

## DOD uses COVID for better future plan

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A COVID-19 patient was in respiratory distress. The Army nurse knew she had to act quickly.

It was the peak of this year's omicron surge and an Army medical team was helping in a Michigan hospital. Regular patient beds were full. So was the intensive care. But the nurse heard of an open spot in an overflow treatment area, so she and another team member raced the gurney across the hospital to claim the space first, denting a wall in their rush.

When she saw the dent, Lt. Col. Suzanne Cobleigh, the leader of the Army team, knew the nurse had done her job. "She's going to damage the wall on the way there because he's going to get that bed," Cobleigh said. "He's going to get the treatment he needs. That was the mission."

That nurse's mission was to get urgent care for her patient. Now, the U.S. military mission is to use the experiences of Cobleigh's team and other units pressed into service against the coronavirus pandemic to prepare for the next crisis threatening a large popula-

tion, whatever its nature.

Their experiences, said Gen. Glen VanHerck, will help shape the size and staffing of the military's medical response so the Pentagon can provide the right types and numbers of forces needed for another pandemic, global crisis or conflict.

One of the key lessons learned was the value of small military teams over mass movements of personnel and facilities in a crisis like the one wrought by COVID-19.

In the early days of the pandemic, the Pentagon steamed hospital ships to New York City and Los Angeles, and set up massive hospital facilities in convention centers and parking lots, in response to pleas from state government leaders. The idea was to use them to treat non-COVID-19 patients, allowing hospitals to focus on the more acute pandemic cases. But while images of the military ships were powerful, too often many beds went unused. Fewer patients needed non-coronavirus care than expected, and hospitals were still overwhelmed by the pandemic.

A more agile approach emerged: having military medical personnel step in for ex-

hausted hospital staff members or work alongside them or in additional treatment areas in unused spaces.

"It morphed over time," VanHerck, who heads U.S. Northern Command and is responsible for homeland defense, said of the response.

Overall, about 24,000 U.S. troops were deployed for the pandemic, including nearly 6,000 medical personnel to hospitals and 5,000 to help administer vaccines.

VanHerck told The Associated Press his command is rewriting pandemic and infectious disease plans, and planning wargames and other exercises to determine if the U.S. has the right balance of military medical staff in the active duty and reserves.

He said the U.S. is also working to better analyze trends in order to predict the needs for personnel, equipment and protective gear. Military and other government experts watched the progress of COVID-19 infections moving across the country and used that data to predict where the next outbreak might be so that staff could be prepared to go there.

## Mariupol mayor: Siege has killed over 10K civilians

*Associated Press*

LIVIV, Ukraine — The mayor of Mariupol said Monday that more than 10,000 civilians have died in the Russian siege of his city, and that the death toll could surpass 20,000, with corpses that were "carpeted through the streets."

Speaking by phone Monday, Mayor Vadym Boychenko also said Russian forces brought mobile cremation equipment to the port city to dispose of the bodies, and he accused Russian forces of refusing to allow humanitarian convoys into the city in an attempt to conceal the carnage.

Russian forces have taken many bodies to a huge shopping center where there are storage facilities and refrigerators,

Boychenko said.

"Mobile crematoriums have arrived in the form of trucks: You open it, and there is a pipe inside and these bodies are burned," he said.

The mayor's comments emerged as Russia claimed it destroyed several Ukrainian air-defense systems in what appeared to be a renewed push to gain air superiority ahead of an expected broad new offensive in the east. Other nations, however, disputed the claim.

In one strike, Moscow said it hit four S-300 launchers near the central city of Dnipro that had been provided by a European country it did not name. Slovakia gave Ukraine just such a system last week but denied it

had been destroyed. In addition, the Pentagon said there was no indication the site had been knocked out.

The failure to win full control of Ukraine's skies has hampered Moscow's ability to provide air cover for troops on the ground, limiting their advances and likely exposing them to greater losses.

With their offensive in many parts of the country thwarted, Russian forces have relied increasingly on bombarding cities — a strategy that has left many urban areas flattened and killed thousands of people.

Ukrainian authorities accuse Russian forces of committing atrocities, including a massacre in the town of Bucha, outside

Kyiv, airstrikes on hospitals and a missile attack that killed at least 57 people last week at a train station.

