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STARS AND STRIPES

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MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Teresa Irwin, left, sister of former Marine Capt. Grady Kurpasi, watches as Marine 1st Sgt. Timothy La Sage, center, and Port Authority police officers place his remains into a waiting car at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on May 19, in New York.

Marine vet brought home

Veterans recover remains of Leatherneck killed in Ukraine

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

The search for Marine Corps veteran Grady Kurpasi had gone cold until former Army paratrooper Meaghan Mobbs stepped into a safe house in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

It was January, and Mobbs and her team of veterans and humanitarian workers with the private Romulus T. Weatherman Foundation had already spent months trying to find out what happened to Kurpasi after he went missing in a battle with invading Russian forces



Kurpasi

near Mykolaiv in the south.

The Weatherman group had arrived at the house in Kharkiv on an unrelated mission, meeting with another American veteran fighting alongside Ukrainians to discuss weapons and logistics. An unexpected breakthrough came a short time later.

"Do you have any Americans with tight lips down in Mykolaiv or Kherson?" the veteran wrote in a text message to Mobbs, asking if

what he was about to tell her would remain confidential.

He explained how his unit in Ukraine's legion of foreign soldiers had been tasked last year with recovering the body of a fallen American but the area had become overrun with Russian troops.

"Holy hell," Mobbs wrote back. "Are you talking about Grady?"

Kurpasi, 50, had traveled to Ukraine shortly after the Russian military stormed the country

SEE MARINE ON PAGE 9

US begins Abrams training for Ukrainians

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany—About 200 Ukrainian soldiers have begun training on Abrams tanks at military ranges in Germany, the U.S. Army in Europe said Sunday in a statement.

The Ukrainian soldiers, who comprise an armored battalion, are joined by an additional 200 soldiers focused on the unique refueling and maintenance requirements needed to keep the M1A1 Abrams system operating, the Army said.

Col. Martin O'Donnell, spokesman for U.S. Army Europe and Africa, said the Ukrainian tank battalion will be working on combined arms drills that includes everything from basic marksmanship and medical training to battalion level force-on-force tactics.

"It represents the continuation of a world-wide effort led by the U.S. and supported by more than 50 nations to help Ukraine defend itself from Russia's brutal and unprovoked war," O'Donnell said in the statement.

The training, which officially launched Friday, is being carried out at U.S. Army sites in the Grafenwoehr area.

Earlier this month, about 30 Abrams tanks arrived in Grafenwoehr, so that Ukrainians could begin preparing for battle-ready versions of the tanks that are ex-

SEE ABRAMS ON PAGE 8

RELATED

Russia launched 'largest drone attack' on Ukrainian capital
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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Ford EVs to get Tesla charging station access

Associated Press

DETROIT — All of Ford Motor Co.'s current and future electric vehicles will have access to about 12,000 Tesla Supercharger stations in the United States and Canada starting next spring.

Ford CEO Jim Farley and Tesla CEO Elon Musk announced the agreement Thursday during a "Twitter Spaces" audio chat.

"We think this is a huge move for our industry and for all electric customers," Farley said.

Musk said he didn't want Tesla's

network to be a "walled garden" and that he wants to use it to support sustainable transportation.

"It is our intent to do everything possible to support Ford and have Ford be on an equal footing at Tesla Superchargers," Musk said.

Farley said there will be a cost to Ford owners, perhaps a monthly subscription, but he didn't give specifics. Details of any financial arrangement between Ford and Tesla were not announced.

At first, Ford's current electric vehicles will need an adapter to

hook into the Tesla stations, which have their own connector. But Ford will switch to Tesla's North American Charging Standard connector with its second-generation EVs starting in 2025, Farley said.

Ford said Tesla's connector is smaller and lighter than those in use by other automakers.

"We love the locations. We love the reliability," he said. They will join Ford's own Blue Oval charging network which has about 10,000 fast-charging stations, he said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (May 29)	\$1.05	Bahrain (Dinar)	.3770
British pound (May 29)	\$1.21	Britain (Pound)	1.2351
Japanese yen (May 29)	136.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.3616
South Korean won (May 29)	1,293.00	China (Yuan)	7.0647
		Denmark (Krone)	6.9415
		Egypt (Pound)	30.9000
		Euro	.9320
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8339
		Hungary (Forint)	345.96
		Israel (Shekel)	3.7260
		Japan (Yen)	140.63
		Kuwait (Dinar)	.3076
		Norway (Krone)	11.0853
		Philippines (Peso)	55.89
		Poland (Zloty)	4.22
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7495
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3526
		South Korea (Won)	1,324.50
Switzerland (Franc)	.9047		
Thailand (Baht)	34.77		
Turkey (New Lira)	19.9880		

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

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	8.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.75
Federal funds market rate	5.08
3-month bill	5.31
30-year bond	3.97

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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MILITARY

Harris praises cadets' sacrifice

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman to deliver a commencement speech at West Point, lauded graduating cadets Saturday for their noble sacrifice in serving their country, but noted they were entering an “unsettled world” because of Russian aggression and the rising threats from China.

“The world has drastically changed,” Harris told the roughly 950 graduating cadets. She referred to the global pandemic that took millions of lives, as well as the fraught shifts in global politics in Europe and in Asia.

“It is clear you graduate into an increasingly unsettled world where longstanding principles are at risk,” she said.

As the U.S. ended two decades of war in Afghanistan, the longest in the country's history, the vice president said, Russia soon launched the first major ground war in Europe since World War II when it invaded Ukraine.

“At the same time, autocrats have become bolder, the threat of terrorism persists, and an accelerating climate crisis continues to disrupt lives and livelihoods,” she added.

She advised cadets to be wary of China, as it rapidly modernizes its military and muscles for control



BRYAN WOOLSTON/AP

Cadet Vani Vermaduring salutes Vice President Kamala Harris during the graduation ceremony of the U.S. Military Academy class of 2023 on Saturday in West Point, N.Y.

over parts of the high seas, ostensibly referring to the brewing disputes over the South China Sea.

She spoke about the country's military might and its need to innovate, including the adoption of new technology to change how wars are fought — even using artificial intelligence to predict enemy movements and to guide autonomous vehicles.

Harris made no mention about the ongoing skirmishing in Washington, where the White House and congressional Republicans are trying to avert a debt crisis.

Harris' visit is her first to the U.S. Army academy. Commencement speakers at the country's military academies are usually delivered by the president, vice

president or a high-ranking military official — which until Harris' election meant speakers have always been men.

Harris was joined at the commencement by Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth, who in 2021 became the first woman to hold the military service's top civilian post.

Harris, the first woman to serve as the country's vice president, noted the 75th anniversary of 1948's Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which gave women the right to serve as permanent members of the military. It was also 75 years ago when President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order banning segregation in the Armed Forces.

Austin tells Navy grads they are ready to serve

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told newly commissioned officers at the U.S. Naval Academy on Friday that they are ready to “defend our democracy with honor, courage and commitment.”

Austin, speaking during the ceremony at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, acknowledged the Navy's role in training allies, helping expand Ukraine's maritime capabilities in its fight against Russian invasion and bringing relief to international conflict zones.

“Class of 2023, wherever your career takes you, remind the world of what you stand for — and what America stands for: Honor. Courage. And commitment. Democracy. Liberty. And the rule of law,” Austin told 1,018 graduates at the academy's commissioning

ceremony.

The secretary said naval officers have a special understanding of the power of teamwork, and “we need that spirit for the crucial mission that you're all here to shoulder.”

Austin said U.S. Marines are training alongside allies in Japan and the Philippines to strengthen deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. He also said the Navy is driving forward the AUKUS partnership with Australia and the U.K.

In Europe, he said, U.S. sailors are operating shoulder-to-shoulder with NATO allies.

He told the graduating class that their leadership will be at the center of American efforts for a more peaceful future.

“Our competitors openly challenge that vision,” he said. “They want to replace the hard-won postwar system of rules and rights



PAUL W. GILLESPIE/AP

Navy Ensign William Wang holds his diploma as he walks off the stage during the U.S. Naval Academy's graduation and commissioning ceremony Friday in Annapolis, Md.

with a lawless world of autocracy and aggression. But the American flag atop a U.S. Navy ship has long been the symbol of hope for a more free and secure world.”

The class included 751 men and 267 women.

Probe: Problems dog SEAL training

Widespread failures seen in oversight, medical care after death of sailor

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The training program for Navy SEALs is plagued by widespread failures in medical care, poor oversight and the use of performance-enhancing drugs that have increased the risk of injury and death to those seeking to become elite commandos, according to an investigation triggered by the death of a sailor last year.

Medical oversight and care were “poorly organized, poorly integrated and poorly led and put candidates at significant risk,” the nearly 200-page report compiled by the Naval Education and Training Command concluded.

The highly critical report said flaws in the medical program “likely had the most direct impact on the health and well being” of the SEAL candidates and “specifically” on Kyle Mullen, the sailor who died. It said if the shortcomings had been addressed, his death may have been preventable.

The investigation also dug deep into the longstanding problem of sailors using steroids and similar banned drugs as they try to pass the SEAL qualification course. The report recommends far more robust testing for the drugs — a move the Navy and the military more broadly have been slow to make — and better education for service members in order to prevent their use.

Mullen collapsed and died of acute pneumonia just hours after completing the grueling Hell Week test last year. A report released in October by Naval Special Warfare Command concluded that Mullen, 24, from Manalapan, N.J., died “in the line of duty, not due to his own misconduct.”

It said there was no evidence of performance-enhancing drugs, but that he had an enlarged heart that contributed to his death. The report said, however, that he was not tested for some steroids because needed blood and urine samples were not available, and that multiple vials of drugs and syringes were later found in his car.

His death shined a light on the brutal test that pushes SEAL candidates to their limits. During the five-and-a-half day test, which involves basic underwater demolition and survival and other combat tactics, sailors are allowed to sleep just twice, for two-hour periods only. It tests physical, mental

and psychological strength along with leadership skills, and is so grueling that at least 50% to 60% don't finish it.

Navy leaders conducted multiple reviews and investigations in the wake of his death, and this latest report makes a lengthy series of recommendations for changes to medical care staffing, training and drug testing.

The command has already taken steps to overhaul procedures, add medical staff and improve their training, particularly on heart and breathing problems commonly seen during Hell Week. Commanders are also doing more drug testing and heart screenings.

The latest report notes that special operations forces are routinely required to carry out high-risk military operations, and thus require demanding training. But it said SEAL instructors in recent years appeared to focus on weeding out candidates, rather than teaching or mentoring. Compounding that problem, the report said, is that candidates were often reluctant to seek medical care because it would be seen as weak and could get them removed from the course or delay their completion. According to the Navy, about 888 SEAL candidates are considered every year, and the goal is to graduate 175.

The “ability to continue training through discomfort and some degraded physical condition was seen as a positive trait by instructors and this was understood by candidates,” the report said.

As a result, candidates would push on and not tell medical staff or leaders about injuries, and there was pressure to use drugs to help keep them going.

The use of performance-enhancing drugs has been a persistent problem. Investigations in 2011, 2013 and 2018 into suspected steroid use by SEAL candidates led to discipline and requests for enhanced testing.

The use of hair follicle testing was denied at least twice by Navy leaders over that time. Random testing for steroids wasn't authorized by the Defense Department. The Navy has asked the department to do a study on testing and to allow random tests and sweeps for drugs, but those requests have not been approved by the Pentagon. In the wake of Mullen's death, however, the command began some additional testing.

MILITARY

Air Force program opens door to job switches

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

For airmen headed to the wind-swept plains of Minot Air Force Base, N.D., or middle of nowhere Cannon Air Force Base, not all hope is lost.

Starting Thursday, enlisted members of the Air Force can switch jobs if they find a counterpart in their career field with the same rank, special experience code and skill level willing to trade places.

If that option sounds familiar, it's because the service is reviving the enlisted swap assignment program, which was shut down years ago.

The goal is to give airmen more

control and flexibility in their careers, the service said Thursday in a statement.

Eligibility extends to those of the ranks of senior master sergeant and below.

The Air Force previously offered a similar program in 2007 for enlisted airmen and officers ranked lieutenant colonel and below stationed in the United States.

That program ultimately was "deemed unfair" and fewer than 5% of airmen participated, the Air Force Personnel Center said in a 2017 Facebook post explaining why the initiative ended.

Airmen had to pay to move, which put a heavier financial burden on younger troops, the per-

sonnel center said then.

Under the revamped program, the Air Force will pay for relocation costs, the service said. It also does not limit assignment exchanges to stateside bases. Officers are not included this time around.

The new policy requires airmen to initiate a trade within 90 days after receiving orders to a new base with someone who is eligible for that assignment.

Airmen must be in good standing and find a counterpart in the same career field with similar clearance who is willing to take the assignment.

The Space Force is not participating while it continues to eval-

uate assignment options better suited for guardians, the Air Force said.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass first announced the assignment swap last fall at the Air and Space Forces Association's annual conference. She did not say at the time when the initiative would be implemented.

Airmen will use the MyVector online forum to discuss swapping assignments, the service said.

The Air Force Personnel Center will review applications for eligibility, and applicants will be notified of a decision through MyVector.

The service suggested airmen

may experience some technical issues with the program application, but Bass said "we weren't waiting for the perfect system to be built" before launching it.

Private Facebook groups, such as one called Security Forces Assignment Swap, already have been established to facilitate assignment exchanges. And the new policy is generating some buzz on social media.

"I'll pay someone to take Cannon off my hands," said one of 93 comments posted on Reddit earlier this month about the new program.

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LEXI WHITEHEAD/Newport News Shipbuilding

The aircraft carrier **USS George Washington** departs **Newport News Shipbuilding** in Virginia on May 22.

USS George Washington 'redelivered' to Navy after delayed, 6-year overhaul

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The USS George Washington is back in Navy hands after an extended, six-year maintenance period at Huntington Ingalls' Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia.

The company, which built the aircraft carrier in the 1980s, officially returned, or "redelivered," it following three days of sea trials, the company said in a news release Thursday.

The George Washington since August 2017 has been in the Virginia shipyard for its midlife nuclear refueling and overhaul, a process expected to last four years but that ran into overtime due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other setbacks.

"George Washington has gone through a transformation and now returns to the fleet as a fully recapitalized ship, ready to support any mission and serve our nation for

another 25 years," Todd West, vice president of in-service aircraft carrier programs at the shipyard, said in the news release.

The sea trials, which began May 22, included high-speed operations and tests designed to "prove system performance" and demonstrate the carrier's various capabilities at sea, Huntington Ingalls said.

Sometime next year, the George Washington is scheduled to return to Yokosuka Naval Base, the ship's homeport south of Tokyo from 2008 to 2015. It will replace the USS Ronald Reagan as the centerpiece of the U.S. 7th Fleet's carrier strike group. The Ronald Reagan, which arrived at Yokosuka in 2015, will return for maintenance at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash., Naval Forces Japan announced in April.

"The Navy positions many of its most advanced capabilities in Japan in recognition of the impor-

tance of our alliance," Naval Forces Japan spokeswoman Cmdr. Katie Cerezo told Stars and Stripes by email April 28. "This turnover will ensure continued carrier presence in the region."

George Washington's overhaul concludes just over a week after the Navy released the results of an investigation into the ship's "command climate and sailor quality of service." The Navy launched the investigation after three crewmember suicides over one week in April 2022.

The report found numerous factors contributed to the ship's mental health crisis, such as insufficient manning, poor working and living conditions and an insufficient number of mental health professionals to meet demand.

The carrier has lost nine sailors to suicide since 2017.

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Navy: Fuel spill did not contaminate water

By SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A Navy air station southwest of Tokyo found no contamination of its water supply after thousands of gallons of aviation fuel spilled from storage tanks Wednesday, according to Navy and Japanese officials.

JP-5 aviation fuel spilled into the Tate River, which runs through Naval Air Facility Atsugi, but it had dissipated by Thursday and no further contamination was reported, according to a news release that day from neighboring Ayase city.

"Out of an abundance of caution, we had the water in our wells tested," base spokesman Greg Mitchell said by email Friday. "The results came back today, with no indication of any fuel constituents."

The base fire department responded to the spill around 3:10 a.m. Wednesday, Mitchell said Thursday.

The South Kanto Defense Bureau told the city 2,400 gallons of fuel spilled but the amount that flowed off base is unknown, according to the Ayase city.

Ayase Mayor Masayoshi Koshio met with NAF Atsugi commander Capt. Manning Montagnet at the base and asked him to

quickly collect and manage the spilled fuel, make efforts to identify the cause, take preventative measures and provide further information, according to the city.

Montagnet told Koshio that "the Navy deeply regrets" the incident and "is very sorry to have caused uncertainty and concern to the local residents," the city said.

The cause of the spill is under investigation, Montagnet told the mayor, according to the city. The commander promised to provide information as it becomes available and take preventative measures. NAF Atsugi until 2018 was home to Carrier Air Wing 5, which deploys aboard the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier stationed at nearby Yokosuka Naval Base. Those aircraft are now based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, hundreds of miles to the south in Yamaguchi prefecture.

NAF Atsugi is still home to several Navy helicopter squadrons and 10,000 personnel made up of U.S. and Japanese service members, civilian employees and family members, according to its website.

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AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

The Tate River flows near Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, on Friday. JP-5 aviation fuel spilled into the river last week.

PACIFIC



JUAN KING/Stars and Stripes

Visitors check out an Air Force RQ-4 Global Hawk surveillance drone during the 47th annual Japanese-American Friendship Festival at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on May 20.

Drones rotated to Japan from Guam in time to avoid typhoon

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Air Force RQ-4 Global Hawk reconnaissance drones arrived in Japan in time to avoid a typhoon that passed close to their home station on Guam on Wednesday.

