

New panel to address extremism in ranks

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

A new Pentagon panel will study extremism within the military ranks, including the ability of the services to weed out recruits with extremist views and whether military law or regulations should be amended to address the issue, according to a memorandum released Friday.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin charged the new Countering Extremism Working Group with overseeing a study meant to provide the Pentagon “greater fidelity on the scope of the problem,” according to the memo. It comes as the active-duty military has in recent days completed one-day stand downs to discuss extremism within the ranks. The stand downs were ordered by Austin shortly after he took office in late January and in the wake of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by some supporters of former President Donald Trump.

“The vast majority of those who serve in uniform and their civilian colleagues do so with great honor and integrity, but any extremist behavior in the force can have an outsized impact,” Austin wrote in his memo issued Friday after he met with the civilian leaders of the military depart-

ments to discuss initial findings from the stand down.

John Kirby, the Pentagon’s chief spokesman, declined to discuss specific findings from the stand downs, saying officials needed time to study their results. But he said the service secretaries told Austin that troops want clearer information about what constitutes extremism.

“It was clear to the secretary that [the service secretaries] took it seriously, [and] that they believe their people across the force took it seriously,” Kirby said of the Friday meeting. “One consistent thing [Austin] did hear was that the force wants better guidance ... about what extremist activity really is — guidance that is as clear as possible.”

Military regulations are murky about precisely what constitutes extremist activity, and current Defense Department rules do not bar troops from membership in extremist organizations unless they actively participate in activity deemed illegal or that could harm military order and discipline. Austin has charged the new group with immediately reviewing the Pentagon’s rules regulating extremism, including whether the Uniform Code of Military

Justice should include a specific crime related to extremism.

The panel’s efforts would likely examine whether the military should expel troops found to be inactive members of extremist organizations, but Kirby said it was too early to determine precisely what changes could be made.

In addition to its mandate to review military law and policy, the group is also to examine the Defense Department’s ability to screen potential recruits for extremist ideologies, including probing processes to better screen applicants’ social media.

In Austin’s memo, he asked the panel to address so-called “gray areas,” such as troops who do not express extremist views or act on them, but do things such as “reading, following and liking extremist material and content” online.

The Countering Extremism Working Group is to be led by Bishop Garrison, a top adviser to Austin charged with counseling him on issues including diversity, equity and inclusion. Other members of the group will include senior officials from each military service, outside experts on extremism and officials from other federal agencies, according to the memo.

Biden budget focuses on domestic programs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden released a \$1.5 trillion wish list for his first federal budget, asking for substantial gains for Democratic priorities including education, health care, housing and environmental protection.

The request by the White House budget office Friday for an 8.4% increase in agency operating budgets spells out Biden’s top priorities as Congress weighs its spending plans for next year. It’s the first financial outline of the Democrats’ broader ambitions since the expiration of a 2011 law that capped congressional spending.

“I’m hoping it’ll have some bipartisan support across the board,” Biden said before an Oval Office meeting with his economics team, though prominent Senate Re-

publicans immediately complained the plan would shortchange the military and national security in boosting domestic programs.

At stake is “discretionary spending,” roughly one-third of the huge federal budget that is passed by Congress each year, funding the military, domestic Cabinet department operations, foreign policy and homeland security. The rest of the budget involves so-called mandatory programs with locked-in spending, chiefly Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

The Biden request provides a significantly smaller 1.6% increase for the \$700 billion-plus Pentagon budget than for domestic accounts. Homeland security accounts would basically be frozen, reflecting opposition among Democratic progressives to immigration security forces.

Senate Republicans were quick to criticize the modest proposed increase for defense, with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Oklahoma’s Jim Inhofe, Florida’s Marco Rubio, South Carolina’s Lindsey Graham and Alabama’s Richard Shelby releasing a joint statement.

“Talk is cheap, but defending our country is not,” they said. “We can’t afford to fail in our constitutional responsibility to provide for the common defense. To keep America strong, we must balance domestic and defense spending priorities.”

The president seeks modest increases for national security. Defense — the largest department in the discretionary plan — would get a 1.6% increase to \$715 billion. Homeland Security would edge up 0.2% to \$52 billion.

Court: Calif. can't limit home worship

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is telling California that it can't enforce coronavirus-related restrictions that have limited home-based religious worship including Bible studies and prayer meetings.

The order from the court late Friday is the latest in a recent string of cases in which the high court has barred officials from enforcing some coronavirus-related restrictions applying to religious gatherings.

Five conservative justices agreed that California restrictions that apply to in-home religious gatherings should be lifted for now, while the court's three liberals and Chief Justice John Roberts would not have done so.

California has already, however, announced significant changes loosening restrictions on gatherings that go into effect April 15. The changes come after infection rates have gone down in the state.

