at the end there ... a win is a win.”

Edmonton also held a 2-1 series lead in the first round against the Los Angeles Kings only to play what the Oilers described as their worst performance of the month in a 4-0 loss. This time, they took a stranglehold on the series without their best effort.

“Every game you play in the playoffs, you gain experience,” Smith said. “There are ebbs and flows to a game, to a series, and they are all learning experiences.”

Rangers power past Canes, even their series at 2-2

By VIN. A. CHERWOOD
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers got the kind of strong, all-around effort from the start they needed and stormed past the Carolina Hurricanes.

Andrew Copp had a goal and two assists, and Frank Vatrano and Adam Fox each had a goal and an assist as the Rangers beat the Hurricanes 4-1 in Game 4 Tuesday night, evening the second-round series.

Mika Zibanejad also scored, Ryan Lindgren had two assists and Igor Shesterkin stopped 30 shots for New York, which won its fifth straight at home in the postseason. In the series, the Rangers won two at home after opening with two losses at Carolina.

“Everyone’s kind of contributing and has been over the course of the playoffs,” Copp said. “It’s not just one line, one D-pairing, it’s throughout the lineup. ... Just trying to build off some of the momentum we’ve created these last two games.”

New York has won two straight against the Hurricanes after losing eight of the previous nine meetings, including a three-game sweep in the qualifying round of the 2020 playoff bubble and three of four in the regular season.

“We’re confident,” Copp said. “We get two games where we win, we play well, we give up two goals total. Now the reverse of the talk of you guys is on them now. We just got to kind of block all that out and stay with our game. Guys are feeling better about themselves and we got to ride this momentum into Carolina.”

Rangers coach Gerard Gallant liked what he saw from his team, calling it ‘close’ to one of the most complete games by his team this postseason.

“We had a little bit of a letdown in part of the second and little bit in

Scoreboard

Second round

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

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Carolina 2, N.Y. Rangers 2
Carolina 2, N.Y. Rangers 1, OT
Carolina 2, N.Y. Rangers 0
N.Y. Rangers 3, Carolina 1
Tuesday: N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 1
Thursday: at Carolina, **AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Friday CET; 8 a.m. Friday JKT**
Saturday: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Monday: at Carolina

Tampa Bay 4, Florida 0

Tampa Bay 4, Florida 1
Tampa Bay 2, Florida 1
Tampa Bay 5, Florida 1
Tampa Bay 2, Florida 0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Edmonton 3, Calgary 1
Calgary 9, Edmonton 6
Edmonton 5, Calgary 3
Edmonton 4, Calgary 1
Tuesday: Edmonton 5, Calgary 3
Thursday: at Calgary, **AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Friday CET; 10:30 a.m. Friday JKT**
x-Saturday: at Edmonton
x-Monday: at Calgary

Colorado 3, St. Louis 1

Colorado 3, St. Louis 2 (OT)
St. Louis 4, Colorado 1
Colorado 5, St. Louis 2
Colorado 6, St. Louis 3
Wednesday: at Colorado, **AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 10:30 a.m. Thursday JKT**
x-Friday: at St. Louis, **AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Saturday CET; 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT**
x-Sunday: at Colorado

the third, too,” he said. “But for the most part we did a real good job.”

Teuvo Teravainen scored and Antti Raanta finished with 24 saves for the Hurricanes, who fell to 0-5 on the road in the postseason to go along with their 6-0 mark at home.

Carolina has scored just six goals in the series, including one in each of the last two games. The Hurricanes were 0-for-2 on the power play to fall to 0-for-9 against New York.

“I am confident eventually they are going to find their way to the back of the net,” the Hurricanes’ Sebastian Aho said. “We just have to find ways to score. We got to score on the power play.”

Game 5 is in Raleigh, N.C., on Thursday night, and Game 6 at Madison Square Garden on Saturday.



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Rangers center Frank Vatrano, front, breaks away from Hurricanes defenseman Brett Pesce in the second period of the Rangers’ 4-1 win in Game 4 of their second-round series Tuesday in New York.

AUTO RACING/FRENCH OPEN

Newgarden chasing win at Indy 500

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Josef Newgarden has been IndyCar's most consistent winner over the last eight seasons.