The unmanned aircraft began their annual deployment to the airlift hub in western Tokyo on May 15, the 374th Airlift Wing announced on Thursday.

A day earlier, Typhoon Mawar, which generated winds of nearly 150 per hour, passed close to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, where the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron drones are normally based.

A statement on Andersen's official Facebook page Friday indicated the airfield is closed in the typhoon's wake and when it reo-

pens, bringing in aid will be the priority.

The Global Hawks summer in Yokota to avoid the typhoon season on Guam, U.S. Forces Japan spokesman Air Force Maj. Thomas Barger said by phone Friday.

Information about the number of drones and airmen in the rotation wasn't available immediately, he said. The mission is an "enduring" rotation, meaning it doesn't have a set end date, Barger added.

Past drone rotations to the base have included as many as five drones and dozens of maintainers.

Beginning in 2014 the Air Force positioned Global Hawks at Misawa Air Base in the country's northeast, where Japan now stations its own Global Hawks. Since 2017, the U.S. drones have rotated to Yokota.

The Global Hawk flies at 60,000 feet and has a line of sight to targets more than 340 miles away, according to manufacturer Northrop Grumman.

"The Global Hawk's mission is to provide a broad range of U.S. intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities to support joint forces, and Allies and partners in worldwide peacetime, contingency, and crisis operations," the wing said in its statement.

The exact range of the aircraft's cameras and sensors is classified, but a Global Hawk flying near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, for example, could see well beyond the Yalu River that marks North Korea's border with China.

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DODEA principal warns of social media inappropriate 'scam' sent to students

By JUAN KING
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The middle school principal at this airlift hub in western Tokyo is advising parents to monitor their children's social media for inappropriate messages.

Principal Hilary Simmons, in a post Wednesday on Yokota Middle School's Facebook page, said students were solicited via "private message" to share "inappropriate material." Her message did not explain what the messages entailed.

"While this is not a school-related matter in that it did not occur on

our school campus, this scam has impacted some of our students," she wrote.

Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing referred questions to the spokeswoman for Department of Defense Education Activity-Pacific, Miranda Ferguson, who declined to provide further details.

In her message, Simmons said parents of children "affected by this scam" should contact the base's security squadron.

Simmons offered several pointers.

"Be mindful of what you post, including personally identifiable in-

formation or PII," she wrote. "Remember: anything you post can be captured on a screen and shared to a wider audience, even if your account is private."

Watch out for suspicious messages and accounts, Simmons said. "Not everyone is who they say they are on social media."

Parents should be aware of their children's social media activity and talk to them about social media safety at home, too, she added.

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Report: US Navy hit by Chinese hack campaign

By WILLIAM TURTON
AND KATRINA MANSON
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — An alleged campaign by Chinese state-sponsored hackers on targets in the U.S. and Guam has raised fears that Beijing is preparing to disrupt communications in the Pacific in the event of a conflict.

The hacking campaign was first identified by Microsoft Corp. on Wednesday and quickly confirmed by authorities in the U.S., U.K. and other allied nations. Microsoft said the hacking group, which it dubbed Volt Typhoon, had breached government, communications, manufacturing and IT organizations in the U.S. and Guam, a crucial military post in the western Pacific Ocean.

While the identities of most of the hacking victims remain unknown, U.S. Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro told CNBC on Thursday that the Navy was impacted by the intrusions. The extent of the breach wasn't immediately known. A spokesperson for the U.S. Navy declined to "discuss the status of our networks."

Meanwhile, Rob Joyce, the director of cybersecurity at the National Security Agency, told CNN Thursday that Chinese hackers could still have access to sensitive U.S. networks that they've targeted. Joyce said the intrusions stood out in how brazen they were in "scope and scale."

A NSA representative declined to comment and referred instead to a release by the NSA and other U.S. agencies on the Chinese hacking group.

Microsoft said it had "moderate confidence" the breaches were carried out in preparation to upend communications in the event of a future crisis. The company's disclosure came amid mounting concerns that China might take military action to enforce its claim to the self-ruled island of Taiwan.

Jon Darby, NSA's director of operations until his retirement after 39 years at the spy agency in August, said the operation matched a well-known way to infiltrate networks by accessing them at the edges rather than at what he called the bulls-eye and then staying undetected for years.

"The interesting thing is they got in from home routers all the way into the U.S. Navy infrastructure," said Darby, who is not familiar with the details of this spe-

cific case.

"The scary thing is they could then launch disruptive or destructive attacks when things are hitting the fan," he said. "If they're in these networks they can wreak havoc. You've got to identify and plug up the vulnerabilities that allowed them to get into these networks and eradicate them."

The NSA, along with intelligence agencies from the U.K., Australia, New Zealand and Canada also shared more details on the hackers. Those countries are all part of a key intelligence alliance, which includes the sharing of cybersecurity information, known as the Five Eyes.

China has denied the hacking accusations.

"We noted this extremely unprofessional report — a patchwork with a broken chain of evidence," China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said. "Apparently, this has been a collective disinformation campaign launched by the U.S. through the Five Eyes to serve its geopolitical agenda. It's widely known that the Five Eyes is the world's biggest intelligence association, and the NSA the world's biggest hacking group."

The U.S. has previously accused Chinese hackers of espionage and intellectual property theft, including a data breach of the Office of Personnel Management in 2015 and a hack of Equifax in 2017. In 2014, a Senate panel found that Chinese government-affiliated hackers accessed the data of military contractors including airlines and tech companies.

It's not clear why Microsoft, the U.S. and its allies decided to shine a spotlight on the hacking group this week. One reason may be to give private companies a head start on defending from this group of Chinese hackers long before a potential conflict with China over Taiwan, said John Hultquist, chief analyst at Mandiant Intelligence, a subsidiary of Google.

"The burden of protecting critical infrastructure from serious disruptive cyberattacks lies with the private sector. They have to defend these networks," Hultquist said. "That's why it's so important that this intelligence makes its way into their hands. If it doesn't, it's practically useless."

Details about the alleged attacks offer rare insights into potential sabotage efforts by Chinese hackers.

MILITARY

Drowning victim's mom warns of sea dangers

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The mother of a Marine who drowned in a rip current off Okinawa in June 2021 has returned to the island to warn service members and others about the dangers posed by unpredictable seas.

Jessica Niss, 46, of Mountain Lake, Minn., delivered an hour-long presentation Wednesday called "Practice a Pause" for about 100 Marines at the Camp Foster theater.

She urged the Marines to "pause" and consider the consequences before doing anything that poses a risk. She also implored them to think of their loved ones back home.

Niss' son, Cpl. Eric John Niss de Jesus, was 24 when he went missing on June 5, 2021, after getting caught in a rip current at Odo Beach in Itoman. She shared her son's story in hopes of saving lives ahead of the critical summer months.

Niss de Jesus was swimming with three friends near a reef when they were caught in a rip current. He barked words of encouragement to his friends ahead of him, spurring them forward to safety.

When the group exited the water, Niss de Jesus was nowhere to be found. His body was recovered four days later, approximately 1,000 feet from shore.

Water safety remains a serious issue on the semi-tropical, southern Japanese island, where scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking and surfing rank among the most popular recreational activities, Shawn Curtis, installation safety office director, said Wednesday. The island's rocky coastline, high winds and myriad reefs and natural channels form the perfect setting for breaking waves and rip currents.

The U.S. military on Okinawa has suffered 39 water-related deaths since 2003, including 18 Marines, Curtis said. More than

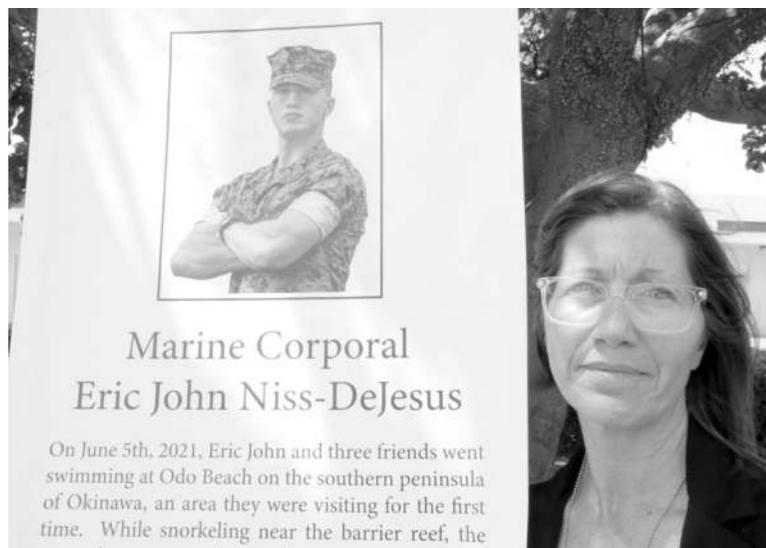
50% of the Navy and Marine drowning deaths around the world since 2018 have occurred in either Hawaii, Guam or Okinawa.

Water-related incidents peaked on Okinawa in 2022 at 106, a 10-year high, Jason MacDonald, ocean safety program manager for Camp Butler, told Stars and Stripes last month. There were 40 fatalities in 2022, including one U.S. service member, according to Japanese police.

Niss gave seven "Practice a Pause" talks between May 18 and Wednesday, including two at the Defense Department high schools at Camp Foster and Kadena Air Base. She was scheduled to speak Thursday to Marines at Camp Hansen and Friday at Camp Kinser, where her son worked as a military working dog handler for Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Niss became emotional Wednesday as she shared pictures and stories of her son over the years.

Niss de Jesus was a kind and



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Jessica Niss poses with a photo of her son, Cpl. Eric John Niss de Jesus, at Camp Foster, Okinawa, on Wednesday.

thoughtful "big brother" to all, who graduated magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in animal science, she said. He enlisted in the Marines in 2019 to work with dogs, though he was selected two years later for the enlisted commissioning program.

This "puts a lot of purpose to my pain," she said after hugging a long line of Marines at the conclusion of her presentation. "Being able to share him with others is my privilege as a momma."

Cpl. Isaac Lopez, an avid snorkeler and surfer from 3rd Maintenance

Battalion, said it's sometimes easy to get lost in the countless training sessions and safety briefings.

"It will have more of an impact now because of Eric's mother," he said after her speech.

Cpl. Andre Henry, also from the maintenance battalion, agreed.

"People should pay attention, take caution and actually do the research before they go out to the beaches," he said.

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Sunken WWII Navy destroyer discovered off coast of Japan

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Navy destroyer that sunk during World War II and claimed 84 Americans' lives has been found off the coast of Japan, authorities announced Thursday.

The USS Mannert L. Abele, named for an American submarine commander, was the first U.S. warship sunk by a Japanese suicide rocket, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command. The ship was sunk April 12, 1945, the same day that President Franklin D. Roosevelt died.

The Abele was operating 75 miles off Japan's northern coast when radar showed Japanese aircraft approaching. The destroyer then engaged the planes, damaging multiple enemy aircraft during the fight until one plane managed to crash on the warship. A minute later, the ship was hit at the waterline by a rocket-powered, human-guided bomb. The resulting explosion caused the ship's bow and stern to buckle rapidly, according to the command.

The Abele was the first of three ships hit and the first U.S. Navy vessel sunk by a human-guided kamikaze bomb.



U.S. NAVY

The USS Mannert L. Abele in the Atlantic Ocean less than a month after it was commissioned at Boston Navy Yard on Aug. 1, 1944.

The underwater archaeology branch of the Naval History and Heritage Command said the identity of the wreck was confirmed with information provided by Tim Taylor, an ocean explorer and CEO of Tiburon Subsea. Taylor also operates the "Lost 52 Project," a group working to identify and find missing battleships from World War II.

In a news release on the "Lost 52 Project" website, Taylor said finding the Abele was personal because his father served in the Navy and saw a similar kamikaze attack on his own ship.

"My father came close to the same fate of the crew of the Abele just days earlier. This was a very emotive discovery for me. Connecting me to my father," Taylor

said in a statement.

The Abele's wreckage falls under the command's jurisdiction and is protected from intrusion by U.S. law and under jurisdiction of the Navy.

"Mannert L. Abele is the final resting place for 84 American sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country," said Samuel Cox, the director of the command. "My deepest thanks and congratulations to Tim Taylor and his team for discovering this wreck site. Its discovery allows some closure to the families of those lost and provides us all another opportunity to remember and honor them."

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Marine stymies alleged DC human-trafficking ring

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

A Marine Reserve officer's quick thinking is credited with busting a gang's alleged human-trafficking operation in Alexandria, Va., where the lieutenant colonel was staying during a recent drill weekend in nearby Washington, according to service officials.

The Marine Corps dubbed the lieutenant colonel "a hero" in a news release this week announcing he had been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his May 5 actions after he noticed a young girl who seemed out of place in his Alexandria hotel lobby. The Marine, an infantry officer whose identity was not released because of his work in civilian law enforcement in Virginia, said the girl showed signs of distress and had the number 13 tattooed on both of her arms.

"I came back from drill and noticed a young girl acting strangely and dressing out of place in and around the hotel lobby we were staying at," the officer said in the Marine release. The Marine Corps did not identify the hotel. "The way she was walking back and forth, in and out, it almost seemed like she was hoping to be noticed by someone."

The officer was familiar with human trafficking activity and the

gang known as MS-13 from his law enforcement job. He said MS-13 members often brand their "human property" with a 13. MS-13 is a brutal criminal street gang founded by Salvadoran immigrants in Los Angeles in the 1980s, and it has grown into an international operation, according to the Justice Department.

After some internal debate about what to do about the girl he saw, the Marine said he contacted the Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, thinking, in part, about his own daughter of a similar age. He reported apparent MS-13 handlers nearby who kept "the girl in their sights."

It would lead the Marine into a seven-hour operation with local police officers that ended in the discovery of "a handful of young teenage girls" and drugs in an Alexandria residence allegedly used by MS-13, according to the Marines.

The Marine's "judgment and initiative in this situation are perfect examples of how Marines should feel about human trafficking," said Col. John D. Cowart, commander of the Marine Corps Advisor Company A, the unnamed Marine's unit.

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MILITARY

8th Fighter Wing gets new leader from Misawa

Stars and Stripes

Air Force Col. Timothy Murphy has taken command of the South Korea-based 8th Fighter Wing and its stable of F-16 Fighting Falcons near the Yellow Sea.

Murphy replaced Col. Henry Jeffress III, who had led the Wolf Pack since May 2022, his third and final assignment at Kunsan Air Base, according to the Air Force.

Brig. Gen. Ryan Keeney, 7th Air Force's deputy commander, praised the incoming leader during a change-of-command ceremony Thursday at Kunsan.

"I have complete confidence in your ability to keep the Wolf Pack ready to deter, defend and, if necessary, defeat our enemies," he said, according to an 8th Fighter Wing statement Thursday. "I know you are going to make an amazing partner for our [South Korean] counterparts and continue to build the strength of our ironclad alliance."

Murphy, in the first address of his one-year tour, spoke to the more than 3,200 airmen, soldiers and civilians under his command.

"We have a proud tradition of excellence in our Air Force, and we especially have a proud tradition of excellence in the Wolf Pack," he said in the statement. "Know your role in this mission and of ours and make it happen with your entire heart."

Murphy brings Pacific experience to the wing, having previously served as vice commander of the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan. He was assigned to Kunsan's 35th Fighter Squadron in 2006 and 2007.

Kunsan made headlines earlier this month after one of its F-16s crashed in an agricultural field near Osan Air Base, south of Seoul. The pilot ejected safely as the jet went down during a training flight on the morning of May 6.

Around 30 F-16s were relocated to Osan in March while Kunsan's runway undergoes routine repairs that are estimated to be complete in late August.



Murphy

Tennessee pledges 100 troops to Texas border

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee authorized 100 troops from the state's National Guard to deploy along the Texas border with Mexico following a briefing of the situation with other Republican governors, Lee's office said Wednesday.

The troops will deploy to Texas at the end of the month "amid an ongoing national security crisis and surging drug crisis being fueled by an open border," according to Lee's announcement.

Lee was among a group of nine governors who participated Monday in a presentation from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in Austin about his border security mission known as Operation Lone Star and the impact this month's lifting of pandemic-era policies has had on it.

The public health policy, known as Title 42, allowed federal border agents to quickly expel migrants over concern that they would spread the coronavirus. That policy ended May 11 as the country continues to move away from the

emergency pandemic measures put into place in 2020.

Department of Homeland Security officials feared the lifting of Title 42 would lead to an increase in legal and illegal border crossings. However, a surge has not yet been reported. Abbott penned a letter May 16 to governors across the country to support his security mission that focuses on illegal activity between legal ports of entry. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is now a Republican candidate for president, responded by sending 800 National Guard troops to support Texas for 30 days, among other assets from his state.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little also announced last week that he would send resources to Texas that includes law enforcement personnel but not National Guard troops. Little also attended Abbott's briefing Monday. Roughly 5,500 Texas National Guard members are deployed to Operation Lone Star, which began about two years ago. At its peak in late 2021, Abbott said about 10,000 Guard members were deployed by him.



U.S. Navy

A Rising Sun flag flies from the Japanese destroyer JS Yuugiri near Okinawa in 2018.

Japanese warship expected to fly naval ensign in South Korea

By DAVID CHOI
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

A Japanese warship will raise the Rising Sun flag during an upcoming multinational exercise in South Korea, Japan's defense minister said Friday.

The Maritime Self-Defense Force — Japan's navy — "will fly the ensign of self-defense by following the national law," Yasukazu Hamada told reporters at a Tokyo news conference, according to a transcript on the ministry website.