The case before the justices involved California rules that in most of the state limit in-

door social gatherings to no more than three households. Attendees are required to wear masks and physically distance from one another. Different restrictions apply to places including schools, grocery stores and churches.

"California treats some comparable secular activities more favorably than at-home religious exercise," allowing hair salons, retail stores, and movie theaters, among other places, "to bring together more than three households at a time," the unsigned order from the court said. A lower court "did not conclude that those activities pose a lesser risk of transmission than applicants' proposed religious exercise at home," it said.

The court acknowledged that California's policy on gatherings will change this week and that "officials with a track record of 'moving the goalposts' retain authority to reinstate those heightened restrictions at any time."

Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a dissent for herself and her liberal colleagues, Justice

Stephen Breyer and Justice Sonia Sotomayor, that the court's majority was hurting state officials' ability to address a public health emergency.

"California limits religious gatherings in homes to three households. If the State also limits all secular gatherings in homes to three households, it has complied with the First Amendment. And the State does exactly that: It has adopted a blanket restriction on at-home gatherings of all kinds, religious and secular alike. California need not ... treat at-home religious gatherings the same as hardware stores and hair salons," she wrote. She added that "the law does not require that the State equally treat apples and watermelons."

The case before the justices involved two residents of Santa Clara County in the San Francisco Bay Area, who want to host small, in-person Bible study sessions in their homes. California had defended its policy of restricting social gatherings as "entirely neutral."

No region spared: Cases, deaths surge globally

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Hospitals in Turkey and Poland are filling up. Pakistan is restricting domestic travel. The U.S. government will send more help to the state with the country's worst infection increase.

The worldwide surge in coronavirus cases and deaths includes even Thailand, which has weathered the pandemic far better than many nations but now struggles to contain COVID-19.

The only exceptions to the deteriorating situation are countries that have advanced vaccination programs, most notably Israel and Britain. The U.S., which is a vaccination leader globally, is also seeing a small uptick in new cases, and the White House announced Friday that it would send federal assistance to Michigan to control the state's worst-in-the-nation transmission rate.

The World Health Organization said infection rates are climbing in every global region, driven by new virus variants and too many countries coming out of lockdown too soon.

"We've seen rises (in cases) worldwide for six weeks. And now, sadly, we are seeing rises

in deaths for the last three weeks," Dr. Margaret Harris, a WHO spokeswoman, said at a briefing in Geneva.

In its weekly epidemiological update Tuesday, the WHO said over 4 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the previous week. New deaths increased by 11% compared to the previous week, with over 71,000 reported.

The increasing infections, hospitalizations and deaths extend to countries where vaccinations are finally gaining momentum. That leaves even bleaker prospects for much of the world, where large-scale vaccination programs remain a more distant prospect.

In Turkey, which is among the badly hit countries, most new cases of the virus can be traced to a variant first found in Britain.

Ismail Cinel, head of the Turkish Intensive Care Association, said the surge was beginning to strain the nation's relatively advanced health care system and "the alarm bells are ringing" for intensive care units, which are not yet at full capacity.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan eased COVID-19 restrictions in early March to minimize pain to his nation's ailing econo-

my. The new spike forced him to announce renewed restrictions during Ramadan, which starts April 13.

Authorities in Pakistan, which is in the middle of a third surge of infections, were expected to begin restricting intercity transportation on weekends starting at midnight Friday.

Elsewhere in Asia, authorities in Thailand ordered new restrictions Friday in an effort to contain a growing coronavirus outbreak just days before the country's traditional Songkran New Year's holiday.

In Germany, Poland and other countries in the 27-member European Union, vaccination programs are finally ramping up after a slow start blamed on delivery shortages.

Yet German health officials are warning of a steep rise in intensive care patients and are calling for stronger action to contain infections. Neighboring Poland is also seeing a dramatic spike in deaths, and hospitals have been forced to turn away cancer and other patients as ICU and other hospital beds are taken by COVID-19 patients. Hospitalizations of virus patients there have jumped 20% in the past two weeks.

Group to study overhaul of Supreme Court

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has ordered a study on overhauling the Supreme Court, creating a bipartisan commission Friday that will spend the next six months examining the politically incendiary issues of expanding the court and instituting term limits for justices, among other issues.

In launching the review, Biden fulfilled a campaign promise made amid pressure from activists and Democrats to realign the Supreme Court after its composition tilted sharply to the right during President Donald Trump's term. Trump nominated three justices to the high court, including conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was confirmed to replace the late lib-

eral Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg just days before last year's presidential election. That gave conservatives a 6-3 split with liberals on the court.

During the campaign, Biden repeatedly sidestepped questions on expanding the court. A former chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Biden has asserted that the system of judicial nominations is "getting out of whack," but has not said if he supports adding seats or making other changes to the current system of lifetime appointments, such as imposing term limits.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell attacked the move in a statement Friday, saying it "is a direct assault on our nation's independent judiciary and another

sign of the Far Left's influence over the Biden administration."