His 22 trips to victory lane are a series high. He has won two or more races six straight years and is chasing his third league championship in six seasons.

But when the 31-year-old Tennessean arrives in Indianapolis each May, those impressive feats take a backseat to another agonizing litany of questions about the most famous three words missing from his résumé — Indianapolis 500 champion.

"Of course I want to win here, everybody wants to win here, but Indianapolis is a tough place to tame. It's a tough place to get it right on the day," he said before qualifying 14th for Sunday's race.

A 500 win certainly would cement Newgarden's claim as one of his generation's greatest drivers. Until that day comes, though, the series' one-time hearthrob continues to relive all the heartaches he's endured at the Brickyard.

Despite consistently ranking among the month's fastest drivers, working for the most successful team in series history and calling a handful of 500 champions teammates with Team Penske, Newgarden has continued to fall short.

He's never won the pole, never driven into victory lane and has only one front-row start. Heck, his best May didn't even come with Team Penske. In 2016, he started a career-best second and finished a career-best third driving for Ed Carpenter.

Roger Penske hired Newgarden the following season and he's won at 11 of this season's 15 venues with two notable spots among the missing — his hometown of Nashville and Indy. He has never started or finished higher than fourth for Penske.

Other drivers understand the pressure, of course. Will Power of Australia also had a sterling résumé but was 0-for-10 at Indy before finally winning in 2018.

"It was painful for me because I had won so many races, poles, I had won a championship," Power said. "I was actually disappointed coming into '18 with my career because I know you're not regarded as a successful driver unless you've won this race."



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Josef Newgarden puts on his helmet during practice for the Indianapolis 500. He's won at 11 of this season's 15 series venues, but not at his adopted hometown of Nashville, Tenn., or Indianapolis.



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Germany's Alexander Zverev plays a shot during his 2-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-5 second-round defeat of Argentina's Sebastian Baez during the French Open in Paris on Wednesday.

Djokovic rolls on, Raducanu loses

Associated Press

PARIS — Novak Djokovic eased into the third round of his French Open title defense with a straight-set victory over Alex Molcan.

The top-ranked Djokovic defeated the 24-year-old Slovakian 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (4) at Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Molcan was able to push Djokovic to a third-set tiebreaker but threw his racket down in frustration after hitting the ball into the net — his 34th unforced error — to fall behind 6-3 before Djokovic closed it out.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion next faces 32-year-old Slovenian Aljaz Bedene.

While Djokovic made it look easy, others on the men's side had it more difficult.

Third-seeded Alexander Zverev had to rally from two sets down and save a match point to reach the third round at Roland Garros.

The German overcame Argentina's Sebastian Baez 2-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-5.

Zverev had trouble with the 21-year-old Baez's serve but got his return game in order in the third set.

Zverev saved a match point before holding for 5-5 in the decider and then broke Baez before serving out the match.

The last time Zverev put himself in a two-set hole at Roland Garros it didn't end as well. He battled back in the semifinals last June against Stefanos Tsitsipas but lost in five sets.

In the day's most exciting match, Carlos Alvarez outlasted fellow Spaniard Albert Ramon-Vinolas 6-1, 5-7, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

On the women's side, U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu lost to Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 to end her Roland Garros tournament debut on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Raducanu broke Sasnovich in the fifth game of the opening set, hitting consecutive backhand winners followed by a forehand to clinch it.

Sasnovich couldn't convert on three chances to break her opponent in the first

set but took advantage with two breaks to start the second, when the 47th-ranked player also won 12 of 14 service points.

The 12th-seeded Raducanu failed to convert on five break-point chances at 1-1 in the third set as Sasnovich recorded her 16th career victory over a top-20 player.

Raducanu, who also lost to Sasnovich at Indian Wells last year in the Briton's first match after winning the title at Flushing Meadows, had 17 winners and 33 unforced errors on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Sasnovich advanced to the third round at Roland Garros for the first time. This is her seventh appearance.

Two-time Grand Slam champion Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reached the third round by beating Andrea Petkovic 6-1, 7-6 (3) and fourth-seeded Maria Sakkari has lost in the second round a year after reaching the semifinals.