In Bucha on Monday, the work of exhuming bodies from a mass grave in a churchyard resumed.

Galyna Feoktistova waited for hours in the cold and rain in hopes of identifying her 50-year-old son, who was shot and killed more than a month ago, but eventually she went home for some warmth. "He's still there," her surviving son, Andriy, said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has verified that 142 children have been killed and 229 injured, though the actual numbers are likely much higher.

# Lithuania to host weapons training for Ukraine troops

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Lithuania will host a mission to train Ukrainian soldiers to use new weaponry that the Baltic country's fellow NATO allies are sending Kyiv to assist in its war against invading Russian forces.

Lithuanian defense officials announced the plan Sunday, the same day U.S. Army chief of staff Gen. James McConville was in the country for security talks.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said Sunday that it had concluded a separate training effort with Ukrainian forces in the United States.

The troops were being trained on operating maritime patrol craft and use of weapons systems, such as the Switchblade drone, that the U.S. is now providing to Ukraine.

"To achieve maximum effect, we will soon organize military training for Ukrainian troops here in Lithuania," Lt. Gen. Valdemaras Rupsys, the Lithuanian defense chief, told local reporters.

The effort will center on training Ukrainian military instructors, who can in turn pass on their weapons knowledge to rank-and-file troops in Ukraine, Rupsys told the

Delfi news agency.

Rupsys also held talks with McConville, who told reporters that the Pentagon continues to assess what the future American force structure will look like in countries such as Lithuania, which have been eager for a larger American military presence.

"We have rotational forces here, and our policymakers have said that they will defend every inch of NATO," Delfi quoted McConville as saying. "And they are working through what that will look like as far as rotational or permanent troops as we speak."

For now, there are no immediate plans for U.S. soldiers to join the Lithuanian initiative, which is expected to begin in the coming weeks.

"We can't speculate on whether or not that could change in the future," U.S. Army Europe and Africa said in a statement Monday.

The U.S. has long been involved in the training of the Ukrainian military. Because of security concerns, however, the American training was put on hold less than two weeks before Feb. 24, the date Russia launched its full-fledged invasion.

# Sailor awarded for 170 USO volunteer hours on Okinawa

By FRANK ANDREWS  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A master-at-arms on Okinawa — "a tenacious and faithful" volunteer at the camp USO — has been recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Petty Officer 1st Class Erin Stroup, 40, received the honor for volunteering 170 hours at the Camp Foster USO in the previous year; she earned the same award last year for volunteering 120 hours.

"I volunteer to give back to fellow service members and to make friends outside of work, and it gives me something meaningful to do when I am not working," Stroup told Stars and Stripes at the USO on Wednesday.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, created by President George W. Bush in 2003, established the award to honor volunteers who give hundreds of hours a year helping others, according to the council website.

It has three categories: 100 hours for bronze, 250 hours for silver and 500 hours for gold. A lifetime award recognizes volunteers who give 4,000 hours or more. USO volunteers track their hours on an app then submit them to USO leadership to be considered for the PVSA.

Stroup, who stands security watch at White Beach Naval Facility, received the bronze award memorandum and certificate signed by President Joe Biden on March 31, the day a Camp Foster USO post on Facebook described her as "one of our most tenacious and faithful volunteers."

"We are always in need of volunteers," said USO volunteer supervisor Melissa Olivares, a Marine spouse from Texas, on Wednesday. "The USO asks for two hours a month from each volunteer. We need at least five volunteers a day to keep the USO open."

The Camp Foster USO organizes recreational activities and provides access to computers, printers, Wi-Fi, TVs, international phone calls, games, food and beverages at no charge to service members.

When Stroup is not standing watch or volunteering, she is an active scuba diver with 200 dives around Okinawa and 50 elsewhere worldwide.

# Tokyo orders Okinawa governor to approve changes for runway

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND MARI HIGA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Japanese government has ordered Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki to approve design changes for an airfield that will replace Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on the southern island prefecture.

Tetsuo Saito, Japan's minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism, on Friday overruled Tamaki's November decision to withhold approval of updated construction plans for the runway being built into Oura Bay at Camp Schwab.