He cited statements of more progressive members of the court like Justice William Breyer and the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg cautioning against such a move.

"The president spent much of his campaign playing coy on the issue, but has now admitted from the safety of a four-year term that he views the judiciary as 'out of whack,'" McConnell said.

The 36-member commission, composed largely of academics, was instructed to spend 180 days studying proposed changes, holding public meetings and completing a report. But it was not charged with making a recommendation under the White House order that created it.

Gaetz faces House ethics probe, federal investigation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House Ethics Committee announced an investigation into Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz as federal prosecutors probing sex trafficking allegations against him are also scrutinizing the actions of some of his political allies and fellow Florida Republicans as part of a broader public corruption inquiry.

Federal agents have, in recent months, been examining Gaetz's connections to several other influential Florida political figures.

They include Florida state senator Jason Brodeur; Halsey Beshears, the state's former top business regulator; Chris Dorworth, a lobbyist who had served in the state House of Representatives; and Jason Pirozzolo, a hand surgeon and Gaetz campaign

donor who served on the board of the Orlando Airport Authority, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Brodeur and Beshears did not respond to repeated calls Friday seeking comment. An attorney for Pirozzolo also did not respond to a request for comment. Dorworth didn't comment.

The FBI's examination of a wide range of topics involving Gaetz and his associates exemplifies the breadth of the investigation.

Gaetz, who has vehemently denied any wrongdoing, has retained two prominent New York attorneys while facing a Justice Department investigation into sex trafficking allegations involving underage girls.

The scrutiny includes an examination of a trip that Gaetz and Pirozzolo took to the Bahamas with a group of women, and federal

agents are looking into whether they were paid or received gifts to have sex with the men, the person said. CBS News first reported details of the trip.

The FBI has also started questioning people about that trip and others that Gaetz and his associates took with women, and agents are examining whether any of the women were later hired into government positions as political favors, the person said.

Investigators have been scrutinizing financial records, contact witnesses, former staff members and others who they believe may have been aware of the activities, according to the person.

The person could not publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Caitlyn Jenner considers run for California governor

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Caitlyn Jenner has been an Olympic hero, a reality TV personality and a transgender rights activist. Her next step could be candidate for California governor.

The 71-year-old longtime Republican has been consulting with GOP advisers as she considers joining the field of candidates hoping to replace Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in a likely recall election later this year. Jenner has spoken to Dave Rexrode, executive director of the Republican Governors

Association, about a potential run, a spokesperson for the organization said.

The celebrity activist, who described herself as "economically conservative, socially progressive" in a People magazine interview last year, immediately would stand out in a field that so far has failed to attract a nationally known contender. Her potential run would come nearly two decades after the ascendancy of Arnold Schwarzenegger, another Republican who used his Hollywood fame as a springboard to the state's highest office in a 2003 recall election.

Still, a potential run by first-time candidate Jenner also has spotlighted the many unknowns about her positions on critical issues facing the nation's most populated state, from how she would manage the coronavirus pandemic to slowing a homelessness crisis.

If the recall qualifies for the ballot, as expected, voters would be asked two questions: first, whether Newsom should be removed from office. The second would be a list of replacement candidates to choose from, if more than 50% of voters support removing Newsom from office.

Migrant families stay in hotels amid space limit

Associated Press

Migrant families will be held at hotels in the Phoenix area in response to a growing number of people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, authorities said Friday, another step in the Biden administration's rush to set up temporary space for them.

U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema was told that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will occupy "several hotels along the southwest border, including in Chandler and Phoenix," her office said in a statement. Chandler is a Phoenix suburb that's more than 150 miles north of the border.

ICE declined to identify specific hotels and locations, saying only that its \$86.9 million contract announced last month with Endeavors Inc. will provide about 1,200 hotel beds in Texas and Arizona. Migrant families will generally stay less than 72 hours for processing.

The contract says the San Antonio-based provider of veterans care, disaster relief and migrant services already has beds available at hotels in Chandler and the Texas cities of El Paso and Cotulla, southwest of San Antonio. The first families to be housed in hotels under the contract were set to arrive Friday.

Sinema's office said the Democratic senator spoke with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and will hold him "accountable for protecting Arizona communities and ensuring all migrants are treated fairly and humanely."

The Border Patrol encountered 52,904 families along the Mexican border last month, up from 19,286 in February and 3,455 in March 2020. The Endeavors contract says authorities anticipate the highest number of family arrivals in 20 years during the 12-month period ending Sept. 30.

Only about one in three families encountered last month was quickly expelled from the U.S. under federal pandemic-related powers that deny people a chance to seek asylum. Immigration authorities have been releasing families with children 6 and younger into the country while their cases are decided.

Mexico also has resisted taking back Central American families with young children, especially in Tamaulipas state bordering Texas' Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for illegal crossings. The U.S. flies some families to other border cities — San Diego and El Paso — to be expelled to Mexico from there.