Sakkari was defeated by Czech player Karolina Muchova 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4), meaning two of the top four women's seeds already have been eliminated.

Czech player Marie Bouzkova withdrew before her second-round match because she says she tested positive for COVID-19.

She is the first singles player to pull out of Roland Garros because of the coronavirus.

Bouzkova was supposed to face No. 31-seed Elise Mertens, who advanced to the third round.

Bouzkova wrote on Twitter that she hopes she "will start to feel better soon and get back on court."

Bouzkova is a 23-year-old who has never made it past the second round of a Grand Slam tournament in 13 appearances, including 10 losses in the first round.

American teenager Coco Gauff advanced to the third round by beating Alison van Uytvanck of Belgium 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Two-time Grand Slam champion Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reached the third round by beating Andrea Petkovic 6-1, 7-6 (3).

The 15th-seeded Azarenka had only 13

French Open scoreboard

Wednesday

At Stade Roland Garros Paris
Purse: Euro 16,404,509
Surface: Red clay
Men's Singles
Second Round

Felix Auger-Aliassime (9), Canada, def. Camilo Ugo Carabelli, Argentina, 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

John Isner (23), United States, def. Gregoire Barrere, France, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5).

Karen Khachanov (21), Russia, def. Hugo Dellien, Bolivia, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-3.

Cameron Norrie (10), Britain, def. Jason Kubler, Australia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Bernabe Zapata Miralles, Spain, def. Taylor Fritz (13), United States, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

Aljaz Bedene, Slovenia, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Filip Krajinovic, Serbia, def. Borna Gojo, Croatia, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

Alexander Zverev (3), Germany, def. Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 2-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-5.

Brandon Nakashima, United States, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-2.

Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Alex Molcan, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Diego Schwartzman (15), Argentina, def. Jaime Munar, Spain, 2-6, 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

Botic Van de Zandschulp (26), Netherlands, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (2), 3-2, ret.

Women's Singles Second Round

Elise Mertens (31), Belgium, def. Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, walkover.

Jil Teichmann (23), Switzerland, def. Olga Danilovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-1.

Victoria Azarenka (15), Belarus, def. Andrea Petkovic, Germany, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Emma Raducanu (12), Britain, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Angelique Kerber (21), Germany, def. Elsa Jacquemot, France, 6-1, 7-6 (2).

Amanda Anisimova (27), United States, def. Donna Vekic, Croatia, 6-4, 6-1.

Coco Gauff (18), United States, def. Alison van Uytvanck, Belgium, 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, def. Maria Sakkari (4), Greece, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4).

Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, def. Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, 6-4, 6-4.

Leylah Annie Fernandez (17), Canada, def. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.

Sloane Stephens, United States, def. Sorana Cirstea (26), Romania, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Varvara Gracheva, Russia, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-5.

Belinda Bencic (14), Switzerland, def. Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 6-2, 6-4.

unforced errors to Petkovic's 42.

Azarenka has twice won the Australian Open and was a semifinalist at Roland Garros in 2013. The 34-year-old Petkovic reached the French Open semifinals in 2014 but has not been beyond the third round at any Grand Slam since then. She is a five-time clay-court champion on the tour.

NBA PLAYOFFS



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Mavericks guard Luka Dončić is fouled by Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry during the first half of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals Tuesday in Dallas.

Mavericks avoid sweep with win over Warriors

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

DALLAS — Luka Dončić and the Dallas Mavericks had to wait out a rain delay in the middle of the game and sweat out some tense moments near the end.

Once they did, they avoided a sweep and were still alive in the Western Conference finals.

Dončić had 30 points and 14 rebounds, and the Mavericks beat Golden State 119-109 in Game 4 on Tuesday night, when there was a 16-minute rain delay at the start of the second half and the Warriors cut a 29-point deficit down to single digits late.

“Just got to finish the game. A win is a win,” said Dončić, who was 10-for-26 shooting with only three made threes but got plenty of help from his supporting cast.

It was the 10th double-double in his 14 games this postseason for Dončić, who also had nine assists. When he had 40 points in Game 3, Reggie Bullock shot 0-for-10 with seven misses from three-point range.