Tamaki argued that the soft seabed in the construction zone posed a hazard and that

Tokyo had failed to consider the environmental impact on the endangered dugong, a cousin of the manatee protected by Japanese law and whose numbers are dwindling.

Saito called Tamaki's permit denial "illegal and unreasonable," a spokesman for the ministry's water and disaster management bureau told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

Tamaki has until April 20 to approve the changes, the spokesman said.

Okinawa prefecture may appeal through the Japanese courts, but its administration has not yet decided the best course of action, a spokesman for the prefecture's Henoko Base Construction Countermeasures Division said by phone Monday.

# Texas drops murder charge in abortion case

Associated Press

A Texas district attorney said Sunday that he will ask a judge to dismiss a murder charge against a woman over a self-induced abortion.

Lizelle Herrera was arrested Thursday in Rio Grande City, a community of about 14,000 people along the Mexico border, after a Starr County grand jury indicted her March 30 for murder for allegedly causing “the death of an individual ... by self-induced abortion.”

District Attorney Gocha Allen Ramirez said Sunday that his office would move to dismiss the

charge on Monday.

“In reviewing this case, it is clear that Ms. Herrera cannot and should not be prosecuted for the allegation against her,” Ramirez said in a statement.

Ramirez went on to say, “It is my hope that with the dismissal of this case, it is made clear that Ms. Herrera did not commit a criminal act under the laws of the State of Texas.”

Authorities haven’t released details about what Herrera allegedly did, and Ramirez didn’t immediately respond to an email Sunday seeking further information about the case.

From his statement Sunday and a previous statement put out by a Starr County Sheriff’s Office official, it wasn’t clear if Herrera was accused of giving herself an abortion or assisting in someone else’s self-induced abortion.

In a tweet Sunday, Planned Parenthood called the decision “Such NEEDED news.”

“While the charges against Lizelle have been dismissed, we know the fight against the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes has only just begun,” said Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood’s president and CEO.

A leading Texas anti-abortion group said it understood the decision, saying that state law provides only civil remedies, not criminal ones.

“The Texas Heartbeat Act and other Pro-Life policies in the state clearly prohibit criminal charges for pregnant women. Texas Right to Life opposes public prosecutors going outside of the bounds of Texas’ prudent and carefully crafted policies,” said Texas Right to Life spokeswoman Kimberlyn Schwartz.

Herrera was released Saturday from the Starr County jail after posting a \$500,000 bond.

# Mo. prosecutor scrutinized over Greitens case

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The 2018 prosecution of Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens played a pivotal role in his eventual resignation. Now, questions about St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner’s handling of the case jeopardize her career, even as Greitens tries to make a political comeback.

Gardner was to face a hearing Monday before the Missouri Office of Disciplinary Counsel. She is accused in a 73-page report of failing to disclose evidence to Greitens’ lawyers, misrepresenting evidence and other ethical violations.

If the three-person panel finds fault, it will be up to the Missouri Supreme Court to decide punishment, though a decision wouldn’t be expected for several weeks. The most severe punishment — suspension or disbarment — would likely cost Gardner her job because state law requires elected prosecutors to hold

active law licenses.

Gardner, a 46-year-old Democrat, is St. Louis’ first Black female circuit attorney and is one of several progressive prosecutors elected in recent years with a focus on creating more fairness in the criminal justice system.

The brash former Navy SEAL officer with presidential aspirations was a year into his first term when news broke in January 2018 of an affair three years earlier with his St. Louis hairdresser.

The woman alleged that Greitens took a compromising photo and threatened to use it as blackmail if she spoke of their relationship.

“There was a victim, someone saying they had been attacked,” Gardner’s lawyer, Michael Downey, said.

But neither the FBI nor St. Louis police seemed inclined to investigate, Downey said. Gardner’s in-house investigator was away on

military duty.

So Gardner hired private investigator William Tisaby, a former FBI agent.

The investigation led to Greitens’ indictment on one felony count of invasion of privacy. Greitens claimed he had been the victim of a political witch hunt.

Under investigation by lawmakers as well, Greitens resigned in June 2018, and Gardner agreed to drop the criminal charges.