Kremlin says it fears full-scale fight in Ukraine

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said Friday it fears a resumption of full-scale fighting in eastern Ukraine and could take steps to protect Russian civilians there, a stark warning that comes amid a Russian troop build-up along the border.

The statement by Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, reflected the Kremlin's determination to prevent Ukraine from using force to try to retake control over separatist-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's military chief dismissed the Russian claims that the country's armed forces are preparing for an attack on the rebel east.

Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists have been fighting in eastern Ukraine since shortly after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. More than 14,000 people have died in the conflict, and efforts to negotiate a political settlement have stalled.

Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of sending in troops and weapons to help separatists, accusations that Moscow has denied. The White House says Russia now has more troops on its border with Ukraine than at any time since 2014.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday after visiting troops in the east that 26 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed so far this year. Increasingly frequent breaches of a July truce agreement mean that "we again face the need to establish a cease-fire," Zelenskyy said.

The separatist authorities in Donetsk said 20 troops and 2 civilians have been killed this year.

Western and Ukrainian officials have raised concerns in recent weeks about increasingly frequent cease-fire violations in the country's industrial heartland. They also expressed worries about the Russian troop build-up along the border with Ukraine.

The concerns appeared to intensify Friday as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to his French and German counterparts about the matter. The State Department said Blinken, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian discussed the need for Russia to cease its military build-up and heated rhetoric.

Iran's nuke program tests new advanced nuclear centrifuge

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Saturday it has begun mechanical tests on its newest advanced nuclear centrifuge, even as the five world powers that remain in a foundering 2015 nuclear deal with Iran attempt to bring the U.S. back into the agreement.

Iran's IR-9 centrifuge, when operational, would have the ability to separate uranium isotopes more quickly than the current centrifuges being used, thereby enriching uranium at a faster pace. The announcement carried on state TV came on Iran's annual Nuclear Day.

The IR-9's output is 50 times quicker than the first Iranian centrifuge, the IR-1. Iran's nuclear program is also developing IR-8

centrifuges.

Since January, Iran has begun enriching uranium at up to 20% purity, a technical step away from weapons-grade levels, though Iran's leadership insists the country has no desire to develop a nuclear weapon.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear accord in 2018, accusing Iran of failing to live up to the agreement, opting for what he called a maximum-pressure campaign of stepped-up U.S. sanctions and other tough actions.

Iran responded by intensifying its enrichment of uranium and building centrifuges in plain violation of the accord, while insisting that its nuclear development is for civilian not military purposes.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Couple creates treasure hunt for bicentennial

ME BANGOR — A pair of Mainers have hidden \$20,000 somewhere in the state and they're inviting treasure seekers to come and get it.

The creators of the treasure hunt and the company behind the hunt, Dirigo Treasures LLC, are Kurt and Kelly Stokes of Newcastle, the Lincoln County News reported.

The couple spent three years exploring and photographing locations around the state before creating an elaborate hide-and-seek game.

Finding the Dirigo treasure will involve solving a secret, a riddle and a puzzle. Getting started means ponying up for a deck of cards or flash cards for \$19.99 or \$39.99, with a dollar from each sale going to the Maine Cancer Foundation.

Goat 'arrested' after report of break-in

NC GREENVILLE — Police in eastern North Carolina say they've "arrested" a goat after they got a call reporting an attempted break-in.

The Animal Protective Services unit of the Greenville Police Department said in a statement that officers arrived to find the goat hanging out around the windows of a house in Greenville.

The goat was taken to the city's animal shelter but was soon picked up by his owner "to finish his sentence in house arrest," police said.

4 charged in interstate dog fighting operation

VA RICHMOND — Four men have been charged with conspiracy in connection with alleged dog fighting operations, according to federal prosecutors in Virginia.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Richmond said Carlos L. Harvey of King George; Chester A. Moody Jr. of Glenn Dale, Md.; Emmanuel A. Powe Sr. of Frederick, Md.; and Odell S. Anderson Sr. of Washington, D.C., were named in documents filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

According to prosecutors, the alleged co-conspirators maintained property and equipment to house and train "pit bull-type dogs" for use in dog fights, and also allegedly arranged for fights and taking dogs to fights. The offenses were alleged to have occurred from 2015 through 2018.

Vandals mar ancient petroglyphs in mountains

GA MARIETTA — Federal authorities are searching for vandals who damaged ancient petroglyphs in the north Georgia mountains — sacred rock carvings that date back thousands of years.

Archaeologist Johannes Loubser discovered the vandalism on March 26 and reported it to the U.S. Forest Service, he said.

The vandalism includes scars made by someone using rocks and knives, but also blue, red and yellow paint, he said.