The Eastern Endeavor maritime interdiction exercise will take place between Tuesday and June 2 at South Korea's southern Jeju Island.

Naval personnel from South Korea, the United States, Japan, Australia and Canada will stop and board ships simulating the transport of weapons of mass destruction, according to South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The allied navies will also discuss methods to combat North Korea's "means of delivery" of those weapons, according to a ministry news release.

The Japanese destroyer JS Hamagiri is scheduled to attend the exercise, a spokesman for Japan's Joint Staff said Friday.

A Japanese warship could also visit Busan, South Korea's largest port, Japan's the Yomiuri newspaper reported Thursday.

Japanese warships routinely fly the Rising Sun flag, which has

been the official ensign of the Maritime Self-Defense Force since 1954, according to the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

However, the flag is also associated with Imperial Japan, which waged war in the Pacific during World War II, and with Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula between from 1910 to 1945. The flag's symbolism and other unresolved historical disputes dating to Korea's colonization have often railroaded diplomatic relations between Seoul and Tokyo.

The origin of the Rising Sun symbol dates to 1870.

For the Japanese, the flag is not an "expression of political or discriminatory assertions," according to the Foreign Affairs ministry website.

Tokyo "will continue to explain at every opportunity its view that the display of the Rising Sun Flag is not political promotion to the international community," including South Korea. The Hamagiri may raise the Rising Sun flag during the exercise according to "international practice," Jeon Ha Gyu, spokesman for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense, said at a news briefing Thursday.

"As far as we know, a national flag of a country and a flag symbolizing the nation's military or organization is usually on a foreign vessel entering another country's port," Jeon said.

"This is perhaps a common practice being used in the world,

as far as we know."

The flag attracted attention in November when South Korean sailors rendered a salute toward a Japanese warship flying the Rising Sun during the Japan International Fleet Review at Sagami Bay near Yokohama.

South Korean Democratic Party lawmaker Jeon Yonggi likened the salute to paying respects to a war criminal.

Jeon, speaking Nov. 7 at a National Assembly hearing attended by Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup, questioned whether "internationally accepted" is an acceptable standard.

"We were humiliated under Japanese imperialism for 36 years, when Tokyo was saying it will conquer the world while hoisting this flag," Jeon said to Lee.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, on a state visit to Tokyo on March 16, said he hoped to work with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida "to create brighter bilateral ties for future generations."

Yoon and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met again May 7 in Seoul, where Yoon said: "We must move away from the thinking that we will be unable to take any steps toward future cooperation unless the two nations put a total end to all issues of the past," the Asahi newspaper reported that day.

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EUROPE

Russia launches 'largest drone attack' on Kyiv

BY SUSIE BLANN
AND ELISE MORTON
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war, local officials said, as Kyiv prepared to mark the anniversary of its founding on Sunday. At least one person was killed.

Russia launched the "most massive attack" on the city overnight Saturday with Iranian-made Shahed drones, said Serhii Popko, a senior Kyiv military official. The attack lasted more than five hours, with air defense reportedly shooting down more than 40 drones.

A 41-year-old man was killed and a 35-year-old woman was hospitalized when debris fell on a seven-story nonresidential building (so this is drone debris, rather than debris falling from the building itself?) and started a fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

Debris from a drone damaged the building of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind. On Sunday morning, organization member Volodymyr Golubenko came to pick up his things. He was helped by his son Mykola, who searched for his father's belongings among the rubble and at the same time tried to describe to his father what his office looks like now.

"This wall on the right is destroyed and on left also," said Mykola to his father.

Volodymyr Golubenko worked at this place for more than 40 years. He says it is a home for many blind people, because they come here to talk and support each other.

"If you don't even have a job, it's difficult to get a job now, because these events (war) have been going on since last year. At least people come here to chat," said Volo-



VASILISA STEPANENKO/AP

Vladimir Golubenko looks at his office damaged by a drone during an attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sunday.

dymyr.

Like Golubenko, many people in his district heard the sound of Shahed drones for the first time. Among them was 36-year-old Yana, who has three boys. The family hid in a corridor all night.

"Something started to explode above us. The children ran here in fear," said Yana.

Ukraine's air force said that Saturday night was also record-breaking in terms of Shahed drone attacks across the country. Of the 54 drones launched, 52 were shot down by air defense systems.

In the northeastern Kharkiv province, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said a 61-year-old woman and a 60-year-old man were killed in two separate shelling attacks.

Kyiv Day marks the anniversary of the city's official founding. The day is usually celebrated with live concerts, street fairs, exhibitions and fireworks. Scaled-back festivities were planned for this

year, the city's 1,541st anniversary.

The timing of the drone attacks was likely not coincidental, Ukrainian officials said.

"The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Ukraine's chief presidential aide, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram.

"Today, the enemy decided to 'congratulate' the people of Kyiv on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles)," Popko also wrote on the messaging app.

Local officials in Russia's southern Krasnodar region said that air defense systems destroyed several drones as they approached the Ilsky oil refinery.

Russia's southern Belgorod region, bordering Ukraine, also came under attack from Ukrainian forces on Saturday, local officials said. Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported Sunday that

a 15-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy were wounded in the shelling.

Drone attacks against Russian border regions have been a regular occurrence since the start of the invasion in February 2022, with attacks increasing last month. Earlier this month, an oil refinery in Krasnodar was attacked by drones on two straight days.

Ukrainian air defenses, bolstered by sophisticated Western-supplied systems, have been adept at thwarting Russian air attacks — both drones and aircraft missiles.

Earlier in May, Ukraine prevented an intense Russian air attack on Kyiv, shooting down all missiles aimed at the capital. The bombardment, which additionally targeted locations across Ukraine, included six Russian Kinzhal aero-ballistic hypersonic missiles, repeatedly touted by Russian

President Vladimir Putin as providing a key strategic competitive advantage and among the most advanced weapons in his country's arsenal.

Sophisticated Western air defense systems, including American-made Patriot missiles, have helped spare Kyiv from the kind of destruction witnessed along the main front line in the country's east and south. While most of the ground fighting is stalemated along that front line, both sides are targeting other territory with long-range weapons.

Against the backdrop of Saturday night's drone attacks, Russia's ambassador to the U.K., Andrei Kelin, warned of an escalation in Ukraine.

He told the BBC on Sunday his country had "enormous resources" and it was yet to "act very seriously," cautioning that Western supplies of weapons to Ukraine risked escalating the war to a "new dimension." The length of the conflict, he said, "depends on the efforts in escalation of war that is being undertaken by NATO countries, especially by the U.K."

Kelin's comments are typical of Russian officials' rhetoric with regard to Moscow's military might, but contradict regular reports from the battlefield of Russian troops being poorly equipped and trained.

Also on Sunday, the death toll from Friday's missile attack on the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro, the regional capital of the Dnipropetrovsk province, rose to four. Regional Gov. Serhii Lysak said that three people who were considered missing were confirmed dead. There were 32 people, including two children, wounded in the attack, which struck a building containing psychology and veterinary clinics.

Abrams: Soldiers began training in Grafenwoehr area Friday

FROM PAGE 1

pected to be available later this year. The Army's Grafenwoehr training area is the service's major training hub in Europe and includes more than 100 miles of tank and secondary trails as well as dozens of artillery and mortar firing positions, and aerial gunnery and close-air-support zones.

The launch of the tank training represents the latest step in an ongoing effort to get more sophisticated weaponry into the hands of Ukrainian troops.

Initially, the U.S. balked at the idea of giving Abrams tanks to the Ukrainians, citing the sophisticated maintenance demands of the armored vehicles. However, over the course of the war, the U.S. has gradually expanded what weap-

ons systems it is willing to add to Ukraine's arsenal.

At the start of Russia's invasion in February 2022, simpler equipment such as Stinger anti-aircraft missiles was a focal point of the effort to arm Ukraine's military. Since then, longer-range and more advanced precision systems, such as the High Mobility Rocket System, and Patriot missiles have been incorporated.

Since the start of Russia's war, USAREUR-AF has trained several thousand Ukrainian troops at its bases in Germany. Meanwhile, other allies have been involved in similar training efforts at other locations across Europe.

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U.S. Army

U.S. M1A1 Abrams tanks arrive at Grafenwoehr, Germany, on May 12. Ukrainian maintenance crews will soon begin training on the tanks.

EUROPE

Marine: Retiree joined after reports of Russian atrocities

FROM PAGE 1

in February 2022. He first assisted with evacuations and training Ukrainians for combat and then took up arms himself.

He was motivated to fight after witnessing atrocities committed during Russia's failed attempt to seize Ukraine's capital Kyiv, his family and friends said.

He had racked up 20 years of valuable military experience before retiring from the Marine Corps in September 2021, including three deployments to Iraq and service as an infantryman, scout sniper and captain with multiple awards for valor.

He was "inspiring, selfless, and constantly endured hardship and difficulty with a smile on his face," Kurpasi's family wrote on a GoFundMe page. Due to the intensity of the war, there was a need for people such as Grady, they said.

Kurpasi was last seen April 26, 2022, as he left an observation post to investigate the source of incoming gunfire with a British volunteer, Andrew Hill. Two other members of their unit were killed in the ensuing attack and Hill was captured by the enemy.

Rumors swirled that Kurpasi had been taken prisoner by the Russians, too, or he was lying injured in a hospital, but Mobbs said she knew in her gut that he was gone. She brought Kurpasi's case to the Weatherman Foundation in August 2022, eager to find and bring home a fellow recipient of a military scholarship from the Pat Tillman Foundation.

"Our value system within the organization is deeply steeped in service," said Mobbs, the foundation's president. The group's director of operations, Joe Norbeck, is also a veteran, "so it mattered to us," she added. The foundation considers itself "the last-mile convener of humanitarian assistance," Norbeck said, and is dedicated to protecting children, defending human rights and promoting democracy.

The organization followed multiple leads that went nowhere until that meeting with an American fighter in Kharkiv. The man provided a six-digit grid coordinate of a potential search site where Grady's remains might be found. It was a large area, Norbeck said, but it was something.

Norbeck, a 27-year veteran of Army Special Forces, led the recovery effort in Ukraine and worked discreetly without notifying Kurpasi's family of the mission to avoid giving false hope. He, however, had no doubt that his

"One of the most honorable things that you can do, in my opinion, is bring someone home to be laid to rest on American soil, to give closure to a family."

Meaghan Mobbs
former Army paratrooper

team would succeed.

"I was not going to quit, no matter how many dead ends we hit or how many roadblocks we hit," Norbeck said. "We were — I was — very determined to make sure that we returned him home because I knew it was possible."

He enlisted the help of an explosive ordnance disposal team to comb through the designated search area, which was occupied by Russians until a successive Ukrainian counteroffensive last fall, and found medical specialists who could perform remains identification.

The Ukrainian military loaned a mine clearance team after it returned from the monthslong struggle for the now-destroyed eastern city of Bakhmut and the Ukrainian government provided the scientific experts, Norbeck said.

The five-member group, along with a dog and a drone specifically designed for locating remains, had five days in late March to clear and search the area. They identified several sets of remains after three days.

One of them was Kurpasi.

His partial skeleton was found several hundred meters outside the grid coordinates in woods close to a road in Oleksandrivka, a small frontline village between Mykolaiv and Kherson. Kurpasi's helmet, body armor, boots and backpack were dug up near the bones, Norbeck said.

In early April, testing of the remains matched the DNA sample that the State Department had collected from Kurpasi's 14-year-old daughter and Norbeck finally notified Kurpasi's wife.

She then gave the Weatherman



JOE NORBECK

Army veteran Joe Norbeck with the remains of Grady Kurpasi on the border of Ukraine and Moldova on May 18. Kurpasi retired in 2021 after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years. He joined Ukrainian forces in 2022.

Foundation permission to begin the complicated process of transferring the remains to the family's home in Wilmington, N.C.

The journey involved moving the remains to another province of southwestern Ukraine, opening and closing a criminal case, obtaining a coroner's report and a death certificate, and turning over documents to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to receive a consular report of the death of an American citizen abroad, Norbeck said.

Kurpasi's remains left Ukraine in mid-May, accompanied by Norbeck.

They traveled to Moldova, then Turkey, then on to New York, where Kurpasi's family and friends held a ceremony to honor him.

A private jet then flew the remains, covered by an American flag, to North Carolina, where

Kurpasi's wife and daughter were waiting.

"It was extraordinarily bitter-sweet," Mobbs said. "It's a moment that I'm proud of but it's also tinged with sadness and grief and means all hope is extinguished that he will be found alive."

She said she has been fascinated by the act of repatriation since learning about the duties of a mortuary affairs specialist during her officer training at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

"One of the most honorable things that you can do, in my opinion, is bring someone home to be laid to rest on American soil, to give closure to a family," she said.

Norbeck said there was a need for repatriating Americans killed in Ukraine and the Weatherman Foundation was trying to fill it. The organization had previously supported the repatriation of for-

mer Navy SEAL Daniel Swift, paying for his funeral and helping move his remains, and sent monetary support for Pete Reed, a former Marine who died while working as a frontline medic, Norbeck said.

Mobbs anticipates taking on more repatriation cases as Ukraine attempts to take back land occupied by Russian forces in a highly anticipated summer counteroffensive.

"I hate to say it, but I imagine there will be more that are killed and so someone's going to have to do it," she said. "I want nothing more than my organization to have the honor of bringing Americans home in the way that they should be, with honor and attention, back to their families."

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MEMORIAL DAY

US troops who died in WWII honored in France

By MICHAEL ABRAMS

Stars and Stripes

ST. AVOLD, France — American and French citizens paid tribute Sunday to the 10,481 people buried at Lorraine American Cemetery and to mark Memorial Day at the largest World War II cemetery in Europe.

The ceremony in the rolling hills of eastern France was hosted by the American Battle Monuments Commission, which runs the cemetery and is marking its centennial, and drew hundreds of people.

Active-duty participants from the Army, Navy and Air Force and cadets from the Stuttgart High School Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program participated in the ceremony that featured speeches, a wreath laying, a flyover by a C-130 aircraft, firing of volleys and the playing of taps.

"The more than 10,000 buried here were the best of their generation," said Maj. Gen. Steph Maranian, commander of 56th Artillery Command, noting the sacrifices service members made then and continue to make.

Sacrifice was a common theme among those speaking at the event. Denise Bauer, U.S. ambassador to France and Monaco, said "they left their families to fight for liberty and doing so, they sacrificed their tomorrows for ours and their dreams for our future."

She also observed after speaking of those buried at the cemetery: "Today, we are reminded again, by the war in Ukraine, that freedom is not free, and democracy is not guaranteed."

Walking among the rows of white crosses and Stars of David following the ceremony, Norman Matzke, a retired lieutenant colonel and the Stuttgart JROTC senior Army instructor, said it's a tradition for cadets to attend. "It is important to bring them here and let them be involved. It is what Memorial Day is all about."



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Cadets of the Stuttgart High School Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program salute during the playing of the American and French national anthems at the Memorial Day ceremony at Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France, on Sunday.



A U.S. Navy color guard present the colors at the ceremony Sunday. Behind the sailors are some of the cemetery's 10,481 graves.



Maj. Gen. Steph Maranian, commander of 56th Artillery Command, lays a wreath at the Memorial Day ceremony.

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Last-minute donations provide flowers for graves at Arlington

By DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — All 300,000 graves at Arlington National Cemetery could bear a flower for Memorial Day after a last-minute rush of donations and some help from the floral industry.

"This outpouring of support shows the patriotic spirit of so many Americans," said Ramiro Penaherrera, the executive director of The Memorial Day Flowers Foundation, the nonprofit organization in charge of the annual practice of placing flowers at the graves for the holiday.

The foundation said last week that it only

had enough money to place flowers on about half of the military graves at the cemetery, which occupies 640 acres in Arlington, Va., across the Potomac River from Washington. But the foundation received an influx of donations at the end of last week, including help from importers in the flower industry. Various florists have sent flowers to Arlington for the foundation's Flowers of Remembrance Day on Sunday.

"We are so grateful to the American public and the generosity of our floral importers, who are literally donating thousands of flowers by the pallet, to ensure our fallen military heroes are honored this year," Pe-

naherrera said. "Many of the floral importers donating flowers are immigrants to the United States who are grateful for this nation and the freedoms it offers."

Foundation officials said they were optimistic that they would have enough flowers for each headstone.

"We definitely have 280,000 [flowers] and it might be well over 300,000, but we won't know that until [Saturday] after we process everything," said Bernardo Beate, the foundation's director of operations.

The foundation gives out a variety of flowers each Memorial Day to be placed on the graves at Arlington, including roses,

carnations, pompom blooms, sunflowers, tulips and camellias.

The group has been responsible for buying the flowers for the graves at Arlington since 2011. In its first year, the foundation generated enough flower money to cover the headstones of just 10,000 troops. The numbers steadily rose in the years that followed until the foundation reached a then-record of 220,000 flowers in 2019. A year later, donations dried up when the coronavirus pandemic hit, though they have rebounded some in the last two years.

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NATION

Biden, GOP reach debt-ceiling deal

Congress must now approve it to prevent calamitous default

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An “agreement in principle” between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy would raise the nation's legal debt ceiling, but now Congress has only days to approve a package that includes spending cuts and would avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default.

The compromise announced late Saturday risks angering both Democratic and Republican lawmakers as they begin to unpack the concessions. Negotiators agreed to some Republican demands for increased work requirements for recipients of food stamps that House Democrats had called a nonstarter. But bargainers stopped short of greater spending cuts overall that Republicans wanted.

Support from both parties will be needed to win congressional approval before a projected June 5 government default on U.S. debts.