Attention then turned to how Gardner and Tisaby handled the investigation. In 2019, Tisaby was indicted on six counts of perjury and one count of evidence tampering. He pleaded guilty last month to misdemeanor evidence tampering, and received a suspended sentence of one year of probation.

Greitens’ attorneys raised concerns about Gardner’s failure to correct the record on Tisaby’s statements, and whether she concealed evidence.

# Tesla CEO Musk no longer set to join Twitter’s board

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Twitter’s largest investor, billionaire Elon Musk, is reversing course and will no longer join the company’s board of directors less than a week after being awarded a seat.

Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal announced the news, which followed a weekend of Musk

tweets suggesting changes to Twitter, including making the site ad-free. Nearly 90% of Twitter’s 2021 revenue came from ads.

“Elon’s appointment to the board was to become officially effective on 4/9, but Elon shared that same morning that he would not be joining the board,” Agrawal wrote in a re-

posted note originally sent to Tesla employees. “I believe this is for the best.”

Agrawal didn’t offer an explanation for Musk’s apparent decision. He said the board understood the risks of having Musk, who is now the company’s largest shareholder, as a member. But it, “believed having Elon as a fiduciary of the

company, where he, like all board members, has to act in the best interests of the company and all our shareholders, was the best path forward,” he wrote.

He now has a 9% stake in Twitter, raising questions about how he might try to reshape the social media platform as Twitter’s biggest shareholder.

# Asian overcount in US masks nuances

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Jennifer Chau was astonished last month when the U.S. Census Bureau's report card on how accurately it counted the U.S. population in 2020 showed Asian people were overcounted by the highest rate of any race or ethnic group.

The director of an Asian American advocacy group thought thousands of people would be missed — outreach activities had been scratched by the coronavirus pandemic, and she and her staff feared widespread language barriers and wariness of sharing information with the government could hinder participation. They also thought recent attacks against Asian Americans could stir up fears within the Asian pop-

ulation, the fastest-growing race or ethnic group in the United States.

"I'm honestly shocked," said Chau, director of the Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander For Equity Coalition.

But Chau and other advocates and academics also feel the overcounting of the Asian population by 2.6% in the once-a-decade U.S. head count may not be all it seems on the surface. They have said it likely masks great variation in who was counted among different Asian communities in the U.S. They also believe it could signal that biracial and multiracial residents identified as Asian in larger numbers than in the past.

The specifics are difficult to de-

termine because all Asian communities are grouped together under the same race category in the census. This conceals the wide variety of income, education and health backgrounds between subgroups and tends to blur characteristics unique to certain communities, some advocates said. It may also perpetuate the "model minority" myth of Asians being affluent and well-educated.

"Asian Americans have the largest income inequality of all racial groups in the U.S., and the overall overcount likely masks the experiences of Asian ethnic groups who were more vulnerable to being undercounted," said Aggie Yellow Horse, an assistant professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at Arizona State Uni-

versity.

Almost four dozen U.S. House members this month asked the Census Bureau to break down the accuracy of the count of Asian residents by subgroups. Asians in the U.S. trace their roots to more than 20 countries, with China and India having the largest representation. But the bureau has no plans to do so, at least not in the immediate future.

"To really see how the Asian American community fared, you need lower level geography to understand if there was an undercount or if certain communities fared better than others," said Terry Ao Minnis, senior director of census and voting programs at Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

## Iowa's political swing puts Obama's wins in rearview

Associated Press

NEVADA, Iowa — In 2008, this overwhelmingly white state was Barack Obama's unlikely launching pad to become the nation's first Black president. Fourteen years later, Iowans aren't showing a similar embrace for the woman running to become its first Black governor.

Democrat Deidre DeJear is finding Iowa a much changed place, trending staunchly conservative, with an electorate that is so far displaying little interest in her history-making candidacy.

Educated younger adults who were once reliable Democratic voters have fled rural Iowa seeking opportunities elsewhere. The strength of organized labor has eroded. Obama's general election victories in 2008 and 2012 seem like distant memories.

"Times are so different from Obama's 2008 campaign," said Dave Leshtz, a Democratic organizer from Iowa City, after a DeJear event in the liberal enclave. "It's an entirely different state."