The carvings at the site known as Track Rock Gap have

been done over thousands of years, with the earliest known evidence dating back more than 3,000 years ago, according to the Forest Service.

University mistakenly accepts 500,000 pupils

KY LEXINGTON — The University of Kentucky mistakenly sent acceptance emails to 500,000 high school seniors for a program that usually accepts about three dozen students a year.

The school followed up with another email less than 24 hours later and apologized for its mistake, citing a "technical issue," WLEX-TV reported.

"Only a handful of those on the prospect list had been admitted to UK," UK spokesman Jay Blanton said. "The vast majority had not, nor had the vast majority of these students expressed an interest in the program. Nevertheless, we regret the communication error and have sent correspondence to all those who were contacted, offering our apologies."

Ex-volunteer firefighter charged with arson

TN DRESDEN — A former volunteer firefighter has been charged with setting a blaze at a church on Easter Sunday in Tennessee, authorities said.

Codie Austin Clark, 25, was arrested on a charge of arson of a place of worship, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said in a news release.

TBI agents found that the fire at New Salem Presbyterian Church had been intentionally set by Clark, who had served as

a volunteer firefighter in the Dresden Fire Department, the TBI said.

Airport unveils robot food server in pilot program

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A rolling droid is delivering food to travelers at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that the droid, called Gita (pronounced JEE-tah) is part of a pilot program at Terminal 1.

Customers order food from 16 airport vendors using their phones or laptops. Gita delivers it within 15 to 30 minutes, using visual sensing technology to follow a worker to the customer. The customer then opens the cube-shaped droid's cargo doors to retrieve their order.

Missing police rifle returned weeks later

NY CHESTER — A state police rifle was returned several weeks after authorities said it went missing, though they did not provide information about how it got lost or name the person who found it.

The state police reported that the Rock River AR-15 was missing on March 16 and said its last known location was along Route 9 near Riverside Drive in Chester, located about 85 miles north of Albany.

A resident returned the rifle to the state police station in Chester, the Post-Star reported.

Police had said that the rifle was not stolen and that there is an internal investigation into how it went missing.

— From The Associated Press



Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting World, National and Military News

Musgrove throws Padres' first no-hitter

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — A long-time member of the Friar Faithful, Joe Musgrove knew all about San Diego's no-hitter history.

There wasn't any.

Until now.

Musgrove, the 28-year-old pitcher who grew up just down the road in El Cajon, Calif., threw the Padres' first no-hitter — in the team's 8,206th regular-season game — allowing only one baserunner in a 3-0 victory over the Texas Rangers on Friday night.

San Diego had been the only active MLB franchise without a no-hitter.

"It's awesome to have it be in a Padres uniform," said Musgrove, who had never thrown a no-hitter at any level. "To have it be the first in the history of the franchise, that's incredible."

It was only his second start for the Padres — a team that started playing in 1969, for which his family has long had season tickets, and for which he now wears No. 44 to honor former Cy Young Award winner Jake Peavy, one of his favorite players growing up.

Musgrove (2-0) struck out 10 and faced 28 batters, one over the minimum. He threw 77 of his 112 pitches for strikes.

"I wasn't coming out of that game. I knew once I gave up the hit, I expected that would be my night, and I'd be all right with that," he said. "I was just so locked in. I had no intention of coming out of that game."

Padres manager Jayce Tingler let Musgrove go the distance because he was so efficient — and knowing what it would mean

to have a hometown player end the franchise's no-hitter drought in its 53rd season.

"I think in a way that makes it, if it can be any sweeter, any more special for him, to do it growing up in San Diego and this being his team, it's about the perfect story written," Tingler said.

The only Rangers baserunner was Joey Gallo, who was hit by a pitch with two outs in the fourth inning. Jose Trevino had a hard lineout to right field for the final out of the eighth, and pinch-hitter David Dahl ripped the first out of the ninth right at second baseman Jake Cronenworth. Isiah Kiner-Falefa made the final out, a routine grounder to short.

"There was like three different scenarios where I thought I lost it," said Musgrove, who described himself as "freaking exhausted."

Musgrove is in his sixth major league season. He previously pitched for Houston (2016-17) and Pittsburgh (2018-20) and never had thrown a complete game in his previous 84 career starts.

It was the first no-hitter in the majors this season and only the second complete game.

The majors' last no-hitter was thrown by the Chicago Cubs' Alec Mills on Sept. 13, 2020 against Milwaukee. His catcher was Victor Caratini, who was also behind the plate for Musgrove.

Caratini is the first starting catcher in MLB history to work consecutive no-hitters MLB-wide for different teams, according to Elias Sports. There are 10 other instances of a starting catcher catching con-

secutive no-hitters in the big leagues, but all of those were for the same team.

San Diego acquired Musgrove as part of a seven-player, three-team trade on Jan. 19. The big righty pitched for Pittsburgh last season.