Lawmakers are not expected to return to work from the Memorial Day weekend before Tuesday, at the earliest, and McCarthy has promised lawmakers he will abide by the rule to post any bill for 72 hours before voting.

White House officials planned to brief House Democrats on a video call Sunday.

The Democratic president and Republican speaker reached the agreement after the two spoke Saturday evening by phone. The country and the world have been watching and waiting for a resolution to a political standoff that threatened the U.S. and global economies.

“The agreement represents a compromise, which means not everyone gets what they want,” Biden said in a statement. “That’s the responsibility of governing.”

Biden said the deal was “good news for the American people because it prevents what could have been a catastrophic default and would have led to an economic recession, retirement accounts devastated, and millions of jobs lost.”

McCarthy, in brief remarks at the Capitol, said that “we still have a lot of work to do.”

But he added: “I believe this is an agreement in principle that’s worthy of the American people.”

With the outlines of an agreement in place, the legislative package could be drafted and shared

with lawmakers in time for House votes as soon as Wednesday, and later in the coming week in the Senate.

Central to the compromise is a two-year budget deal that would hold spending flat for 2024 and increase it by 1% for 2025 in exchange for raising the debt limit for two years, which would push the volatile political issue past the next presidential election.

Driving hard for a deal to impose tougher work requirements on government aid recipients, Republicans achieved some but not all of what they wanted. The agreement would raise the age for existing work requirements on able-bodied adults, from 49 to 54, without children. Biden was able to secure waivers for veterans and the homeless.

The two sides had also reached for an ambitious overhaul of federal permitting to ease development of energy projects. Instead, the agreement would put in place changes in the landmark National Environmental Policy Act that will designate “a single lead agency” to develop environmental reviews, in hopes of streamlining the process.

The deal came together after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Congress that the United States could default on its debt obligations by June 5 — four days later than previously estimated — if lawmakers did not act in time. Lifting the nation's debt limit, now at \$31 trillion, allows more borrowing to pay the nation's already incurred bills.

McCarthy commands only a slim Republican majority in the House, where hard-right conservatives may resist any deal as insufficient as they try to slash spending.

By compromising with Democrats for votes, he risks losing support from his own rank and file, setting up a career-challenging moment for the new speaker.

Both sides have suggested one of the main holdups was a GOP effort to expand work requirements for recipients of food stamps and other federal aid programs, a longtime Republican goal that Democrats have strenuously opposed. The White House said the Republican proposals were “cruel and senseless.”

Biden has said the work requirements for Medicaid would be a nonstarter.



MYKAL McELDOWNEY/AP

Dr. Caitlin Bernard, left, sits between attorneys John Hoover and Alice Morical on Thursday before a hearing at the Indiana Government South building in downtown Indianapolis.

Ind. doctor reprimanded for talking publicly about 10-year-old's abortion

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana board decided Thursday night to reprimand an Indianapolis doctor after finding that she violated patient privacy laws by talking publicly about providing an abortion to a 10-year-old rape victim from neighboring Ohio.

The state Medical Licensing Board voted that Dr. Caitlin Bernard didn't abide by privacy laws when she told a newspaper reporter about the girl's treatment in a case that became a flashpoint in the national abortion debate days after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last summer.

The board, however, rejected accusations from Indiana's Republican attorney general that Bernard violated state law by not reporting the child abuse to Indiana authorities. Board members chose to fine Bernard \$3,000 for the violations, turning down a re-

quest from the attorney general's office to suspend Bernard's license. The board issued no restrictions on her practice of medicine.

Bernard has consistently defended her actions, and she told the board on Thursday that she followed Indiana's reporting requirements and hospital policy by notifying hospital social workers about the child abuse — and that the girl's rape was already being investigated by Ohio authorities. Bernard's lawyers also said that she didn't release any identifying information about the girl that would break privacy laws.

The Indianapolis Star cited the girl's case in a July 1 article that sparked a national political uproar in the weeks after last summer's *Roe v. Wade* decision put into effect an Ohio law that prohibited abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Some news outlets and Republican politicians falsely sug-

gested Bernard fabricated the story, until a 27-year-old man was charged with the rape in Columbus, Ohio. During an event at the White House, President Joe Biden nearly shouted his outrage over the case.

Medical board President Dr. John Strobel said he believed Bernard went too far in telling a reporter about the girl's pending abortion and that physicians need to be careful about observing patient privacy.

“I don't think she expected this to go viral,” Strobel said of Bernard. “I don't think she expected this attention to be brought to this patient. It did. It happened.”

Bernard's lawyer Alice Morical told the board Thursday that the doctor reported child abuse of patients many times a year and that a hospital social worker had confirmed with Ohio child protection staffers that it was safe for the girl to leave with her mother.

Supreme Court limits wetlands regulation, makes it easier to develop, destroy them

Associated Press

The U.S. Supreme Court has stripped federal agencies of authority over millions of acres of wetlands, weakening a bedrock environmental law enacted a half-century ago to cleanse the country's badly polluted waters. A 5-4 majority significantly expanded the ability of farmers, homebuilders and other developers to dig up or fill wetlands near rivers, lakes and streams, finding the government had long overreached in limiting such activities.

The ruling Thursday may nullify key parts of a rule the Biden administration imposed in December, which two federal judges already had blocked from being enforced in 26 states. It's the latest turn in a decades-old struggle by courts and regulators to determine which waters are subject to protection under the Clean Water Act. Some experts say the battle over

wetlands now may shift to states, with red and blue states writing laws that take dramatically different approaches.

The high court's decision follows one in 2022 curtailing federal power to reduce carbon emissions from power plants and indicates a willingness by the court's emboldened conservatives to limit environmental laws and agency powers.

“This is one of the saddest chapters in the 50-year history of the Clean Water Act,” said Jim Murphy, an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation.

Industry and farm groups praised the ruling. “We're absolutely thrilled with the results,” said Travis Cushman, deputy general counsel for the American Farm Bureau Federation. “This is the exact answer that we've been asking for for a long time.”

NATION

Fewer births, aging boomers push US median age higher

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

The United States grew older, faster, last decade.

The share of residents 65 or older grew by more than a third from 2010 to 2020 and at the fastest rate of any decade in 130 years, while the share of children declined, according to new figures from the most recent census.

The declining percentage of children under age 5 was particularly noteworthy in the figures from the 2020 head count released Thursday. Combined, the trends mean the median age in the U.S. jumped from 37.2 to 38.8 over the decade.

America's two largest age groups propelled the changes: more baby boomers turning 65 or older and millennials who became adults or pushed further into their 20s and early 30s. Also, fewer children were born between 2010 and 2020, according to numbers from the once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident. The decline stems from women delaying having babies until later in life, in many cases to focus on education and careers, according to experts, who noted that birth rates never recovered following the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

"In the short run, the crisis of work-family balance, the lack of affordable childcare, stresses associated with health care, housing, and employment stability, all put a damper on birth rates by increasing uncertainty and making it harder to decide to have and raise children," said Philip Cohen, a sociologist at the University of Maryland.

There are important social and economic consequences to an aging population, including the ability of working-age adults to support older people through Social Security and Medicare contributions. The Census Bureau calculates a dependency ratio, defined as the number of children plus the number of seniors per 100 working-age people. While the dependency ratio decreased for children from 2010 to 2020, it increased for seniors by 6.8 people.

At the top end of the age spectrum, the number of people over 100 increased by half, from more than 53,000 people to more than 80,000. The share of men living into old age also jumped, benefiting from a century of vaccines and antibiotic developments, improvements in surgery and better treatment of diseases, said Thomas Perls, a professor of medicine at Boston University.

"Many more people who have the genetic makeup and environmental exposures that increase one's chances of getting to 100, but who would have otherwise died of what are now readily reversible problems, are able to fulfill their survival destiny," Perls said.

This was the first census since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, and it showed same-sex households made up 1.7% of coupled households.

The median age varied widely by race and ethnicity. Non-Hispanic whites were the oldest cohort, with a median age of 44.5. Hispanics were the youngest, with a median age of 30; and a quarter of all children in the U.S. were His-

panic. Black Americans who weren't Hispanic, had a median age of 35.5. The number was for 37.2 for Asians.

Utah, home to the largest Mormon population in the U.S., was the youngest state, with a median age of 31.3, a function of having one of the nation's highest birthrates. The District of Columbia's median age of 33.9 was a close second due to the large number of young, working-age adults commonly found in urban areas. North Dakota was the only state where the median age declined, from 37 to 35.8, as an influx of young workers arrived to work in a booming energy sector.

Maine was the oldest state in the U.S., with a median age of 45.1, as more baby boomers aged out of the workforce. Puerto Rico had a median age in the same range, at 45.2, as an exodus of working-age adults left the island after a series of hurricanes and government mismanagement. Older adults in four states — Florida, Maine, Vermont and West Virginia — made up more than a fifth of those states' populations.

While people 65 and older made up 16.8% of the 331 million residents in the U.S. in 2020, the share was still significantly lower than it was in countries like Japan, Italy and Greece, where the age cohort makes up between more than a fifth and more than a quarter of the population. Their share of the U.S. population, however, will continue to grow as baby boomers age.

"In the long run, immigration is the only way the United States is going to avoid population decline," Cohen said.



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

A registered nurse fills a syringe with the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine at a pop-up vaccination site in the Staten Island borough of New York in 2021.

Study: 1 in 10 get long COVID after omicron

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About 10% of people appear to suffer long COVID after an omicron infection, a lower estimate than earlier in the pandemic, according to a study of nearly 10,000 Americans that aims to help unravel the mysterious condition.

Early findings from the National Institutes of Health's study highlight a dozen symptoms that most distinguish long COVID, the catch-all term for the sometimes debilitating health problems that can last for months or years after even a mild case of COVID-19.

Millions worldwide have had long COVID, with dozens of widely varying symptoms including fatigue and brain fog. Scientists still don't know what causes it, why it only strikes some people, how to treat it — or even how to best diagnose it. Better defining the condition is key for research to get those answers.

"Sometimes I hear people say, 'Oh, everybody's a little tired,'" said Dr. Leora Horwitz of NYU Langone Health, one of the study authors.

"No, there's something different about people who have long COVID and that's important to know."

The new research, published Thursday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, includes more than 8,600 adults who had COVID-19 at different points in the pandemic, comparing them to another 1,100 who hadn't been infected.

By some estimates, roughly 1 in 3 of COVID-19 patients have experienced long COVID. That's similar to NIH study participants who reported getting sick before the omicron variant began spreading in the United States in December 2021. That's also when the study opened, and researchers noted that people who already had long COVID symptoms might have been more likely to enroll.

But about 2,230 patients had their first coronavirus infection after the study started, allowing them to report symptoms in real time — and only about 10% experienced long-term symptoms after six months.

Connecticut lawmakers absolve accused colonial-era witches, apologize

Associated Press

With distant family members looking on, Connecticut senators voted Thursday to absolve the 12 women and men convicted of witchcraft — 11 of whom were executed — more than 370 years ago and apologize for the "miscarriage of justice" that occurred over a dark 15-year-period of the state's

colonial history.

The Senate voted 33-1 in favor of a resolution that officially proclaimed their innocence. It marked the culmination of years of effort by a group called the CT Witch Trial Exoneration Project, made up of history buffs and descendants. Some of the descendants recently learned through genealogy testing

that they were related to the accused witches and have since lobbied the state's General Assembly to officially clear their names.

"People can say we're wasting our time this afternoon, maybe we could be doing other things," said Republican state Sen. John Kissel, acknowledging early criticism of the legislative effort. "But I think

it's a small step to acknowledge our history and move forward together, Democrat, Republican, men and women into a brighter future."

The resolution, which lists the nine women and two men who were executed and the one woman who was convicted and given a reprieve, already passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 121-

30. Because it's a resolution, it does not require the governor's signature.

Republican state Sen. Rob Sampson cast the lone no vote on Thursday. He said it was wrong and childlike to suggest "somehow we have a right to dictate what was right or wrong about periods in the past that we have no knowledge of."

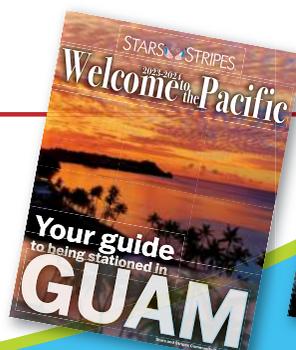
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STARS AND STRIPES

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NATION

Texas House impeaches, suspends Republican AG Paxton

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas' Republican-led House of Representatives impeached state Attorney General Ken Paxton on Saturday on articles including bribery and abuse of public trust, a sudden, historic rebuke of a GOP official who rose to be a star of the conservative legal movement despite years of scandal and alleged crimes.

Impeachment triggers Paxton's immediate suspension from office pending the outcome of a trial in the state Senate and empowers Re-



Paxton

publican Gov. Greg Abbott to appoint someone else as Texas' top lawyer in the interim. The 121-23 vote constitutes an abrupt downfall for one of the GOP's most prominent legal combatants, who in 2020 asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn President Joe Biden's electoral defeat of Donald Trump. It makes Paxton only the

third sitting official in Texas' nearly 200-year history to have been impeached.

Paxton, 60, decried the move moments after scores of his fellow partisans voted for impeachment, and his office pointed to internal reports that found no wrongdoing.

"The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just," Paxton said. "It was a politically motivated sham from the beginning."

Paxton has been under FBI investigation for years over accusations that he used his office to help a donor and was separately indicted on securities fraud charges in 2015, though he has yet to stand trial. His party had long taken a muted stance on the allegations—but that changed this week as 60 of the House's 85 Republicans, including Speaker Dade Phelan, voted to impeach.

"No one person should be above the law, least not the top law officer of the state of Texas," Rep. David

Spiller, a Republican member of the committee that investigated Paxton, said in opening statements. Another Republican committee member, Rep. Charlie Geren, said without elaborating that Paxton had called some lawmakers before the vote and threatened them with political "consequences."

Paxton is automatically suspended from office pending the Senate trial. Final removal would require a two-thirds vote in the Senate, where Paxton's wife's, Angela, is a member.

DeSantis pushes past embarrassing campaign start, raises \$8.2M

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday sought to push past an embarrassing beginning to his presidential campaign, outlining an aggressive travel schedule as his allies insisted they remain well funded and well positioned for a long Republican primary fight ahead.

While DeSantis supporters privately acknowledged the bungled

announcement was an unwelcome distraction, there was a broad sense — even among some Republican critics — that it would likely have limited long-term political consequences, if any at all. For the doubters, the campaign confirmed Thursday night that it had raised \$8.2 million in the 24 hours since entering the race, a massive sum that far exceeded the amount raised by President Joe Biden over

the same period.

"Do they wish they could do it over again? Probably," David Oman, a veteran Republican Iowa operative, said of DeSantis' glitch-ridden opening. "Will we be talking about it in 10 days? Probably not."

DeSantis formally launched his campaign Wednesday night during an online conversation with Twitter CEO Elon Musk. But the

audio stream crashed repeatedly, making it difficult for most users to hear the announcement in real time.

On Thursday, the Republican governor announced plans for a three-state blitz next week featuring at least a dozen stops. He's scheduled to campaign Tuesday and Wednesday in Iowa before a trip to New Hampshire on Thursday and South Carolina on Friday.

"We are laser-focused on taking Gov. DeSantis' forward-thinking message for restoring America to every potential voter in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina," campaign manager Generra Peck said. "Our campaign is committed to putting in the time to win these early nominating states. No one will work harder than Gov. DeSantis to share his vision with the country — he has only begun to fight."

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation
944

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WORLD

Erdogan claims election victory

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared victory Sunday in his country's runoff election, extending his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

With nearly 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results from competing news agencies showed Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

In his first comments since the polls closed, Erdogan spoke to supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul.

"I thank each member of our nation for entrusting me with the responsibility to govern this country once again for the upcoming five years," he said.

He ridiculed his challenger for his loss, saying "bye bye bye, Kemal," as supporters booed.

"The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said.

In Istanbul, Erdogan supporters began celebrating even before the final results arrived, waving Turkish or ruling party flags, and honking car horns.

The outcome could have implications far beyond Ankara. Turkey stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it plays a key role in NATO.

Erdogan's government vetoed Sweden's bid to join NATO and purchased Russian missile-defense systems, which prompted the United States to oust Turkey from a U.S.-led fighter-jet project. But it also helped broker a crucial deal that allowed Ukrainian grain shipments and averted a global food crisis.

The competing news agencies get their data from completed ballot box counts that are gathered by personnel on the field, and are strong in different re-

gions, explaining some of the variation in preliminary data. Turkey's electoral board sends its own data to political parties throughout the vote count but doesn't declare official results until days later.

Erdogan, who has been at Turkey's helm for 20 years, was favored to win a new five-year term in the second-round runoff, after coming just short of outright victory in the first round on May 14.

The divisive populist finished four percentage points ahead of Kilicdaroglu, the candidate of a six-party alliance. Erdogan's performance came despite crippling inflation and the effects of a devastating earthquake three months ago. It was the first time he didn't win an election where he ran as a candidate.

Critics blame Erdogan's unconventional economic policies for skyrocketing inflation that has fueled a cost-of-living crisis. Many also faulted his government for a slow response to the earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people in Turkey.

Erdogan has retained the backing of conservative voters who remain devoted to him for lifting Islam's profile in the Turkey, which was founded on secular principles, and for raising the country's influence in world politics.

Erdogan, 69, could remain in power until 2028. A devout Muslim, he heads the conservative and religious Justice and Development Party, or AKP.