Dorian Finney-Smith had 23 points on 9-for-13 shooting and Bullock added 18 points on 6-for-10 — all three-pointers. Jalen Brunson had 15 points and Maxi Kleber, who was 2-for-14 shooting (all threes) in the first three games, made two threes before halftime and was 5-for-6 shooting overall for 13 points.

“Everybody in that locker room felt like we had more basketball to play,” Finney-Smith said. “We

Scoreboard

Conference finals	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
(Best-of-seven)	
x-if necessary	
Miami 2, Boston 2	
Miami 118, Boston 107	
Boston 127, Miami 102	
Miami 109, Boston 103	
Boston 102, Miami 82	
Wednesday: at Miami	
Friday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:40 a.m.	
Saturday CET; 9:40 a.m. Saturday JKT	
x-Sunday: at Miami	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
(Best-of-seven)	
x-if necessary	
Golden State 3, Dallas 1	
Golden State 112, Dallas 87	
Golden State 126, Dallas 117	
Golden State 109, Dallas 100	
Tuesday: Dallas 119, Golden State 109	
Thursday: at Golden State, AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Friday CET; 10 a.m. Friday JKT	
x-Saturday: at Dallas	
x-Monday: at Golden State	

just wanted to get the win any way. ... Feel like we came out desperate that first half.”

The loss snapped the Golden State’s nine-game winning streak in Western Conference finals games, though it is still firmly in control of this series headed back to California for Game 5 on Thursday night.

“It was almost like an ego win (for Dallas). You come out and really have nothing to lose. So that confidence started early,” Stephen Curry said. “And we really didn’t do nothing to slow it down, and then that’s when the avalanche starts. You tip your hat to them.”

Curry had 20 points and returned to the game with 3:22 left — his first appearance in the fourth

quarter — after the Warriors had cut a 29-point deficit to 110-102. But they never got closer even after Curry and other starters returned to the floor.

“Just made the decision to see if we could pull off a miracle, but it wasn’t meant to be,” coach Steve Kerr said. “Dallas was great tonight. They deserved to win. This is the conference finals. This is how it’s supposed to be.”

Dončić then drove for a dunk and Bullock had his sixth three-pointer, among the 20 long-range makes for the Mavericks, who now have 11 games this postseason with at least 15 threes.

“I still believe we can win. Swept or not swept, if you lose, you lose,” Dončić said. “Got to go game by game.”

No NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a series. Only three of the 146 teams to fall in that deep hole have even been able to force a seventh game.

Dallas has been swept in a best-of-seven only once in its 34 such series. That was against Oklahoma City in the first round of the 2012 playoffs, after the Mavericks won their only NBA title the previous season.

Rain leaking through the roof at American Airlines Center caused the delay after halftime. There was heavy rain outside, and there were at least two leaks. One was dropping water near the Golden State bench, and at the other end of the court water appeared to be falling in the stands.

Changing: Kerr heaps blame on GOP senators

FROM PAGE 24

killed in Southern California, now we have children murdered at school.

“When are we going to do something? I’m tired. I’m so tired of getting up here and offering condolences to the devastated families that are out there. I’m so tired. Excuse me. I’m sorry. I’m tired of the moments of silence. Enough.

“There’s 50 Senators right now who refuse to vote on HR8, which is a background check rule that the House passed a couple years ago. It’s been sitting there for two years. There’s a reason they won’t vote on it: to hold onto power.

“I ask you, Mitch McConnell, all of you Senators who refuse to do anything about the violence, school shootings, supermarket shootings, I ask you: Are you going to put your own desire for power ahead of the lives of our children and our elderly and our churchgoers? Because that’s what it looks like. That’s what we do every week.

“So I’m fed up. I’ve had enough. We’re going to play the game tonight. But I want every person here, every person listening to this, to think about your own child or grandchild, mother or father, sister, brother. How would you feel if this happened to you today?

“We can’t get numb to this. We can’t sit here and just read about it and go, ‘Well, let’s have a moment of silence. Go Dubs. C’mon, Mavs, let’s go.’ That’s what we’re going to do. We’re going to go play a basketball game.