In his debut for San Diego, which came at home last Saturday, he struck out eight in six scoreless innings against Arizona. He had no walks in winning that game, when he threw 57 of 78 pitches for strikes.

It was the fourth time a no-hitter was thrown against the Rangers. The last had been by Mark Buehrle of the Chicago White Sox on April 18, 2007.

According to Baseball-Reference, there had been 307 no-hitters in MLB history before Musgrove and the Padres. That included 293 individual no-hitters and 14 combined no-nos.

The Padres had their share of close calls the past 52 seasons. They came within one out twice, most recently on a combined bid started by Aaron Harang against the Dodgers on July 9, 2011. Juan Uribe ended that no-hitter with a double off Luke Gregerson, then scored a batter later in a 1-0 LA win.

This was the fourth no-hitter thrown in Arlington, the first thrown in their second-year stadium where the Padres played the NL Division Series last season. The last no-hitter in Arlington had been Kenny Rogers' perfect game for Texas against the Angels on July 28, 1994, the first season of the former Rangers ballpark that still stands across the street from Globe Life Field, where the retractable roof was closed Friday night.

Turner hits home run as Dodgers blank Nationals

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Justin Turner's fond memories of the Los Angeles Dodgers' championship last fall will always be weighted by slight disappointment in the weird way it all ended for him personally.

After receiving the ring symbolizing last season's success Friday, Turner made sure his memories of this particular celebratory day will only be sweet.

Turner homered in the sixth inning, and the Dodgers celebrated their World Series ring ceremony day with a 1-0 victory over the Washington Nationals.

Walker Buehler pitched six strong innings as Los Angeles won a tidy pitchers' duel in their home opener without injured star outfielders Mookie Betts and Cody Bellinger.

Angels 7, Blue Jays 1: At Dunedin, Fla., Shohei Ohtani homered and drove in four runs, sending Los Angeles to the win.

Ohtani completed a four-run second with a three-run double to deep right-center off T.J. Zeuch (0-1). He also connected for a 422-foot solo drive to center during LA's three-run fifth.

Braves 8, Phillies 1: Ronald Acuña Jr. had four hits, includ-

ing a long two-run homer that gave host Atlanta the lead, and made a leaping catch to support Charlie Morton's (1-1) six strong innings.

Acuña's fifth-inning blast off Zack Wheeler (1-1) traveled an estimated 456 feet, landing deep in the center-field seats behind the Braves bullpen for a 2-1 lead. He also had two doubles and an infield single.

Giants 3, Rockies 1: Johnny Cueto (1-0) pitched 8 ⅓ innings of four-hit ball, helping San Francisco win its home opener.

Rays 10, Yankees 5: Rich Hill (1-0) pitched six innings,

helping host Tampa Bay stop a four-game slide.

Reds 6, Diamondbacks 5 (10): Tucker Barnhart hit a run-scoring single in the 10th inning and Tyler Naquin crushed his big league-best fifth homer, leading visiting Cincinnati to its sixth straight victory.

Athletics 6, Astros 2: Matt Olson's tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning lifted visiting Oakland to the win.

Indians 4, Tigers 1: Franmil Reyes homered twice for host Cleveland, and Zach Plesac (1-1) pitched seven dominant innings.

Rose wilts, Masters pack catches up

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Justin Rose probably should have stayed in bed. The Englishman ended Day 2 at the Masters in the same place he began — atop the leaderboard — only to discover the objects in his mirror were suddenly a lot closer than they appeared.

“For sure,” Rose said, “I didn’t quite appreciate the scoring was going to be quite so good today.”

For everyone else, maybe.

Rose followed his opening-round 65 with an even-par 72 that let his rivals squeeze most of the air out of what had been a four-shot cushion. On Thursday, he was one of only three golfers to post a round in the 60s. Overcast skies Friday made the greens more receptive and by day’s end, there were more cards turned in with 60-something on them — 18 in all — than you’d see at the VFW hall on Bingo Night.

“For as tough as this place has been playing,” said Justin Thomas, who shot 67, “I felt like it was as easy as it could have been ... a lot of my birdies have been pretty low stress or pretty easy.”

For all that, Rose’s 137 total at the midway point of the tournament was still good enough for a one-shot lead over Will Zalatoris and Brian Harman.

Zalatoris, who was plugging away on the Korn Ferry Tour about this time last year, birdied the final three holes for 68. He called his approach into the 18th his most satisfying swing of the round, “knowing that it would get me into the final group.”

Harman, a left-hander who didn’t think he’d qualify as recently as last month, birdied the last two for 69.

“Whenever you look up on the leaderboard and see your name up there pretty high at Augusta,

it’s hard not to get nervous,” Harman said. “I was nervous. But it was nice to settle down with a good birdie on 2, and I struck it well all day today.”