Erdogan transformed the presidency from a largely ceremonial role to a powerful office through a narrowly won 2017 referendum that scrapped Turkey's parliamentary system of governance. He was the first directly elected president in 2014, and won the 2018 election that ushered in the executive presidency.



ALEKSANDAR FURTULA/AP

Director Lonneke Westhoff, right, and founder Bob Hendriks, left, of Dutch startup Loop Biotech display one of the cocoon-like coffins, grown from local mushrooms and up-cycled hemp fibers, designed to dissolve into the environment amid growing demand for more sustainable burial practices, in Delft, Netherlands, on May 22.

Sustainable in death: Mushroom coffin a last best wish for some

BY RAF CASERT
AND ALEKSANDAR FURTULA
Associated Press

DELFT, Netherlands — For those seeking to live in the most sustainable way, there now is an afterlife too.

A Dutch intrepid inventor is now "growing" coffins by putting mycelium, the root structure of mushrooms, together with hemp fiber in a special mold that, in a week, turns into what could basically be compared to the looks of an unpainted Egyptian sarcophagus.

And while traditional wooden coffins come from trees that can take decades to grow and years to break down in the soil, the mushroom version biodegrades and delivers the remains to nature in barely a month and a half.

In our 21st century, when the individual spirit can increasingly thrive way beyond the strictures of yore, death and funerals are all

so often still hemmed in by tradition that may fall far short of the vision of the deceased or their loved ones.

"We all have different cultures and different ways of wanting to be buried in the world. But I do think there's a lot of us, a huge percentage of us, that would like it differently. And it's been very old school the same way for 50 or 100 years," said Shawn Harris, a U.S. investor in the Loop Biotech company that produces the coffins.

With climate consciousness and a special care of nature a focal point in ever more lives, Loop Biotech says it has the answer for those wanting to live the full circle of life — and then some — as close to what they always believed in.

Bob Hendriks, the 29-year-old founder bedecked in a "I am compost" T-shirt at a recent presentation, said that he had researched

nature a great deal "especially mushrooms. And I learned that they are the biggest recyclers on the planet. So I thought, hey, why can we not be part of the cycle of life? And then decided to grow a mushroom-based coffin." Moss can be draped within the coffins for the burial ceremonies.

And for those preferring cremation, there is also an urn they grow which can be buried with a sapling sticking out. So when the urn is broken down, the ashes can help give life to the tree.

"Instead of: 'we die, we end up in the soil and that's it,' Now there is a new story: we can enrich life after death and you can continue to thrive as a new plant or tree," Hendriks said in an interview. "It brings a new narrative in which we can be part of something bigger than ourselves."

The coffins cost more than \$1,000 each, and the price for an urn is \$212.

S. Korean arrested for opening plane emergency exit door

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A man who opened an emergency exit door during a flight in South Korea was formally arrested Sunday and faces up to 10 years in prison on a charge of violating the aviation security law, officials said.

During a preliminary questioning, the 33-year-old told investigators that he felt suffocated and tried to get off the plane quickly, according to police.

Twelve people were slightly injured on Friday after he opened the door of the Asiana Airlines Airbus A321-200, causing air to blast inside the cabin and terrifying passengers. Some testified they suffered severe

ear pain and saw others screaming and crying. A video shared on social media shows passengers' hair being whipped by air blowing into the cabin.

Normally, the emergency exit doors cannot be opened mid-flight due to the difference in air pressure inside and outside of the aircraft. But during Friday's incident, the man succeeded in opening the door lightly because the plane was flying at a low altitude while preparing to land and there wasn't much difference in pressure, according to Asiana Airlines officials.

The Transport Ministry said the plane was at 700 feet when the man pulled the door open. The plane was preparing to land

in Daegu on an hour-long flight from the southern island of Jeju with 200 people on board.

Daegu police said the man, surnamed Lee, told them that he was under stress after losing a job recently and that he wanted to get out of the plane soon because he was feeling suffocated just before landing.

The people who were taken to hospitals were mainly treated for minor problems such as breathing difficulties.

Asiana Airlines said in a statement that starting from Sunday, it stopped the sale of emergency exit seats on its 174-seat A321-200 planes and the 195-seat A321-200s as a safety precaution.



YUN KWAN-SHICK, YONHAP/AP

A man who opened an emergency exit door during a flight arrives at district court in Daegu, South Korea, on Sunday.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Baby bison put to death after visitor picks it up

WY YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Yellowstone National Park officials killed a newborn bison because its herd wouldn't take it back after a man picked it up.

The calf became separated from its mother when the herd crossed the Lamar River in northeastern Yellowstone. The unidentified man pushed the struggling calf up from the river and onto a roadway, park officials said.

Park rangers tried repeatedly to reunite the calf with the herd but were unsuccessful. Visitors saw the calf walking up to and following cars and people, creating a hazard, so park staff killed the animal, according to the statement.

Park officials are investigating the calf incident. The suspect was a white male in his 40s or 50s who was wearing a blue shirt and black pants, the statement said.

Salmonella outbreak may be linked to cookie dough

WA SEATTLE — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with state and federal agencies, are investigating reports of 18 salmonella infections in at least half a dozen states that may have come from raw cookie dough sold at Papa Murphy's.

People have been sickened in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, California and Missouri, the CDC said. Illnesses were reported from Feb. 27-May 2.

Interviews with sick people show that raw cookie dough sold at Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake pizza stores may be contaminated. People reported eating the cookie dough raw, the CDC said.

Six people in Washington, four in Idaho and four in Oregon have become sick, according to the CDC's website. Utah says two people have become ill there. California and Missouri have each reported one sick person linked to the outbreak. Two people have been hospitalized, although their location was unclear.

Virgin Galactic prepares for paying customers

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Virgin Galactic completed what's expected to be its final test flight before taking paying customers on brief trips to space.

Six of the company's employees, including two pilots, landed at Spaceport America in southern New Mexico after the short up-and-down flight that included a few minutes of weightlessness. It took about an hour for the mother ship to carry the spaceplane to an altitude of 44,500 feet, where it was released and fired its rocket motor to make the final push.

"Successful boost, WE HAVE REACHED SPACE!" Virgin Galactic tweeted.



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

Sea services in Times Square

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Shakima Deprince organizes members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard for a combined group photo in Times Square, during their visit to New York City for Fleet Week.

It reached an altitude of 54.2 miles before gliding back to the runway, company said.

Fuzzy falcon chicks who nest at stadium banded

MI EAST LANSING — Newly fitted with tracking bands, four peregrine falcon chicks named Pickles, Muhammad, Egbert and Swooper have a nest in one of the best seats — make that perches — at Michigan State University's football stadium.

Scientists and college students carefully attached metal tracking bands to the fluffy white chicks' legs. At about a month old, they're still not much bigger than a pigeon and can't yet fly away from their man-made nest atop Spartan Stadium. But the boisterous birds already have sharp talons and beaks, so the banding process was handled with care.

The chicks have become celebrities in East Lansing and around the globe, thanks to a web camera and livestream by the school's Fisheries and Wildlife Club,

which installed the nest box on the stadium roof last year.

Melting snowpack means cold, deadly torrents

CA SACRAMENTO — California rivers fed by this winter's massive Sierra Nevada snowpack have been turned into deadly torrents, drawing warnings from public safety officials ahead of the Memorial Day weekend's traditional start of outdoor summer recreation.

At least seven people, including two children, have died or gone missing this spring in the grasp of powerful rivers plunging down from California's towering mountain range, and there have been numerous rescues.

The city has already had 20 water rescues this year, nearly as many as all of 2022.

Legislature overrides veto of tribal regalia bill

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Legislature overrode Gov. Kevin Stitt's veto of a bill that would allow students to wear Native American regalia during high school and college graduations.

The state House and Senate easily cleared the two-thirds threshold needed to uphold the measure, which takes effect July 1 and had strong support from many Oklahoma-based tribes and Native American citizens.

It would allow any student at a public school, including colleges, universities and technology centers, to wear tribal regalia such as traditional garments, jewelry or other adornments during official graduation ceremonies. Weapons such as a bow and arrow, tomahawk or war hammer are specifically prohibited.

Stitt, a Cherokee Nation citizen who has feuded with many Oklahoma-based Native American tribes throughout his two terms in office, vetoed the bill earlier this month, saying at the time that the decision should be up to individual districts. Stitt also suggested the bill would allow other groups to "demand special favor to wear whatever they please at a formal ceremony."

House OKs tax rebates of \$210 per taxpayer

AL MONTGOMERY — The Alabama House of Representatives unanimously approved a one-time rebate that would give \$210 to single people and \$420 to married couples.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey and lawmakers proposed rebates to return money to taxpayers as the state sees a rare \$2.8 billion education budget surplus, but have quibbled over the amount. The proposed rebates are half the amount that Ivey proposed in her State of the State address earlier this year, but double the \$105 and \$210 rebates approved in the Ala-

bama Senate.

Representatives voted 101-0 for the legislation. Lawmakers sent the legislation to conference committee to try to work out differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill.

City to clear tents blocking sidewalks to settle lawsuit

OR PORTLAND — Portland will remove tents blocking sidewalks under a tentative settlement announced Thursday in a lawsuit brought by people with disabilities who said sprawling homeless encampments prevent them from navigating Oregon's most populous city.

The federal class action lawsuit, filed in September, alleged that the city violated the American with Disabilities Act by allowing tents to obstruct sidewalks. The plaintiffs included a caretaker and nine people with disabilities who use wheelchairs, scooters, canes and walkers to get around.

The settlement comes as City Council prepares to consider new restrictions on camping. The updates would ban camping between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. in many locations, including sidewalks. The City Council previously voted in November to gradually ban street camping and create at least three large, designated campsites where homeless people will be allowed to camp.

From The Associated Press

STARS AND STRIPES

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Ernie Gates

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Biden shouldn't let Arab leaders rehabilitate Assad

By JOSH ROGIN

The Washington Post

When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke to the assembled leaders of the Arab League this month, Syrian President Bashar Assad, newly restored to the organization, took off his translation headset and refused to listen. Assad's mere presence in the hall shows that the Arab League is deaf to Ukraine's pleas. Arab leaders have thrown in their lot with the Syrian butcher and his close ally Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Assad's diplomatic "normalization" in the Arab world has been building for a while. Still, the images from the Arab League summit in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, were disturbing. Twelve years ago the Syrian dictator was expelled from the league for brutally attacking his own people. Now, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has welcomed him back with kisses. In a speech, the Saudi host said it was time to "turn the page of the past," adding: "We hope that this contributes to supporting Syria's stability, resuming Syria's normal role in the Arab world."

Assad promised to cooperate with Arab nations on drug trafficking, brazenly using his own control over the massive captagon drug trade as a bargaining chip. In exchange, the Arab states promised billions in aid to Syria, mostly to be funneled through Assad's corrupt coffers.

Zelenskyy appealed to the Arab leaders' sense of morality. He argued that they should resist Russian influence and stand up for the principles of sovereignty and national independence. He tried to evoke sympathy for the Tatar Muslims in Crimea, who have faced persecution since Russia occupied the peninsula in 2014. He asked the league to stand against war crimes.

"I'm sure we can all be united in saving people from the cages of Russian prisons," Zelenskyy told the assembled Arab leaders. "Unfortunately, there are some in the world and here

among you who turn a blind eye to those cages and illegal annexations."

To many, Zelenskyy's invitation to Jiddah seemed like a cynical attempt to distract from Assad's return. But it ended up having the reverse effect by exposing Arab states' false "neutrality" on the Russia-Ukraine war. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for example, have refused to condemn Putin's invasion and have instead used their economic power to bolster oil prices, undermining Western sanctions. Now, by praising Assad, Russia's partner in war crimes, the Arab League was implicitly rejecting Zelenskyy's appeals.

The Biden administration publicly says that it won't normalize relations with Assad but no longer objects to Arab countries doing so. This is an abdication of 12 years of U.S. commitments to hold Assad accountable for his mass atrocities. It is also a failure to implement U.S. law requiring sanctions on those who aid the Syrian dictator.

In 2019, Congress passed a law, known as the Caesar Act, that aimed to pressure Assad to stop his campaign of mass torture and mass murder of innocent people. But both the Trump and Biden administrations barely implemented it. Now, Congress is trying to pressure the U.S. government into action.

This month, the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously approved the Assad Anti-Normalization Act, sending it to the House floor. The bill has 30 co-sponsors who span the political landscape, including top Democrats such as Rep. Adam Schiff, of California, and top Republicans such as committee chairman Michael McCaul, of Texas. If passed into law, it would shore up the Caesar Act by extending it until 2032 and closing several loopholes.

Among other things, the new bill would require the administration to determine if Assad's purported "charities" are diverting humanitarian aid for the regime and singles out the group Syria Trust for Development, which is connected to first lady Asma Assad. The leg-

islation would also require the administration to investigate and report on any financial transactions in Assad-controlled areas coming from any country in the Middle East. (It's no wonder that several of these governments have been lobbying against the bill.)

The Biden administration's willingness to condone Arab acceptance of Assad has provoked other prominent critics outside of Congress. The Assad Anti-Normalization Act has been endorsed by former U.S. national security officials from both parties, including former House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Eliot Engel and former national security adviser H.R. McMaster.

"The United States should continue to isolate the war criminal Assad and his murderous regime," McMaster said when endorsing the bill. "Assad and his Russian and Iranian sponsors want wealthy countries to underwrite the reconstruction of the cities they reduced to rubble."

It's true that sanctions can have unintended consequences for civilians, which is why the legislation carves out exceptions for genuine humanitarian aid. Critics will also argue that sanctions on Assad haven't worked so far. But that's only because the Caesar Act has never been properly used.

Exerting pressure on those funding Assad might be the only remaining way to deter them from helping Assad rebuild until he releases the thousands who are being tortured in his dungeons and stops the slaughter of those Syrians living outside of his forces' control.

By turning a blind eye to Assad's war crimes, members of the Arab League have made clear that they don't care about Putin's war crimes either. But unless somebody does something to hold Assad and his enablers accountable, their Syrian and Ukrainian victims won't be the last.

Josh Rogin is a columnist for The Washington Post, a political analyst for CNN and author of "Chaos Under Heaven: Trump, Xi, and the Battle for the 21st Century."

South Africa has nonaligned itself out of relevance

By CHARLES ONYANGO-OBBO

Bloomberg Opinion

Reuben E. Brigety II, the bow-tie-loving U.S. ambassador to South Africa, does not look like a man who would bring a roof down. But he did. The South African rand crashed to a record low on May 11, shortly after he accused the country of providing weapons and ammunition to Russia for its war in Ukraine. A row between Pretoria and Washington would put billions of dollars in trade at risk.

A furious South African government denied that the weapons were secretly loaded into a ship at a naval base near Cape Town. Meanwhile, the radical Economic Freedom Fighters and South African Communist Party called for Brigety to be booted out of the country. So did many commentators. Meanwhile, President Cyril Ramaphosa said an investigation had already been underway when Brigety made his remarks.

Two days later, the ambassador apologized, and admitted he had "crossed the line" with the manner of his comments. South African Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced they had resolved the diplomatic kerfuffle and that South Africa was unlikely to face any repercussions. Calm returned to relations between Pretoria and Washington.

To the rest of Africa, however, the Russian

ship episode, and its handling by the South African political class, were just part of the clumsiness that has diminished the standing of what was once the economic superpower of the continent. It was South Africa-based pay-TV pioneer DSTV that brought the world into African homes. MTN was synonymous with mobile telephony across the continent. South African supermarkets, and retailers, fanned out into the continent and drove a new wave of consumption. South African Airways was the juggernaut of the skies. Today that "bad" South Africa is history — and it's not good for the country.

In 2014, Nigeria took the prize as Africa's largest economy and has held on to it since. South Africa is in second place. In countries like Uganda and Rwanda, MTN remains strong, and South African banks are still stalwarts in several nations. But in 2020, South African Airways collapsed. Supermarket chain ShopRite and retail behemoth Massmart, once supreme across the continent, have exited several African markets.

The country was, of course, a once-upon-a-time political beacon because of Nelson Mandela. Everyone loved Madiba. When the cerebral and sometimes mercurial Thabo Mbeki succeeded to the presidency, he spoke of an "African Renaissance" and, replacing the discredited Organisation of African Unity with

the African Union (AU), helped establish the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), to hold the continent's leaders democratically accountable and to censure them in cases of corruption and human rights abuse. The APRM has since withered away — not least because so many of those evils have played havoc with South Africa's own politics.

When Brigety started the arms controversy, he said the alleged Russia deal raised questions about South Africa's vaunted "non-aligned" status in the developing world. Indeed, Pretoria abstained from the March 2022 and February 2023 United Nations resolutions against Russian aggression against Ukraine (28 African nations voted in favor).

As precious as South Africa's nonaligned status may be, it's a toothless strategy in the current diplomatic round. No one gets rewarded for being neutral.