“Fifty Senators in Washington are going to hold us hostage. Do you realize that 90 percent of

Americans, regardless of political party, want background checks, universal background checks? Ninety percent of us. We are being held hostage by 50 Senators in Washington who refuse to even put it to a vote, despite what we the American people want.

“They won’t vote on it because they want to hold onto their own power. It’s pathetic. I’ve had enough.”

Said Kidd: “It’s tough. You know, as coaches or fathers, we have kids. People in this room have kids. Elementary school. You just think about what could take place with any of your family or friends at a school.

“This is on-the-run job training. We’re going to try to play the game. We have no choice. The game is not going to be canceled. But we have to find a way to be pro, find a way to win, and move forward.

“But the news of what’s happening, not just here in Texas but throughout our country, is sad.”

TNT opened its pregame show focused on the shooting with emotional host Ernie Johnson saying “We’ve got plenty of time to talk basketball. That is not where we begin after yet another tragedy today ...”

NBA Hall of Famer and TNT pregame panelist Shaquille O’Neal backed Kerr’s comments.

“Steve is correct — enough is enough,” O’Neal said.

O’Neal noted Uvalde was in the same district with his high school, San Antonio Cole.

Staff writer Chuck Carlton contributed to this report.

Giannis selected to fourth straight All-NBA first team

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Giannis Antetokounmpo, fellow two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic, Luka Dončić, Devin Booker and Jayson Tatum were voted first-team All-NBA on Tuesday, the first time in 67 years all five players were age 27 or younger.

Milwaukee’s Antetokounmpo was the only player to receive all 100 possible first-team votes and finished with 500 points in his fourth consecutive first-team selection. Denver’s Jokic and Dallas’ Dončić each received 88 first-team votes

and 476 points.

Dončić joined Tim Duncan, Kevin Durant and Max Zaslofsky as the only players to make the first team three or more times before turning 24, while Phoenix’s Booker (460 points) and Boston’s Tatum (390) both were first-time selections to the first team.

Philadelphia’s Joel Embiid, the NBA’s leading scorer and runner-up to Jokic for MVP, led the second team. He was joined by Ja Morant, winner of the Most Improved Player award, Durant, Stephen Curry and DeMar DeRozan.

The third team was Karl-Anthony Towns, LeBron James — who earned his 18th All-NBA selection — Chris Paul, Trae Young and Pascal Siakam.



Antetokounmpo

SPORTS



Missing from his résumé
Newgarden still seeking elusive
Indy 500 win » **Auto racing, Page 22**

NBA PLAYOFFS



Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr talks about the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, before his team's playoff game against the Mavericks on Tuesday in Dallas.

SCOTT STRAZZANTE, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Mavericks head coach Jason Kidd also spent his portion of the pregame press conference discussing the shooting.

Changing the subject

Kerr, Kidd give emotional responses to Texas school shooting

BY CALLIE CAPLAN
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Dallas Mavericks coach Jason Kidd and Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr declined to talk about basketball less than two hours before Game 4 of the Western Conference finals tipped off Tuesday.

They had bigger concerns in mind.

Kidd and Kerr spent the entirety of their pregame press conferences discussing the elementary school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where at least 19 children and two adults died Tuesday afternoon.

For three minutes in front of cameras and reporters, Kerr delivered an emotional, impassioned, outraged call for action.

He pounded the table. He shouted. He called out Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and

“When are we going to do something? I’m tired. I’m so tired of getting up here and offering condolences to the devastated families that are out there.”

Steve Kerr

Warriors coach, on Tuesday’s school shooting

U.S. senators for inaction. His voice caught with emotion.

Kerr’s father, Malcolm, was shot and killed by two gunmen in 1984, and the Warriors’ coach has long been one of the NBA’s most fervent advocates for gun control.

“I’m not going to talk about basketball,” Kerr started his press conference. “Nothing’s happened with our team in the last six hours. We’re going to start the same way tonight. Any basketball questions don’t matter.

“Since we left [pregame] shootaround, 14 children were killed 400 miles from here, and a teacher. In the last 10 days, we’ve had elderly black people killed in a supermarket in Buffalo, we’ve had Asian churchgoers

SEE CHANGING ON PAGE 23

Rangers even series with Hurricanes 2-2 » NHL playoffs, Page 21