DeJear, a 36-year-old Des Moines businesswoman, cemented her status as a rising political star in 2018 when she became the first Black candidate to win a statewide primary in Iowa. She lost the general election for secretary of state, but she won national attention and invitations from Democratic presidential hopefuls to serve as a state adviser.

But only 31% of likely Iowa voters said they know enough about DeJear — running unopposed in the June 7 primary — to form an opinion, according to The Des Moines Register's Iowa Poll, conducted in late February and early March. Meanwhile, she has raised less than \$300,000 since announcing her candidacy in August. It pales next to Republican incumbent Gov. Kim Reynolds' \$4.8 million balance and \$3.8 million in contributions.

Republicans have controlled the Legislature and the governorship for six consecutive years. Today, five of Iowa's six members of Congress are Republicans.

## Macron, Le Pen again to vie for French presidency

Associated Press

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron may be ahead in the presidential race so far, but he warned his supporters that "nothing is done" and his runoff battle with far-right challenger Marine Le Pen will be a hard fight. And she's ready for it.

The duel is starting Monday, after the two came out on top in Sunday's first-round vote. The centrist Macron is heading to an economically depressed area of northern France where a majority of voters chose Le Pen, close to her electoral stronghold of Henin-Beaumont.

Meanwhile, Le Pen's National Rally officials will meet Monday to plan strategy for the second round, scheduled on April 24. Le Pen summed up the standoff by saying voters are faced with "a fundamental choice between two opposing visions of the future."

Macron already faced Le Pen in the presidential runoff five years ago. But all opinion polls show the leader of the National

Rally is much closer this time to a potential win.

Macron said he wants to court those who voted for the "extremes" or opted to stay at home. That's what he sought to do in the northern town of Denain on Monday by campaigning on his rival's home ground. Le Pen garnered over 41% of votes there as opposed to 14% for Marcon.

On her third attempt to become France's first woman president, Le Pen was rewarded Sunday for her yearslong effort to rebrand herself as more pragmatic and less extreme. Macron has accused Le Pen of pushing a dangerous manifesto of racist, ruinous policies. Le Pen wants to roll back some rights for Muslims, banning them from wearing headscarves in public, and to drastically reduce immigration from outside Europe.

The rise of food and energy prices is at the core of Le Pen's campaign, but Macron's team argues she wouldn't have the financial means to meet her promises.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Teenager pleads guilty in migrant transport case**

**AZ** SIERRA VISTA — A 14-year-old Douglas boy has pleaded guilty to juvenile charges stemming from a March incident in which authorities said he backed up into a Border Patrol vehicle while driving two migrants who'd entered the country illegally.

The boy, who was previously charged as an adult, pleaded guilty recently in juvenile court to felony fleeing and aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, said Deputy County Attorney Doyle Johnstun. Johnstun said the boy's sentencing was set for April 18 and that there is a stipulation he be sent to the state Department of Juvenile Corrections. The agency can hold juveniles until they turn 18.

**Girl, 3, recovering after dog attack at day care**

**CA** HEMET — A 3-year-old girl is recovering after being attacked by a dog at a Southern California home used as a day care center, officials said.

The girl suffered bite wounds to her face, arms and stomach area and received 180 stitches after the attack April 2 in Hemet, said Riverside County Department of Animal Services Lt. Lesley Huennekens.

The dog's owner claimed the animal had been in a pen and tethered in the backyard, but the young victim's mother said the dog was inside the house, John Welsh, a spokesman for Animal Services, said in a news release. The girl's mother said the child was dragged outside during the attack, the release said.

The 2-year-old pit bull mix, Bruno, remains in a secluded kennel at a shelter, the Southern California News Group reported. Unless its owner requests a post-seizure hearing, the dog will likely be euthanized "in the interest of public safety," Welsh said.

**Wildlife agency seeks invasive lizard reports**

**GA** SOCIAL CIRCLE — Georgia's wildlife agency is asking residents to report sightings of an invasive lizard that can pose a threat to native species.