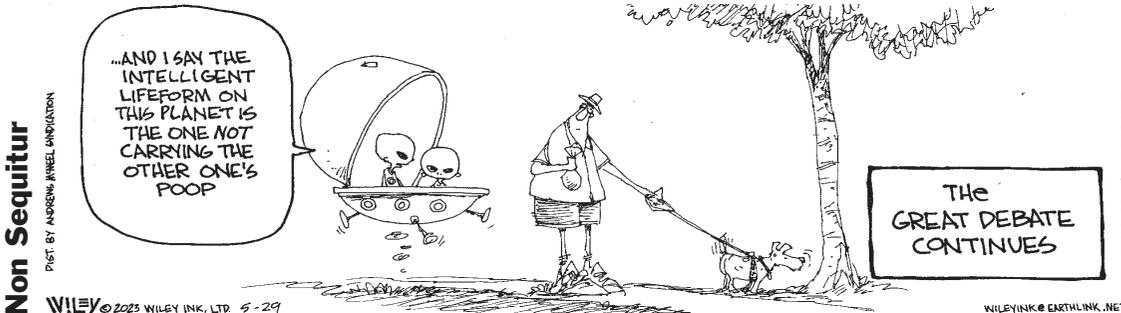
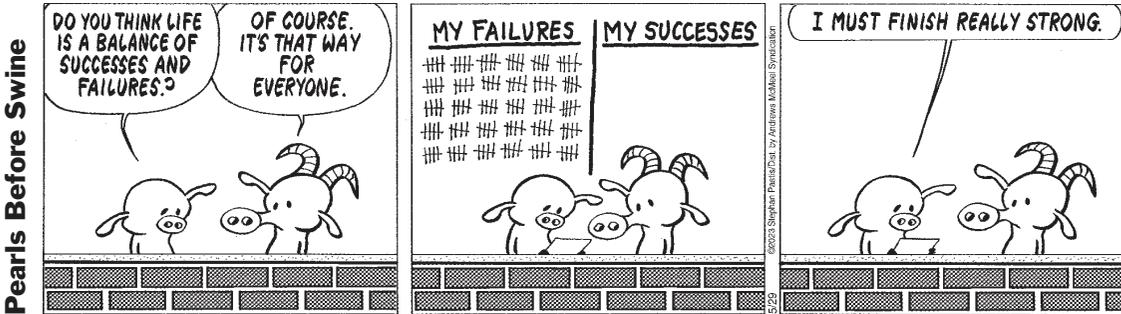
South Africa might have been better off saying it was supplying weapons to Russia. As alarming and unlikely as that would have been, Pretoria would at least have had a stronger geopolitical hand to play. Short of something like that, the continent's giant will just keep getting smaller and smaller.

Charles Onyango-Obbo is a journalist and writer based in Nairobi, Kenya. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares.

- ACROSS: 1 Istanbul honorific prefix, 4 Relinquished, 9 Earl Grey, for one, 12 Junior, 13 Broadway actress McDonald, 14 PC key, 15 Extended series of wins, 17 Rotating part, 18 — Na Na, 19 1982 film role for Meryl, 21 Piccolos' cousins, 24 Thames town, 25 Dogpatch adjective, 26 Abolish, 28 Diva's solos, 31 ABA member, 33 Remote batteries, often, 35 Iso-, 36 Jaunty chapeau, 38 Depot vehicle, 40 Web address, 41 Molecule part, 43 Caution, 45 Make calm, 47 — -Magnon, 48 German pronoun, 49 Time when naval ships dock in ports of major cities. DOWN: 16 Retired jet, 20 Skin opening, 21 Dieter's target, 22 Low-calorie, 23 Extremely stylish, 27 Wee dollop, 29 Atmosphere, 30 River deposit, 32 Bigfoot's cousin, 34 Go places, 37 Brittle candy, 39 "No Exit" writer, 42 Balloon material, 44 Pledge, 45 Cherry centers, 46 Farm fraction, 50 Id counterpart, 51 Greek vowel, 52 Listener, 53 Actress Catrall.

Answer to Previous Puzzle crossword grid with words filled in.

5-29 CRYPTOQUIP WT BMNBEM CJM HNVVWPPWDQ XDQNSEU C HPR E MTP CDS JWQFP, W'S RCU PFMU'JM RWDDWDQ NXP NT HNDPJNE. Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THAT BLOKE STOPPED DRINKING WHISKEY DISTILLED FROM MALTED BARLEY, HE WENT SCOTCH-FREE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

FACES

Q&A



Man and 'Machine'

Comedian Bert Kreischer gets his first film close-up telling real-life story of train robbery

BY NATE JACKSON
Los Angeles Times

Machines — just like good comedians — aren't born, they're built. Bert Kreischer happens to be both, but it took some time.

Long after his days as a legendary hard-partying super senior at Florida State University, Kreischer's experience finding his voice in stand-up didn't really start until he learned to become a great storyteller, unveiling the truth like he strips himself of his shirt on stage — in a hysterical, honest way — with a few embellishments, of course. It's fitting that the bit that finally helped him click things into place was a story he started telling from his college frat boy days about robbing his classmates on a train in Russia during a class trip — with help from the Russian mafia.

Kreischer fans came to know the comic as "The Machine" after the debut of his 2016 Showtime special of the same name. And the viral clips of him retelling the tale became his calling card. The story eventually snowballed into Kreischer's first feature film, "The Machine," now in theaters.

The comedy-action flick is his debut in the film world done the only way Kreischer knows how — big. Using his real-life misadventures as a springboard to tell an amped-up version of the story, the comedian's past comes back to haunt him 23 years later as he and his estranged father (played by "Star Wars" legend Mark Hamill) are kidnapped back to Russia by the mafia as payback for something they say he did. The two are forced to retrace the steps of the comedian's younger self (played by Jimmy Tatro) while doing battle with the mob and improving their bond as father and son.

On a recent afternoon, Kreischer talked about finding his comedic groove, the process of making and promoting his movie and having a former Jedi master play his father.

Los Angeles Times: When did storytelling and drawing from real life experiences develop in your stand-up?

Kreischer: I was so obsessed with comics who had their own voice and their own story. And they say something you could tell that it wasn't a scripted thing, or something from the collective unconscious of stand-up. It was something so authentic. I remember being jealous of it and then realizing I have those stories, too; I just have to be brave enough to say them. That's really tough, to follow your own voice and your own instinct.

You and Mark Hamill had a lot of personal and funny moments throughout "The Machine" — how much of that comes from a place of real-life chemistry?

Our first week of working together was on Zoom still, during the pandemic, when we started talking about the movie. The first thing he said was, "Why do you perform with your shirt off? Couldn't you wear a nice collared shirt or a blazer?" My dad says that to this day: "Do you have to do comedy without a shirt? It's just so aggressive." And Mark was my dad through that whole movie, even off-camera. I remember one time asking Mark for parenting advice and he gave me advice and then that night I was on the phone with my dad and he gave me the exact same advice Mark gave me. He and my dad have so many similarities that I now pick up on.

"The Machine" is also a big-time action movie. What was it like to incorporate so much grueling stunt work into your day?

This is gonna sound horrible, but I don't read the action in scripts; I just read the dialogue. So I didn't really know how much of an action movie it was until I got there. And they're like, "You've got stunt training for the first three weeks," and I go, "For what?" They said, "For the fight scenes" and I'm like, "There's fight scenes?" And then I'm like, oh, like everything is starting to make sense. ... I thought I would be a lot better on the first day than I was. I thought I'd be really good at throwing a punch — I'm not good at throwing a punch. I don't even still know if I look natural. I know for a fact it wasn't natural because they had to edit out me going "goosh!" — like, making the fake sound of punching noises while we were filming.

You're now in a long line of comedians who've gotten the shot to make their first film. How does that feel to be in the company of so many legends in comedy who've had that chance?

It feels really vulnerable. I've never felt this way before. You're really putting yourself out there. When I was a kid in high school or college, I remember not understanding why a guy like Johnny Depp wouldn't wanna do press for a movie he was in — like, you just did a badass movie; tell us about the badass movie you were in. I'm gonna go see it. And then when you're in that situation, you totally get it. You totally get what it feels like to think, "I'm embarrassed that I'm going to be this, being a P.T. Barnum, self-promoting guy." But here's the thing that [the director] Peter Atencio said to me: "You're not just promoting it for you; you're promoting it for everyone that worked on the movie." That's what's giving me the motivation to do it.

Céline Dion cancels European concerts

Céline Dion has canceled all her scheduled tour dates through April 2024 as she continues treatment for a rare neurological disorder.

"I'm so sorry to disappoint all of you once again," the singer said in a statement on social media. "I'm working really hard to build back my strength, but touring can be very difficult even when you're 100%. It's not fair to you to keep postponing the shows, and even though it breaks my heart, it's best that we cancel everything now until I'm really ready to be back on stage again."

A total of 42 European dates have been canceled, including stops in the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Austria, England, Scotland and Ireland.

Earlier this year, Dion said stiff person syndrome was causing spasms that affect her ability to walk and sing.

"Unfortunately, the spasms affect every aspect of my daily life, sometimes causing difficulties when I walk and not allowing me to use my vocal cords to sing the way I'm used to," she said.

Stiff person syndrome causes rigid muscles and painful muscle spasms, which can be triggered by such things as loud noises or light touch. The cause isn't known, but it is thought to be an autoimmune disorder. Severe cases can cause difficulty walking and hunched posture.

Berlin police investigate Waters over show outfit

Police in Berlin said May 26 that they have opened an investigation of Roger Waters on suspicion of incitement over a costume the Pink Floyd co-founder wore when he performed in the German capital earlier this month.

Images on social media showed Waters firing an imitation machine gun while dressed in a long black coat with a red armband. Police confirmed that an investigation was opened over suspicions that the context of the costume could constitute a glorification, justification or approval of Nazi rule and therefore a disturbance of the public peace.

Once the police investigation is concluded, the case will be handed to Berlin prosecutors, who would decide whether to pursue any charges.

Waters has drawn ire for his support of the BDS movement, which calls for boycotts and sanctions against Israel. He has rejected accusations of antisemitism.

Authorities in Frankfurt tried to prevent a concert there that was scheduled to take place Sunday, but Waters challenged that move successfully in a local court.

Bert Kreischer, left, and Mark Hamill play a son and father kidnapped by Russian mobsters in "The Machine," now in select AAFES theaters.

Sony Pictures

Associated Press

SCOREBOARD

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	10	1	3	33	22	14
Nashville	7	3	4	25	19	9
New England	7	3	4	25	22	17
Philadelphia	7	4	3	24	23	15
Atlanta	6	4	5	23	29	25
Charlotte FC	6	6	3	21	20	25
Orlando City	5	4	5	20	17	17
D.C. United	5	6	4	19	20	18
CF Montréal	6	8	0	18	13	22
Columbus	5	5	3	18	25	17
NYCFC	4	6	4	16	16	19
Chicago	3	4	7	16	21	24
New York	3	5	7	16	10	13
Toronto FC	3	5	7	16	15	19
Inter Miami CF	5	9	0	15	14	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	8	5	2	26	21	13
Saint Louis SC	8	4	1	25	29	14
LAFC	7	1	4	25	23	10
FC Dallas	6	3	5	23	17	14
San Jose	5	5	4	19	18	19
Minnesota	5	5	4	19	13	15
Houston	5	5	3	18	13	12
Vancouver	4	5	5	17	19	17
Portland	4	6	4	16	18	20
Austin FC	4	6	4	16	14	20
Real Salt Lake	4	6	4	16	14	23
Colorado	2	7	6	12	12	22
Sporting KC	2	8	4	10	9	21
LA Galaxy	2	9	3	9	10	24

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

Saturday's games

CF Montréal 1, Miami 0
 Chicago 3, New England 3, tie
 Philadelphia 3, New York City FC 1
 Atlanta 1, Orlando City 1, tie
 Toronto FC 2, D.C. United 1
 Houston 2, Austin FC 1
 Real Salt Lake 1, Minnesota 1, tie
 Saint Louis City SC 3, Vancouver 1
 Cincinnati 1, Colorado 0
 Charlotte FC 1, LA Galaxy 0
 FC Dallas 1, San Jose 1, tie
 Seattle 1, New York 0

Sunday's games

Portland at Sporting Kansas City
 Columbus at Nashville

Wednesday's games

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

ppd.
 San Jose at Seattle
 Houston at Vancouver

Saturday, June 3

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

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	4	1	4	16	23	11
OL Reign	5	3	1	16	17	11
San Diego	5	3	1	16	16	11
Gotham FC	5	2	1	16	11	7
Washington	4	1	3	15	11	7
North Carolina	4	3	2	14	10	10
Houston	3	3	3	12	7	9
Louisville	2	3	4	10	12	11
Orlando	3	5	1	10	7	13
Angel City	2	4	3	9	12	17
Chicago	2	6	1	7	12	22
Kansas City	2	7	0	6	9	18

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

Friday's games

Houston 2, Kansas City 0
 Portland 1, San Diego 1, tie

Saturday's games

OL Reign 4, Angel City 1
 North Carolina 2, Louisville 1
 Chicago 1, Orlando 0

Sunday's game

Gotham FC at Washington

Saturday, June 3

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

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

NCAA Super Regionals

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

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

At Norman, Okla.

Friday: No. 1 Oklahoma 9, No. 16 Clemson 2

Saturday: Oklahoma 8, Clemson 7, 9 innings, Oklahoma advances

At Durham, N.C.

Friday: No. 9 Stanford 3, No. 8 Duke 1

Saturday: Stanford 7, Duke 2, Stanford advances

At Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Friday: No. 12 Northwestern 3, No. 5 Alabama 1

Saturday: Alabama 2, Northwestern 1

Sunday: Alabama vs. Northwestern

At Knoxville, Tenn.

Friday: No. 4 Tennessee 5, No. 13 Texas 2

Saturday: Tennessee 9, Texas 0, Tennessee advances

At Tallahassee, Fla.

Thursday: No. 3 Florida St. 8, No. 14 Georgia 1

Friday: Florida St. 4, Georgia 2, Florida St. advances

At Stillwater, Okla.

Thursday: No. 6 Oklahoma St. 8, Oregon 1

Friday: Oklahoma St. 9, Oregon 0, Oklahoma St. advances

At Seattle

Friday: No. 7 Washington 8, Louisiana-Lafayette 0

Saturday: Washington 2, Louisiana-Lafayette 0, Washington advances

At Salt Lake City

Friday: San Diego St. 4, No. 15 Utah 3

Saturday: Utah 10, San Diego St. 1, 5 innings

Sunday: Utah vs. San Diego St.

TENNIS

Geneva Open

Saturday

At Tennis Club de Geneve Eaux-Vives

Geneva

Purse: Euro 562,815

Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles

Championship

Nicolas Jarry, Chile, def. Grigor Dimitrov (4), Bulgaria, 7-6 (1), 6-1.

Men's Doubles

Championship

Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Jamie Murray (4), Britain, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (3), Argentina, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3).

Strasbourg International

Saturday

At Strasbourg Tennis Club

Strasbourg, France

Purse: Euro 225,480

Surface: Red clay

Women's Singles

Championship

Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, def. Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-2, 6-3.

Women's Doubles

Championship

Xu Yifan and Zhaoxuan Yang (4), China, def. Desirae Krawczyk, United States, and Giuliana Olmos (2), Mexico, 6-3, 6-2.

Lyon Open

Saturday

At Parc de la Tete d'Or

Lyon, France

Purse: Euro 562,815

Surface: Red clay

Men's Singles

Championship

Arthur Fils, France, def. Francisco Cerundolo (4), Argentina, 6-3, 7-5.

Men's Doubles

Championship

Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (1), Britain, def. Nicolas Mahut, France, and Matwe Middelkoop (3), Netherlands, 6-0, 6-3.

Morocco Open

Saturday

At Club des Cheminots

Rabat, Morocco

Purse: \$259,303

Surface: Red clay

Women's Singles

Championship

Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, def. Julia Grabher, Austria, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

AP SPOTLIGHT

May 29

1922 — The Supreme Court rules organized baseball is primarily a sport and not a business and therefore not subject to antitrust laws and interstate commerce regulations.

1946 — Two-year-old fillies Chakoora and Uleta become the first thoroughbreds to complete a transcontinental flight. They're flown from New York to Inglewood, Calif., by the American Air Express Corp., a 2,446-mile trip that lasts 20 hours due to bad weather.

1971 — Al Unser wins his second straight Indianapolis 500 with a record mark of 157.735 mph and finishes 22 seconds ahead of Peter Revson. The pace car, ridden by Eldon Palmer, crashes into the portable bleachers and injures 20 people.

1980 — Larry Bird beats out Magic Johnson for NBA rookie of year.

1983 — After three second-place finishes, Tom Sneva wins the Indianapolis 500 by 11 seconds over three-time champion Al Unser.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	3	1	.750	—
New York	2	1	.667	½
Chicago	2	1	.667	½
Washington	2	2	.500	1
Atlanta	1	1	.500	1
Indiana	0	2	.000	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	3	0	1.000	—
Dallas	2	0	1.000	½
Phoenix	1	2	.333	2
Los Angeles	1	2	.333	2
Seattle	0	2	.000	2½
Minnesota	0	3	.000	3

Friday's games

Washington 71, Chicago 69

Dallas 95, Seattle 91

Saturday's games

New York 81, Connecticut 65

Las Vegas 93, Los Angeles 65

Sunday's games

Indiana at Atlanta

Dallas at Chicago

Minnesota at Las Vegas

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

Chicago at Atlanta

Indiana at Connecticut

Minnesota at Dallas

New York at Seattle

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled.

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled LHP Keegan Akin from Norfolk (IL). Optioned RHP Grayson Rodriguez to Norfolk.

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated RHP Garrett Whitlock from the 15-day IL. Optioned LHP Brennan Bernardino to Worcester (IL).

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Assigned SS Elvis Andrus to Charlotte (IL) on a rehab assignment.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Released 1B Hunter Dozier.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Recalled LHP Matt Krook from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Optioned RHP Randy Vasquez to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Recalled LHP Hogan Harris from Las Vegas (PCL). Optioned RHP Adrian Martinez to Las Vegas.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reinstated RHP Tyler Glasnow from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Cooper Criswell to Durham (IL).