He wasn’t the only one. Lurking another shot back at 139 were 2015 winner Jordan Spieth (68) and Marc Leishman (67). That, in turn, was one better than a six-pack of golfers at 140, including Thomas, Tony Finau (66) and most improbably perhaps, Si Woo Kim (69).

Kim’s chip for birdie from just behind the green at No. 15 had too much steam and zoomed past the cup before nestling into the fringe on the front. His reaction was steamier still. Kim slammed the head of his putter into the turf and snapped it off.

“Did you ever do that before?” a reporter asked afterward.

“Not on the course,” Kim replied to laughter.

He finished that hole and the next three putting with his fairway metal, which prompted another abrupt exchange.

“Si Woo, do you have another putter?”

“No, I don’t want to answer any more,” he replied. “Sorry.”

While Rose made no apologies, he had plenty of regrets. He bogeyed No. 1, had a 67-foot birdie try at the par-3 sixth fail to climb a slope near the pin and almost all the way back down to his feet for a second bogey, added a third at No. 7, and was stuck at 3 over walking off the 12th.

But Rose regrouped, birdied Nos. 13, 14 and 16 to get back to even on the day. It might not have seemed like much of an accomplishment compared to all those 60s. On the other hand, defending champion Dustin Johnson, four-time major winner Rory McIlroy, Lee Westwood and Patrick Cantlay were all headed for the exit after failing to hit the cut line at 147.

Young helps Hawks beat LaVine, Bulls

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum scored a career-high 53 points — including 18 in the fourth quarter and overtime — and the Boston Celtics held on to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 145-136 on Friday night.

It was the first 50-point game for the All-Star, who eclipsed his previous high of 41. Jaylen Brown had 26 points, and Marcus Smart added 24 points, eight assists and six rebounds to help Boston post its fourth win in five games.

Boston erased what was a 17-point deficit in the third quarter and led by as many as eight in the fourth before Minnesota rallied to send it to OT.

The Celtics surged again at the start of the extra period and took a 135-129 lead on a three-pointer by Walker. Minnesota got within 135-132 via a three-point play by D’Angelo Russell. But Boston outscored the Timberwolves 10-4 the rest of the way.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 30 points and 12 rebounds. Russell finished with 26 points and Anthony Edwards added 24.

Hawks 120, Bulls 108: Trae Young scored 42 points, Clint Capela had 22 points and 10 rebounds and host Atlanta overcame a sizzling performance by Zach LaVine to pick up a 120-108 win over Chicago.

LaVine scored 39 of his career-high 50 points in the first half, and Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and 10 rebounds, but the Bulls’ three-game winning streak was snapped. Chicago was trying to win four straight for the first time since December 2017.

Knicks 133, Grizzlies 129 (OT): RJ Barrett scored 20 points, making a tiebreaking three-pointer with 1:15 left in overtime, and host New York used a late rally to stun Mem-

phis.

Alec Burks had nine of his 19 in overtime and Julius Randle recovered from a scoreless first half to finish with 15 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds in his fifth triple-double of the season to help New York snap the Grizzlies’ four-game winning streak.

Pelicans 101, 76ers 94: Zion Williamson scored 14 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter and New Orleans held on to beat visiting Philadelphia.

Williamson

was 15 of 28 from the field and added 15 rebounds and eight assists.

Clippers 126, Rockets 109: Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points, Reggie Jackson added 26 and host Los Angeles beat Houston for its fourth straight victory.

The Clippers announced before the game that guard Patrick Beverley broke his left hand in Thursday’s win over Phoenix and will be out for at least four weeks after undergoing surgery. LA was also without Paul George and Rajon Rondo.

Hornets 127, Bucks 119: Miles Bridges scored 26 points to lead visiting Charlotte past a Milwaukee lineup missing all five usual starters.

Nuggets 121, Spurs 119: Nikola Jokic had 26 points, 14 assists and 13 rebounds and host Denver held off San Antonio when DeMar DeRozan’s tip spun out at the buzzer.

Wizards 110, Warriors 107: Bradley Beal shook off a sluggish performance and scored six points in the final 6.1 seconds, lifting visiting Washington past Golden State.

Pacers 111, Magic 106: Aaron Holiday scored 20 points and Domantas Sabonis had 16 points, 15 rebounds and six assists in his return from a three-game injury absence to help Indiana beat host Orlando.

Georgiev leads Rangers past Islanders

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Alexander Georgiev made 31 saves in his first start since March 19, Alexis Lafreniere and Colin Blackwell scored in the second period and New York Rangers beat the Islanders 4-1 on Friday night.

Georgiev improved to 7-1-0 in eight starts against the Islanders. Mika Zibanejad and K'Andre Miller also scored and Artemi Panarin had two assists for the Rangers.

Andy Greene scored and Semyon Varlamov made 32 saves for the Islanders.

The teams meet again on Sunday night at Nassau Coliseum.