The state Department of Natural Resources is trying to locate and remove South American tegus from Georgia before the lizards can thrive in greater numbers. So far, the state's only known wild population has been found in Toombs and Tattnall counties in southeast Georgia.

Officials hope to stop the black and white lizards from spreading further. They can be 4 feet long and weigh up to 10 pounds, and have an appetite that favors eggs of turtles, alligators and ground-nesting birds.

**2 bald eagles infected with avian influenza**

**VT** MONTPELIER — Two bald eagles in Vermont were found to be infected with avian influenza, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

One of the birds was found dead in South Hero and the other was discovered ill in Shelburne. Both birds were near Lake Champlain.

With the discovery, Vermont joined 33 other states that have detected highly pathogenic avian

influenza in the environment, the state said. The state said anyone involved with poultry production, from the small backyard coop to large commercial producers, should review their biosecurity measures.

**Former police chief charged with theft**

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A former Alexandria police chief was arrested and charged with theft for using city funds to purchase items for his personal use.

After a yearlong investigation, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension said Richard Wyffels, 57, who retired in September 2020, charged more than \$65,700 to a city-issued credit card, beginning in December 2014. None of the items that were purchased could be found in the Police Department.

"While it is unknown what the Defendant did with every missing item, some items were recovered in the Defendant's possession and others liquidated for monetary gain," the criminal complaint states.

**UNLV bans smoking in public outdoor areas**

**NV** LAS VEGAS — Nevada's largest university is going smoke-free, going beyond the state's existing law against smoking in most indoor public places by expanding it to include outdoor areas.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas policy announced the policy will take effect Aug. 15 and also applies to vaping.

The pandemic played a role in the policy's approval last fall by a university policy committee, by

heightening awareness of respiratory illnesses, officials said.

Once the policy takes effect, designated smoking areas outside buildings such as the Thomas & Mack Center, an arena, will go away, said Shawn Gerstenberger, dean of the School of Public Health at UNLV.

**Park renamed to honor Native American village**

**OR** KLAMATH FALLS — City councilors in Klamath Falls have voted unanimously to rename Kit Carson Park as Eulalona Park.

Eulalona was the Native American village that sat near the park site before present-day Klamath Falls. The city began considering whether to rename the park after a Klamath Falls equity task force recommended a name change last year, Jefferson Public Radio reported.

Kit Carson was a 19th-century frontiersman and was known for his involvement in massacres of local Native American tribes.

**Camper goes off hitch, sparks ignite grassfire**

**SD** WATERTOWN — A camper that came unhooked from a pickup hitch caused sparks that ignited a grassfire in Watertown, authorities said.

Watertown Fire Rescue was called to the scene and discovered a fast-moving blaze that was heading toward a farm and a residence. Crews were able to contain the fire in about 20 minutes, department officials said. No structures were damaged in the 2.5-acre fire, the Watertown Public Opinion reported.

—From wire reports



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# Scheffler 'unflappable' in Masters win

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Scottie Scheffler just wanted dinner. The best option, he decided, would be for him and his wife Meredith to grab some takeout and head back to their rented home so he could rest up before the final round of the Masters.

Small problem.

On the way home, Scheffler spilled dinner all over himself.

"Meredith is still laughing at me," Scheffler said. "She thought it was the funniest thing ever."

Whenever he returns to the Masters, for the rest of his life, there is guaranteed to be at least one night where Scheffler's dinner won't need transporting. Masters champions get to go to the Masters Club dinner, and Scheffler has a permanent seat at that table now after his score of 10-under 278 gave him a three-shot victory over Rory McIlroy on Sunday at Augusta National for his first ma-

major championship.

It further cemented his status as the No. 1 player in the world, was his fourth career win — all coming in a span of about two months — and capped a week where the 25-year-old seemed to handle the pressure that comes with being in Masters contention with ease.

He cried when his first Masters invitation came in 2020. They'll never stop coming now.

"That's the coolest part about this whole deal," Scheffler said. "This is such a fun golf course. It's such a fun piece of property. I mean, it's Augusta National. It's about as cool as it gets. It's so fun to play. I just can't believe that I can come back for a lifetime and get to enjoy this golf course."