TEXAS RANGERS — Placed RHP Dane Dunning on the paternity list and INF/OF Ezequiel Duran on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 24. Recalled LHP Cody Bradford from Round Rock (PCL). Reinstated OF Travis Jankowski from the 10-day IL.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Assigned RHP Mitch White to Buffalo (IL) on a rehab assignment.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Reinstated RHP Zach Davies from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Drey Jameson from Reno (PCL). Optioned RHPs Brandon Pfaadt and Luis Frias to Reno.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Recalled RHP Dereck Rodriguez from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned LHP Dylan Dodd to Gwinnett.

CINCINNATI REDS — Assigned RHP Silvino Bracho outright to Louisville (IL).

COLORADO ROCKIES — Assigned LHP Ryan Rolison to Albuquerque (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

MIAMI MARLINS — Assigned RF Avisail Garcia to Jacksonville (IL) on a rehab assignment.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed SS Willy Adames on the 7-day concussion list. Selected the contract of INF Andruw Monasterio from Nashville (IL). Recalled RHP Jake Cousins from Nashville. Optioned LHP Ethan Small to Nashville. Designated LHP Alex Claudio for assignment.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Reinstated RHP Vince Velasquez from the 15-day IL and his rehabilitation assignment. Designated RHP Duane Underwood Jr. for assignment.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Recalled RHP Domingo Tapia from El Paso (PCL). Placed RHP Luis Garcia on the 15-day IL, retroactive to May 26.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Recalled 3B David Villar from Sacramento (PCL). Placed 2B Thairo Estrada on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 26.

BASKETBALL

Women's National Basketball Association

LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Signed F Rae Burrell to a rest-of-season hardship contract.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BUFFALO SABRES — Signed D Ryan Johnson to a two-year, entry-level contract and assigned him to Rochester (AHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed D O'Vante Mullings to a short-term contract.

GOLF

Charles Schwab Challenge

PGA Tour

Saturday

At Colonial Country Club

Fort Worth, Texas

Purse: \$8.7 million

Yardage: 7,209; Par: 70

Third Round

Harry Hall	62-66-72=200	-10
Adam Schenk	66-67-67=200	-10
Harris English	65-66-70=201	-9
Emiliano Grillo	67-65-72=204	-6
Justin Suh	68-70-66=204	-6
Byeong Hun An	67-66-72=205	-5
Viktor Hovland	7	

MLB

ROUNDUP

Yankees walk off on Padres in 10th

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a game-ending single with one out in the 10th inning as the New York Yankees beat the San Diego Padres 3-2 on Saturday.

After Anthony Volpe and Aaron Judge hit into double plays in the eighth and ninth, the Yankees got their fifth walk-off win when Kiner-Falefa sent Nick Martinez's 2-0 pitch down the line just past the glove of third baseman Rougned Odor to score Greg Allen.

"I was just trying to see if he was gonna come after me," Kiner-Falefa said. "He threw two balls out of the zone and I was just looking for something. I thought he was going to throw something elevated and I was going to be able hit a pop fly to left field right there, but I was a little bit out front and I was able to hook it in the line."

It was Kiner-Falefa's third career walk-off hit and first since joining the Yankees to play shortstop last season. This time, he got the hit while continuing to play as an outfielder for the first time in his career.

"Whatever role it's been in, he's worked his tail off to acclimate himself to it and be ready for it," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "And now he's gotten some more starts lately. You get him in matchups where you feel like he can be really successful and he's done a really nice job here for us."

DJ LeMahieu homered off Padres starter Michael Wacha to tie it in the seventh as the Yankees avoided a fourth straight loss. It was LeMahieu's 11th career homer that either tied a game or gave his team the lead in the seventh or beyond.

Fernando Tatis Jr. homered for the second straight game, and ninth time this season, for San Diego's only hit in Luis Severino's 6 2/3 innings. Ha-Seong Kim hit an RBI single in the seventh off Michael King.

The Padres were held to three hits, went 1 for 6 with runners in scoring position and were unable to win three straight for the first time since April 29-May 1.

"You knew it was going to come down to one play at the end," San Diego manager Bob Melvin said. "We got a guy with a good ground ball rate up there. He hits a ground ball, it finds the line."

Dodgers 6, Rays 5: Freddie Freeman extended his hitting streak to 16 games, Max Muncy and Miguel Vargas homered, and NL West-leading Los Angeles beat MLB-best Tampa Bay.

Freeman finished 2-for-3 with two walks and is hitting .444 (28 for 63) with 18 RBIs during his streak.

Mookie Betts had an RBI single and Freeman followed with a run-



BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

The Yankees' Isiah Kiner-Falefa, center, jumps with teammates after his single scored a run for a 10th-inning win against the San Diego Padres on Saturday in New York.

scoring double off Colin Poche (3-1) as the visiting Dodgers took a 5-4 lead in the seventh inning. Vargas added a solo shot in the eighth.

Harold Ramirez hit the Rays' major league-leading 100th homer, but Tampa Bay dropped to 25-6 at home.

Neither starting pitcher, Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw nor Tampa Bay right-hander Tyler Glasnow, made it past the fifth inning. Glasnow went 4 1/2 innings in his season debut after being sidelined by a strained left oblique. He allowed three runs and five hits.

Marlins 8, Angels 5 (10): Jorge Soler homered in his fifth consecutive game, and pinch-hitter Garrett Cooper delivered a tiebreaking double during visiting Miami's four-run 10th inning against Los Angeles.

Cooper hit a long fly to left-center off Jaime Barria (1-2), and Mickey Moniak couldn't make the tough catch after sprinting to get under it. Miami scored another run when video review determined catcher Matt Thaiss hadn't touched home plate while turning an inning-ending double play, and Garrett Hampson added a two-run single to punctuate the Marlins'

third win in four games.

Soler's go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh was his 17th of the season — second-most in the majors — and 12th in May, tying Miami's team record for the month.

Gio Urshela hit a tying solo homer in the eighth and added an RBI double and an RBI single for the Angels, who have lost consecutive games after winning six of seven. Shohei Ohtani struck out 10 and gave up one earned run in six innings, but finished May with one victory in five starts.

Rangers 5, Orioles 3: Andrew Heaney pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Marcus Semien extended his hitting streak to 16 games with a pivotal two-run single and visiting Texas beat Baltimore.

Robbie Grossman and Jonah Heim each had an RBI single for the Rangers, who have won 10 of 13. Their 33-18 record is best in Rangers history after 51 games, and they passed Baltimore (33-19) for second-best in the majors behind Tampa Bay.

Heaney (4-3) outpitched Dean Kremer (5-2), who allowed three runs in 6 1/2 innings.

Phillies 2, Braves 1: Zack

Wheeler struck out 12 in eight shutout innings as visiting Philadelphia beat Charlie Morton and Atlanta.

Wheeler (4-4) allowed three hits, walked one and hit a batter in his first win since April 29. The right-hander went 0-3 with a 4.44 ERA in four previous May starts.

The Phillies went ahead with two runs in the fifth against Morton (5-5). Bryson Stott had a sacrifice fly, and Trea Turner added a run-scoring double.

Twins 9, Blue Jays 7: Willi Castro had his first multi-homer game, Matt Wallner homered among his career-high four hits, and host Minnesota held off Toronto.

Edouard Julien also homered as part of a three-hit day, and Alex Kirilloff and Kyle Farmer each had two of the Twins' 14 hits.

Red Sox 2, Diamondbacks 1: Reese McGuire's safety squeeze with the bases loaded brought home Triston Casas, which proved to be the difference as visiting Boston beat Arizona.

Kiké Hernández had an RBI single for the Red Sox in their two-run fourth. McGuire came to bat with one out and dropped a sacrifice bunt down the first-base line for a 2-1 lead.

Cardinals 2, Guardians 1 (10): Brendan Donovan homered in the second inning and scored on a passed ball in the 10th to lift visiting St. Louis over Cleveland.

Tigers 7, White Sox 3: Zach McKinstry homered in a three-run seventh inning as host Detroit rallied to beat Chicago.

Giants 3, Brewers 1: Mitch Haniger hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth inning and Logan Webb allowed one run in seven innings to pace visiting San Francisco past Milwaukee.

Mariners 5, Pirates 0: Luis Castillo struck out 10 in six crisp innings as host Seattle blanked Pittsburgh.

Astros 6, Athletics 3: Jeremy Peña hit a two-run homer in his first at-bat following a planned day off, and Framber Valdez pitched six stingy innings as visiting Houston handed Oakland its 10th consecutive defeat.

Reds 8, Cubs 5: Jonathan India homered twice and drove in five runs, powering visiting Cincinnati past struggling Chicago.

Nationals 4, Royals 2: CJ Abrams hit a two-run double in visiting Washington's four-run sixth inning, Corey Dickerson got his 1,000th hit and the Nationals defeated Kansas City.

Rockies 10, Mets 7: Ryan McMahon hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning and host Colorado outslugged New York after blowing an early six-run lead.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	38	16	.704	—
Baltimore	33	19	.635	4
New York	31	23	.574	7
Boston	28	24	.538	9
Toronto	27	26	.509	10 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	27	25	.519	—
Detroit	24	26	.480	2
Cleveland	22	29	.431	4 1/2
Chicago	22	32	.407	6
Kansas City	15	38	.283	12 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	33	18	.647	—
Houston	30	21	.588	3
Los Angeles	28	25	.528	6
Seattle	27	25	.519	6 1/2
Oakland	10	44	.185	24 1/2

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	31	21	.596	—
Miami	27	26	.509	4 1/2
New York	27	26	.509	4 1/2
Philadelphia	25	27	.481	6
Washington	23	29	.442	8
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	27	25	.519	—
Pittsburgh	26	25	.510	1/2
St. Louis	24	30	.444	4
Cincinnati	23	29	.442	4
Chicago	22	29	.431	4 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	32	21	.604	—
Arizona	29	23	.558	2 1/2
San Francisco	27	25	.519	4 1/2
San Diego	24	28	.462	7 1/2
Colorado	23	30	.434	9

Friday's games

San Diego 5, N.Y. Yankees 1
Tampa Bay 9, L.A. Dodgers 3
Miami 6, L.A. Angels 2
Texas 12, Baltimore 2
Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 4
Toronto 3, Minnesota 1
Boston 7, Arizona 2
Cleveland 4, St. Louis 3
Chicago White Sox 12, Detroit 3
San Francisco 15, Milwaukee 1
Pittsburgh 11, Seattle 6
Houston 5, Oakland 2
Cincinnati 9, Chicago Cubs 0
Washington 12, Kansas City 10
N.Y. Mets 5, Colorado 2

Saturday's games

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

Sunday's games

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

Monday's games

Cleveland (Allen 1-2) at Baltimore (Wells 3-1)
Texas (Eovaldi 6-2) at Detroit (Boyd 3-3)
Kansas City (TBD) at St. Louis (Wainwright 2-0)
Tampa Bay (McClanahan 8-0) at Chicago Cubs (Stroman 4-4)
Minnesota (Gray 4-0) at Houston (France 1-1)
Atlanta (Elder 3-0) at Oakland (Blackburn 0-0)
L.A. Angels (Canning 3-2) at Chicago White Sox (Kopech 3-4)
N.Y. Yankees (Germán 2-3) at Seattle (Miller 3-1)
Colorado (Kauffmann 0-2) at Arizona (TBD)
Pittsburgh (Hill 4-4) at San Francisco (DeSclafani 3-4)
Washington (Williams 2-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Miller 1-0)

SPORTS BRIEFS/FRENCH OPEN



LUCA BRUNO/AP

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen celebrates after winning the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday. It is his fourth victory of the season.

BRIEFLY

Verstappen wins in Monaco, extends lead

Associated Press

MONACO — Formula One champion Max Verstappen's lights-to-flag victory at the Monaco Grand gave the Red Bull driver his fourth victory of the season and extended his championship lead to 39 points over teammate Sergio Perez on Sunday.

Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso was a season's best second for Aston Martin as he collected a fifth podium in six races, albeit 28 seconds behind Verstappen, while Frenchman Esteban Ocon secured third place and a rare podium for Alpine.

Red Bull has won all the races so far.

"It's super nice to win it in the way we did today with the weather and everything to stay calm and bring it home," Verstappen said.

For most of the race, he coasted on a dry and narrow track where overtaking is the hardest in F1.

But an incident-free race in Monaco is rare and heavy rain played havoc with about 20 of the 78 laps left. Some drivers had pitted for the wrong medium tires shortly before the downpour and slid around.

"It was incredibly slippery," Verstappen said.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. glided sideways into the barriers and was lucky not to damage his Ferrari. Kevin Magnussen lost control of his Haas and Lance Stroll retired after damaging his Aston Martin.

Red Bull had wisely put Verstappen on the versatile and more suited to the wet conditions intermediates on Lap 56 and they carried him to his second win in Monaco. The first was in 2021.

Bucks finalizing deal to make Griffin coach

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks are finalizing a deal to make Adrian Griffin their head coach after he spent the last five

seasons as a Toronto Raptors assistant, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Saturday because the deal was still being completed.

Griffin would replace Mike Budenholzer, who was fired earlier this month after the top-seeded Bucks' stunning loss to the Miami Heat in the first round of the playoffs.

Griffin had been an assistant on a Toronto staff headed by Nick Nurse, who was fired last month after the end of the Raptors' season. Griffin was an assistant on the Raptors' 2019 NBA championship team that beat the Bucks in the Eastern Conference finals.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the Bucks' selection of Griffin.

Oklahoma sets record, en route to WCWS spot

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kinzie Hansen and the Oklahoma Sooners were down to their last strike.

Oklahoma needed a win to set the NCAA Division I record for consecutive softball victories and clinch a Women's College World Series berth. But the Sooners trailed Clemson by three with two on and two outs in the seventh inning, and Hansen was facing Tigers ace Valerie Cagle.

Hansen responded with a tying three-run homer in Game 2 of the Norman Super Regional. Two innings later, Tiare Jennings hit the second of her two solo homers, and the Sooners won 8-7 in nine innings on Saturday for their 48th straight victory. The Sooners won two straight against Clemson and avoided a Game 3.

Oklahoma surpassed Arizona's winning streak that spanned parts of the 1996 and 1997 seasons and earned a chance to compete for a third straight national title.

Ukraine's Kostyuk causes stir by not shaking hands

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Unable to sleep the night before her first-round match at the French Open against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, the Grand Slam tournament's No. 2 seed, Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine checked her phone at 5 a.m. Sunday and saw disturbing news back home in Kyiv.

At least one person was killed when the capital of Kostyuk's country was subjected to the largest drone attack by Russia since the start of its war, launched with an invasion assisted by Belarus in February 2022.

"It's something I cannot describe, probably. I try to put my emotions aside any time I go out on court. I think I'm better than before, and I don't think it affects me as much on a daily basis, but yeah, it's just — I don't know," Kostyuk said, shaking her head. "There is not much to say, really. It's just part of my life."

That, then, is why Kostyuk has decided she will not exchange the usual postmatch pleasantries with opponents from Russia or Belarus. And that is why she avoided a handshake — avoided any eye contact, even — after losing to Australian Open champion Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 on Day 1 at Roland Garros.

What surprised the 20-year-old, 39th-ranked Kostyuk on Sunday was the reaction she received from the spectators in Court Philippe Chatrier: They loudly booed and derisively whistled at her as she walked directly over to acknowledge the chair umpire instead of congratulating the winner after the lopsided result. The negative response grew louder as she gathered her belongings and walked off the court.

"I have to say," Kostyuk said, "I didn't expect it. ... People should be, honestly, embarrassed."

Kostyuk is based now in Monaco, and her mother and sister are there, too, but her father and grandfather are still in Kyiv. Perhaps the fans on hand at the clay-court event's main stadium were unaware of the backstory and figured Kostyuk simply failed to follow usual tennis etiquette.

Sabalenka tried to ask the chair umpire what was going on. Then she realized that while she is aware Kostyuk and other Ukrainian players have declined to greet opponents from Russia or Belarus after a match, the spectators might not have known — and so responded in a way Sabalenka didn't think was deserved.

"They saw it," she surmised, "as disrespect (for) me."



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk, left, starts to leave the court without shaking hands with Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus at the end of their first-round match of the French Open on Sunday.

All in all, if the tennis itself was not particularly memorable, the whole scene, including the lack of the customary prematch photo of

the players following the coin toss, became the most noteworthy development on Day 1 in Paris.

The highest-seeded player to go home was No. 7 Maria Sakkari, who lost 7-6 (5), 7-5 to 42nd-ranked Karolina Muchova.

The first seeded man to bow out was No. 20 Dan Evans, eliminated 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 by wild-card entry Thanasi Kokkinakis.

Sabalenka called Sunday "emotionally tough" — because of mundane, tennis-related reasons, such as the nerves that come with any first-round match, but more significantly because of the unusual circumstances involving the war.

A journalist from Ukraine asked Sabalenka what her message to the world is with regard to the war, particularly since she can overtake Iga Swiatek at No. 1 in the rankings based on results over the next two weeks and, therefore, serves as a role model.

"Nobody in this world, Russian athletes or Belarusian athletes, support the war. Nobody. How can we support the war? Nobody — normal people — will never support it. Why (do) we have to go loud and say that things? This is like: 'One plus one (is) two.' Of course we don't support war," Sabalenka said. "If it could affect anyhow the war, if it could like stop it, we would do it. But unfortunately, it's not in our hands."

When a portion of those comments was read to Kostyuk by a reporter, she responded in calm, measured tones that she doesn't get why Sabalenka does not come out and say that "she personally doesn't support this war."