Avalanche 2, Ducks 0: Jonas Johansson made 28 saves in his first career shutout, and

Valeri Nichushkin scored in visiting Colorado's victory over Anaheim.

Mikko Rantanen added an empty-net goal in the final minute as the West Division-leading Avalanche bounced back from an embarrassing 8-3 loss Wednesday to Minnesota, one that ended their streak of earning a point in 15 consecutive games. Colorado also played solidly after its morning skate was canceled by a positive COVID-19 test.

Capitals 4, Sabres 3: Justin Schultz had a goal and two assists to help Washington beat host Buffalo.

Washington star Alex Ovechkin scored his 21st goal of the season and No. 727 for his career, moving within four of Marcel Dionne for fifth on

the NHL list. Brenden Dillon and Jakub Vrana also scored.

Penguins 6, Devils 4: Bryan Rust scored two goals, Sidney Crosby had a goal and two assists and visiting Pittsburgh beat New Jersey.

Jared McCann, Brian Dumoulin and Colton Sceviour also scored and Casey DeSmith made 25 saves to help the Penguins win for the second straight night and eighth time in 11 games.

Blues 9, Wild 1: Ryan O'Reilly had a hat trick and Jaden Schwartz scored twice in host St. Louis' blowout victory over Minnesota.

Justin Faulk and Sammy Blais each had a goal and two assists, and Zach Sanford and Ivan Barbashev also scored for the Blues, who posted a season

high for goals in a game. Jordan Binnington made 23 saves.

Golden Knights 7, Coyotes 4: Reilly Smith scored twice to lead Vegas past visiting Arizona.

Jonathan Marchessault, William Carrier, Keegan Kolesar, Chandler Stephenson, and Max Pacioretty also scored for the Golden Knights, and Robin Lehner made 22 saves.

Sharks 5, Kings 2: Martin Jones made 32 saves to stymie Los Angeles again and Patrick Marleau scored his 566th career goal to lead host San Jose.

Kevin Labanc, Rudolfs Balcers and Dylan Gambrell also scored, and Brent Burns had three assists to give San Jose its fifth win in six games. Tomas Hertl added an empty-net goal.

Blackmore first female jockey to win Grand National

Associated Press

LIVERPOOL, England — Rachael Blackmore broke down one of the biggest gender barriers in sports by becoming the first female jockey to win the grueling Grand National horse race.

Blackmore, a 31-year-old Irishwoman, rode Minella Times to victory at odds of 11-1 at Aintree on Saturday in the 173rd edition of the famous steeplechase run.

"I don't feel male or female right now. I don't even feel human," Blackmore said. "This is just unbelievable."

Female jockeys have only been allowed to enter and race in the National since 1975, when the Sex Discrimination Act was passed.

Blackmore is the 20th female jockey to compete in a race that has been a mud-splattered British sporting institution since 1839, one that even non-horse racing enthusiasts turn on to watch.

Katie Walsh had the best fin-

ish for a female rider, coming in third on Seabass in 2012.

Blackmore has become the new face of British and Irish horse racing. Three weeks ago, she became the first woman to finish as the leading jockey at the prestigious Cheltenham Festival.

13 of Texans QB's accusers being ID'd

HOUSTON — The names of 13 of the 22 women who have filed lawsuits accusing Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson of sexual assault and harassment will be made public following court hearings Friday.

During two hearings, Watson's attorney, Rusty Hardin, asked that the names of the 13 women, who have sued under the name Jane Doe, be publicly identified so his client can "have a chance at properly defending himself."

Tony Buzbee, the lawyer for the 22 women, argued against

releasing their names, saying doing so could put their lives in danger. One of two accusers who made their names public during a news conference Tuesday has already received death threats, Buzbee said.

The 22 women accuse Watson of exposing himself, touching them with his penis or kissing them against their will while he got a massage. At least one woman has alleged Watson forced her to perform oral sex. All of the women are either licensed massage therapists or worked in a spa or similar business.

Ex-NFL player's brain to be probed for CTE

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The brain of Phillip Adams — the former NFL player who killed a South Carolina physician, three family members and a repairman before fatally shooting himself — will be tested for a degenerative disease that has affected a number of pro athletes

and has been shown to cause violent mood swings and other cognitive disorders, according to the local coroner.

York County Coroner Sabrina Gast said in a statement issued on Friday that she had gotten approval from Adams' family for the procedure to be included as part of his autopsy, which will be performed at the Medical University of South Carolina. The hospital will be working with Boston University, whose chronic traumatic encephalopathy center conducts research on the long-term effects of repetitive brain trauma in athletes and military personnel, according to its website.

According to police, Adams went to the home of Robert and Barbara Lesslie on Wednesday and shot and killed them, two of their grandchildren, 9-year-old Adah Lesslie and 5-year-old Noah Lesslie, and James Lewis, a 38-year-old air conditioning technician from Gaston who was doing work there.