McIlroy closed with a flourish, his 8-under 64 on Sunday sending him vaulting up the leaderboard and into second place after starting the final round 10 shots back. Shane Lowry (69) and Cameron Smith (73) tied for

third, five shots behind Scheffler. Smith started birdie-birdie and briefly got within one shot, before a two-shot swing on the third hole — Scheffler chipped in for birdie, Smith made bogey — restored order. Scheffler kept the lead the rest of the way, and not even making a double-bogey 6 on the finishing hole derailed his march toward a green jacket.

"Scottie's just been sort of unflappable," McIlroy said.

Augusta has been a celebrated part of the Scheffler family story for years, and not for the reasons one would think. Scheffler drives a 2012 Chevrolet Yukon with nearly 200,000 miles on it, and it was purchased in Augusta a decade ago. Scott Scheffler, the new Masters winner's father, was there that year and the vehicle he was driving died. He was there to watch Bubba Watson, and the car the senior Scheffler drove to Augusta "expired" on the trip.

## Eller scores, Caps down Bruins for 3rd straight win

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lars Eller made the best of his move back to center, scoring the go-ahead goal and assisting on another score to help the Washington Capitals beat the Boston Bruins 4-2 for their third straight victory.

Eller was only playing center — his natural position — because Nicklas Backstrom was scratched for what the team called "body maintenance."

Eller assisted on Tom Wilson's 23rd goal of the season, a career high for the big winger who has scored four times in six games and reached 50 points for the first time.

Alex Ovechkin scored his 45th goal of the season and 775th of his NHL career into an empty net with 1.7 seconds left to seal it. John Carlson also scored, and Vitek Vanecsek made 30 saves.

Curtis Lazar and Erik Haula scored for Boston.

**Penguins 3, Predators 2 (OT):** Sidney Crosby scored the second of his two goals at 2:21 of overtime for his 1,400th career

point, helping host Pittsburgh snap a four-game losing streak.

Crosby added an assist in his 1,100th game, becoming the seventh-fastest player in NHL history to reach 1,400 points. It also was Crosby's 77th game-winning goal, one behind Evgeni Malkin and Jaromir Jagr for the most in team history.

On his latest winner, Crosby got a pass from Rikard Rakell and tipped it behind David Ritich near the post.

Jason Zucker also scored and Rakell assisted on all three goals for the Penguins. Casey Desjardins stopped 33 shots to help Pittsburgh regain a four-point advantage over Washington for third place in the Metropolitan Division.

Matt Duchene and Nick Cousins scored for Nashville.

**Lightning 5, Sabres 0:** Brian Elliott made 28 saves, Corey Perry and Ondrej Palat had goals 17 seconds apart in the first period and host Tampa Bay beat Buffalo.

Brandon Hagel, Nikita Kucherov and Ross Colton also

scored to help the Lightning move past Boston into third place in the Atlantic Division. Tampa Bay had lost four straight (0-2-2) and avoided its first five-game losing streak since Mar. 2-10, 2014.

**Wild 6, Kings 3:** Matt Boldy and Jared Spurgeon each had a goal and an assist, helping host Minnesota overcome a three-goal deficit to beat Los Angeles.

Kirill Kaprizov tied a franchise record with his 42nd goal, and Mats Zuccarello, Marcus Foligno and Nick Bjugstad also scored as the Wild ended a two-game slide and improved to 10-1-2 in their last 13 games. They are 8-0-1 in their last nine home contests.

**Hurricanes 5, Ducks 2:** Jordan Staal capped his fourth career hat trick — and first in 10 years — with an empty-net goal and host Carolina beat Anaheim.

Andrei Svechnikov and Jordan Martinook also scored for the Metropolitan Division-leading Hurricanes. Svechnikov also had an assist and Nino Nie-

derreiter assisted on two goals. Frederik Andersen made 23 saves for Carolina.

**Stars 6, Blackhawks 4:** Jason Robertson scored his team-leading 33rd and 34th goals about three minutes apart, and Dallas strengthened its hold on a wild-card spot with a win at Chicago.