Scoreboard

French Open
Sunday
At Stade Roland Garros
Paris
Purse: Euro 23,115,000
Surface: Red clay
First Round
Men's Singles

- Sebastian Ofner, Austria, def. Maxime Cressy, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (6), 6-2.
 - Radu Albot, Moldova, def. Patrick Kypson, United States, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.
 - Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, def. Daniel Evans (20), Britain, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
 - Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Pedro Martinez, Spain, 6-4, 2-6, 0-6, 7-5, 6-3.
 - Hubert Hurkacz (13), Poland, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.
 - Karen Khachanov (11), Russia, def. Constant Lestienne, France, 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3.
 - Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Hugo Grenier, France, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.
 - Stefanos Tsitsipas (5), Greece, def. Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7).
 - Sebastian Korda (24), United States, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.
 - Jason Kubler, Australia, def. Facundo Diaz Acosta, Argentina, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.
 - Matteo Arnaldi, Italy, def. Daniel Elahi Galan, Colombia, 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2.
 - Nuno Borges, Portugal, def. John Isner, United States, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 7-6 (9).
 - Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, def. Emilio Nava, United States, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-2.
- Women's Singles**
- Magdalena Frech, Poland, def. Zhang Shuai (29), China, 6-1, 6-1.
 - Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, def. Jessika Ponchet, France, 6-0, 6-2.
 - Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2.
 - Storm Hunter, Australia, def. Nuria Parizas Diaz, Spain, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.
 - Iryna Shymanovich, Belarus, def. Panna Udvardy, Hungary, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-1.
 - Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, def. Sara Bejlek, Czech Republic, 6-0, 6-3.
 - Elise Mertens (28), Belgium, def. Viktorija Hruncakova, Slovakia, 6-1, 6-4.
 - Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, def. Maria Sakkari (8), Greece, 7-6 (5), 7-5.
 - Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, def. Magda Linette (21), Poland, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.
 - Zheng Qinwen (19), China, def. Tamara Zidansek, Slovenia, 6-3, 6-1.
 - Camila Giorgi, Italy, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-3, 6-4.
 - Clara Tauson, Denmark, def. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, 6-2, 6-0.
 - Anastasia Potapova (24), Russia, def. Taylor Townsend, United States, 6-1, 6-2.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Nuggets try to stay sharp while waiting

While rest was welcome, rust is concern

BY PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

DENVER — Denver Nuggets guard Bruce Brown has been using the long layoff before the start of the NBA Finals to work on his game — his golf game.

“First day of golf I played pretty well,” Brown recounted. “The second day was terrible.”

On Friday, it was back to the business of Brown hitting the shots he hits the best — jumpers



Malone

— as the Nuggets returned to the court for a light practice. Game 1 of the franchise’s first appearance in an NBA Finals is still nearly a week away and their opponent has yet to be determined, with Boston and Miami heading into Game 7 of their Eastern Conference finals series.

The rest has certainly been welcome. The rust, though, does become a concern.

“It’s impossible to keep your rhythm if you’re not playing games,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. “You can do whatever you want in practice, but there’s no way you can replicate playing in an NBA playoff game.”

The Nuggets celebrated sweeping the Los Angeles Lakers on the plane ride home. It bought them a day off Tuesday and an optional

day Wednesday (although, quite a few players showed up). On Thursday, there were conditioning drills and individual drills before reassembling on the practice floor Friday. The intensity will pick up closer to the start of the series Thursday — and once they know who they’re facing.

“Right now, as I told our players, this is about us,” Malone said. “We have to shore up who we are and address the areas that we have not been maybe good enough or areas that we can clean up.”

Before the break, Nikola Jokic, guard Jamal Murray and the Nuggets were cruising along, too, turning in a 12-3 mark in the postseason. Murray’s biggest piece of advice — keep practicing like they expect to play.

“Don’t pick up bad habits throughout this week,” Murray said. “Just being able to stay locked in. You don’t want to get relaxed. I think that’s the biggest — we don’t want to relax and just wait. We want to stay sharp.”

Murray took the opportunity Thursday night to tune into the Stanley Cup playoffs. He watched the green team (his description of the Dallas Stars) knock off the white team (his description of the Vegas Golden Knights) in overtime during Game 4 of the Western Conference finals. He said the contest drove home an important lesson — to play with an intensity all game, especially on defense.



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Denver guard Jamal Murray, left, says it’s important the Nuggets don’t pick up any bad habits while they wait to see who they’ll face in the NBA Finals. “You don’t want to get relaxed. ... We want to stay sharp.”

“Our defense is being played with intent,” Murray said. “We’ve all been on a string. When we need a stop, we all lock in, even if we don’t get it, we lock in and try and get it possession-by-possession. I think that’s crucial at this stage.”

Same with maintaining a balance between hoops and home life. Malone said his family has helped keep him grounded.

“I can’t go home and be in like

Game 7 mindset, because my wife and kids would leave me,” Malone said. “I have to force myself to take a deep breath and remind myself that I am a husband, I am a father and to be a part of my family.”

This weekend, Malone may even play some pickleball — just to take his mind off a grinding series that lies ahead. It could be Jayson Tatum and the Celtics. Or

Jimmy Butler and the Heat, the eight seed that made it into the playoffs through the play-in tournament.

For Brown, no matter who it is, the game will be a reunion of sorts. He’s from Boston and went to college at the University of Miami.

“But if we did go to Boston, it would be a lot of tickets,” Brown joked. “So it would be really expensive.”

Improbable: Celtics can make history by winning Game 7

FROM PAGE 24

try that Al Horford fouled him on — for a one-point Heat lead. It capped a Miami rally from 10 points down with less than 4 minutes remaining.

The Celtics had White inbound the ball on the game’s final possession, and he passed to Smart — who missed a three-pointer. But White sprinted from the inbound spot to the rim, the ball fell into his hands and he got the layup away just before time ran out to extend Boston’s season.

There had been other buzzer-beaters from players whose teams were facing an elimination game, but before Saturday, only Jordan’s came with his team trailing.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla was asked what went through his mind at that moment.

“Nothing,” Mazzulla said. “Game 7.”

Butler scored 24 points and Caleb Martin had 21 for the Heat, who are trying to pull off their own improbable trek to the title series by being only the second No. 8 seed to make the NBA Finals.

Scoreboard

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven)
Eastern Conference
Boston 3, Miami 3Miami 123, Boston 116
Miami 111, Boston 105
Miami 128, Boston 102
Boston 116, Miami 99
Boston 110, Miami 97

Saturday: Boston 104, Miami 103

Monday: at Boston, AFN-Sports, 2:30 A.M. Tuesday CET; 9:30 a.m. Tuesday JKT
Western Conference
Denver 4, L.A. Lakers 0Denver 132, L.A. Lakers 126
Denver 108, L.A. Lakers 103
Denver 119, L.A. Lakers 108
Denver 113, L.A. Lakers 111

They’ve now lost as many games this week — three — as they had in their first 14 playoff games this spring combined on the way to ousting No. 1 Milwaukee, then No. 5 New York and taking what was supposed to be an insurmountable 3-0 lead over the second-seeded Celtics.

“We’ve got to go on the road and do something special,” Butler said. “But we’ve got a special group.”

The Celtics have now won five



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Boston Celtics center Al Horford dunks Saturday during Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals against the Heat in Miami.

of their last six East finals games in Miami — a stretch that includes a Game 7 over the Heat last season to reach the NBA Finals.

That one, obviously, ended the Heat’s season. At least this time, Miami still has a chance.

“I don’t know how we’re going to get this done, but we’re going to

go out there and get it done,” Spoelstra said. “And that’s what the next 48 hours is about. There’s been nothing easy about this season for our group, and so we just have to do it the hard way.”

The Heat are the 151st team to grab a 3-0 series lead in a best-of-seven. All 150 of the previous

clubs finished the job. But the Celtics have made very clear that they have other ideas, and Mazzulla listed a lot of reasons why.

“Faith. Love. Togetherness. Physicality. Belief. Hope.” Mazzulla said. “All those things combined. It starts with the locker room. Those guys had a choice to make and they chose to believe in each other.”

Game 7 history

The Celtics are 27-9 in Game 7s, winners of their last four — including one in Miami last season and one earlier this season, against Philadelphia in the East semifinals. They’re 1-1 against the Heat all-time in such games (losing the 2012 East finals deciding game in Miami), and 22-5 at home in Game 7.

The Heat are 6-5 all-time in Game 7s, losing their last two (home vs. Boston in 2022, at Toronto in 2016), and are 0-2 when facing such a game on the road. Besides the Raptors game seven years ago, they lost a Game 7 at Atlanta in 2009.

NHL PLAYOFFS



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

The Panthers' Matthew Tkachuk, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring the winning goal of Game 4 on Wednesday.

Keith Tkachuk lit fuse to ignite the Panthers

BY TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Keith Tkachuk never played a game for the Florida Panthers and hadn't recorded an assist at the NHL level in nearly 13 years.

That is, until March 29. That's the day he might have had the biggest helper in Florida's season — by calling the Panthers "soft," among other things.

The now-infamous rant on a Toronto radio station that morning by Tkachuk — a former hockey great himself and current Florida star Matthew Tkachuk's father — just happened to coincide with the Panthers turning their season around. Hours later, the Panthers beat the Maple Leafs to start a push that let them squeak into the playoffs and ultimately roar into the Stanley Cup Final.

"He's still in timeout," Matthew Tkachuk said, explaining why he's urged his dad not to do more interviews right now.

Doesn't matter. His words live on, and he didn't offend the Panthers. They're going to the title round next week, with Game 1 at either Vegas or Dallas.

"We're here because of him," Panthers captain Aleksander Barkov said.

Barkov wasn't kidding. There have been countless reasons for Florida's improbable postseason run — airtight defense led by goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, figuring out how to erase a 3-1 deficit against overwhelming favorite Boston in Round 1, needing only nine games combined to oust Toronto and Carolina — but March 29 certainly provided some of the season's biggest moments.

Matthew Tkachuk has been the flair-for-drama star of the playoff run: nine goals, 12 assists, 21 points.

That said, his dad sure seemed to be a spark.

"I'm a little disappointed in the Panthers," Keith Tkachuk said in the interview with TSN 1050. "They're a soft team and they're getting everything they deserve right now."

It didn't stop there. Keith Tkachuk, who had 538 goals and 527

Scoreboard

Conference finals

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

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Florida 4, Carolina 0

Florida 3, Carolina 2, 4OT

Florida 2, Carolina 1, OT

Florida 1, Carolina 0

Florida 4, Carolina 3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Vegas 3, Dallas 2

Vegas 4, Dallas 3, OT

Vegas 3, Dallas 2, OT

Vegas 4, Dallas 0

Dallas 3, Vegas 2, OT

Saturday: Dallas 4, Vegas 2

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

Tuesday CET; 9 a.m. Tuesday JKT

x-Wednesday: at Vegas

assists in 18 NHL seasons, also questioned how hard the Panthers were playing.

"It's up to them to get their butts going and start playing like the team that should be a lot better than what they're showing right now," he said.

As he spoke, the Panthers were facing long odds of just getting into the postseason. They had lost four straight. They were trailing the Maple Leafs later that night 2-1 late in regulation, knowing a defeat could have been the beginning of an unavoidable end. That was also the night that Panthers coach Paul Maurice had seen enough, blasting his team in a second-period bench rant. His words weren't exactly radio-friendly.

It all eventually worked, and just in time. Sam Reinhart scored with a minute left in regulation, Brandon Montour scored in overtime and Florida won 3-2. Starting with that night, the Panthers have won 18 of their past 24 games, 10 of those victories of the comeback variety, seven of them coming in overtime.

"He knows what he's talking about, right? It's not like he's a normal dad that thinks he knows everything just because he's watched his kids growing up and playing," Florida's Ryan Lomberg said Saturday. "He's one of the only dads that everybody hears and whether it impacted us or not, he was right. Obviously, he knows what he's talking about. And I'm sure he's enjoying our style of play now."

Dellandrea's two goals in third keep Stars alive

BY MARK ANDERSON

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — With Dallas' season on the line, the Stars got two critical goals from a player who was a healthy scratch the first two games of the Western Conference finals.

Ty Dellandrea's goals came within a 1:27 span midway through the third period, and the Stars beat the Vegas Golden Knights 4-2 on Saturday to keep alive their hopes of advancing to the Stanley Cup Final to face the Florida Panthers.

"He's one of the best guys I've ever played with," said Stars goalie Jake Oettinger, who made 27 saves. "He deserves every opportunity he gets, and there's no one happier for him than the guys in this room. It shows how special you are when you get taken out. He didn't make it about him. He needed the opportunity to step up, and that's what he did."

The Stars escaped elimination for the second game in a row and head to Dallas for Game 6 on Monday night down 3-2. Dallas is attempting to become the fifth team in NHL history to win a series after being down 3-0.

And look who's back for the Stars? Captain Jamie Benn returns after a two-game suspension for his cross-check to the neck of Vegas captain Mark Stone in Game 3. That was the only game in this series that was decided early, and until Saturday the Stars hadn't even had a multigoal lead.

"I know our group, and we

weren't happy about being in the hole we were in, and they decided to do something about it," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "And now we're rolling."

The only problem for DeBoer was waiting two days to play.

"Drop the puck," he said.

DeBoer said before the game if his team won, the pressure would shift to the Knights. Now it's up to them to respond after twice being a period away from playing in the Stanley Cup Final and letting both opportunities slip away.

"I don't think we brought our best the last two games," Stone said. "We were still in a good spot to win the game. We've got to bring a little bit better effort and start playing a little more desperate."

Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said "it's a very good question" why his team didn't play with more desperation, but he also wasn't thrilled with the Knights' execution.

"We had 24 giveaways," Cassidy said. "I'm not sure you're beating the Arizona Coyotes in January with 24 giveaways. That's no disrespect to Arizona, but it's not the right way to play."

Dellandrea found the right way to play and put together the first multigoal playoff game of his career. Jason Robertson and Luke Glendening also scored, and Thomas Harley had two assists.

Chandler Stephenson and Ivan Barbashev scored for the Knights, and Jonathan Marchessault had two assists to extend his points

streak to four games. Adin Hill made 30 saves.

Dellandrea scored from the right circle to put Dallas ahead, the puck deflecting off Vegas defenseman Alex Pietrangelo with 9:25 left for a 3-2 lead. Then, Dellandrea scored from the slot with 7:58 remaining.

Dellandrea said the older players kept him motivated when he was temporarily sidelined.

"There's no denying it's hard," he said. "I'm thankful for a good group of character guys, and you've just got to stay ready."

The teams traded goals in the first two periods.

Jack Eichel battled two Stars players for the puck in Vegas' offensive zone, and then Barbashev swooped in and made a fantastic move to glide past Oettinger and score with 6:24 left in the first period. The Stars wasted little time in answering when Glendening scored on a deflection less than two minutes later.

Dallas was robbed of what looked like a sure goal when Hill snagged a point-blank shot from Roope Hintz, who then threw his head back in disbelief.

As in the first period, the Knights had a goal in the second quickly answered by one from the Stars. Stephenson scored from the left circle at 16:40 of the period, and Robertson knocked in his own rebound 2:09 later to make it 2-2. Stephenson tied the Knights' record with his eighth playoff goal this year, and Robertson had his fifth of the series.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Dallas Stars center Ty Dellandrea, right, celebrates with Joel Kiviranta after scoring his second goal of the third period against the Vegas Golden Knights in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals on Saturday.

SPORTS



Refusing to go quietly
Dallas wins road game in Vegas,
forces Game 6 » **NHL playoffs, Page 23**

NBA PLAYOFFS

Celtics do the improbable

White's putback helps Boston even East finals, force Game 7

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — The Boston Celtics were a tenth of a second away from elimination. The Miami Heat were a tenth of a second from the NBA Finals.

Derrick White owned that final moment.

White scored on a putback as time expired and the Celtics moved to the brink of the greatest comeback in NBA playoff history, holding off the Heat 104-103 on Saturday night to force a Game 7 in the Eastern Conference finals.

“Derrick White, like a flash of lightning, just came out of nowhere and saved the day, man,” Boston’s Jaylen Brown said. “An incredible play.”

White knew it was good. Referees reviewed it, but it didn’t take long to give the official word.

Elation for Boston. Devastation for Miami.

“Ball came to me,” White said. “I made the shot.”

Perhaps Boston will call it The Shot.

White became the second player in NBA history to hit a buzzer-beater with his team trail-

ing and facing elimination — Michael Jordan’s “The Shot” for Chicago against Cleveland in 1989 being the other.

“I was just happy,” White said. “Season was on the line. We don’t want to go home.”

Jayson Tatum scored 31 points, Brown scored 26 and Marcus Smart added 21 for the Celtics, who became only the fourth NBA team to erase a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series and force a deciding game. The others in that club — the 1951 New York Knicks in the NBA Finals, the 1994 Denver Nuggets in the second round and the 2003 Portland Trail Blazers in the first round — all lost Game 7, all on the road.

Boston, however, is going home for its shot at history. Game 7 is Monday night on the Celtics’ floor, a matchup that’ll decide who meets the Western Conference champion Denver Nuggets in a title series that will start Thursday.

“It’s a seven-game series,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “There’s nothing better than Game 7s.”

Jimmy Butler made three free throws with 3.0 seconds left — the foul was originally called with 2.1 seconds left; referees put 0.9 seconds back on after reviewing the play to see if it was a three-point

SEE IMPROBABLE ON PAGE 22



Mazzulla



REBECCA BLACKWELL, ABOVE, AND MICHAEL LAUGHLIN. LEFT/AP

Above: The Boston Celtics’ Derrick White, left rear, scores on a putback Saturday with 0.1 seconds remaining in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals against the Heat in Miami. Right: Boston forward Jayson Tatum celebrates after the Celtics won 104-103 to force a winner-take-all seventh game.



Kiner-Falefa’s 10th-inning single lifts Yanks » MLB, Page 20