Roope Hintz had a goal and two assists, and Joe Pavelski, Tyler Seguin and Jamie Benn each added a goal and an assist to help the Stars rebound from a 3-1 loss at home to New Jersey on Saturday. Ryan Suter and Miro Heiskanen had two assists each for Dallas, which improved to 41-27-4 (86 points) and moved two points ahead of Vegas for the second Western Conference wild card.

The Stars are one point behind Nashville, which is in the top wild-card spot. Jake Oettinger made 36 saves in the second of back-to-back games.

**Jets 4, Senators 3:** Nikolaj Ehlers had a goal and two assists to lead Winnipeg to a win at Ottawa.

# Doncic injury puts playoff status in doubt

Associated Press

DALLAS — Luka Doncic wouldn't have even played in what turned out to be a meaningless regular season finale for the playoff-bound Dallas Mavericks without a reprieve from the NBA.

The superstar was minutes away from being finished for the night against San Antonio when he strained his left calf. Now the Mavericks are waiting to see when, perhaps even if, their 23-year-old All-Star will play in a first-round series against Utah beginning Saturday.

Doncic left Dallas' 130-120 victory Sunday night with 2:24 remaining in the third quarter, shortly after pulling up and stopping when he turned to run to the defensive end. He called for the medical staff as he reached for his calf, and quickly went to the locker room after play was stopped.

Coach Jason Kidd said that he planned to sit Doncic the rest of the game after he played the entire third quarter, which is part of his normal rotation. He had also played all of the first quarter and part of the second, al-

so the norm.

Among several ominous signs for the Mavericks was this: When he left with the injury, Doncic was leading the team in points (26), assists (nine) and rebounds (eight). He still was at game's end.

"Hopefully it's not too serious," said Kidd, who said he hadn't met with Doncic or the head of the club's medical staff, Casey Smith, before talking to reporters after the game.

Fourth-seeded Dallas could have moved up a spot, but needed New Orleans to beat Golden State when the Pelicans were sitting several regulars. The Warriors won 128-107.

The Spurs were already locked in to the final spot in the Western Conference play-in tournament as the 10th seed, set to play at ninth-seeded New Orleans on Wednesday. The winner plays the loser between No. 7 Minnesota and the eighth-seeded Los Angeles Clippers.

"I can't wait," said Keldon Johnson, who led San Antonio with 24 points. "I feel like it's time for us to prove some stuff."

Doncic would have been serving a one-game suspension against the Spurs if the NBA hadn't rescinded his 16th technical foul, assessed two nights earlier when he complained to officials about a non-call in a blowout win over Portland. With the league's third-leading scorer cleared to play, Kidd said before the game that his club was treating it as "the last dress rehearsal before the real season starts."

Now Kidd will have to deal with questions about why Doncic was on the court with the Pelicans trailing by double digits in New Orleans and having no incentive to rally.

"We weren't playing the New Orleans score," Kidd said. "We were just trying to get better with the long layoff."

Dorian Finney-Smith scored all of his 16 points in the third quarter, when Dallas broke a 59-59 halftime tie by outscoring San Antonio 38-23. The Mavericks held on in the fourth quarter with a lineup filled by players not in the rotation.

The Mavericks won all four games against San Antonio.

# Cavs blast Bucks' backups, earn No. 8 play-in seed

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Milwaukee Bucks used the final game of the regular season to rest up before defending their NBA crown.

The Cavaliers didn't have any such luxury.

Kevin Love made eight three-pointers and scored 32 points as Cleveland took the No. 8 play-in spot — and a matchup against Brooklyn — with a 133-115 victory Sunday over the Bucks, who sat superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo and their other regulars.

The Cavs were in jeopardy of falling all the way to the No. 10 seed in the Eastern Conference with a loss.

They ended any suspense immediately, however, scoring the first 14 points and dominating a team of backups to the Bucks' backups. The Cavs made 10 three-pointers while building a 28-point lead in the first quarter and Cleveland led by 33 at half.

**Warriors 128, Pelicans 107:**

Klay Thompson made seven three-pointers and scored 41 points, and Golden State won at New Orleans to take the third seed in the Western Conference playoff.

Jordan Poole scored 22 for the Warriors, who opened up a 22-point lead in the second quarter and held on to close out the regular season on a five-game winning streak.

**Nets 134, Pacers 126:** Kyrie Irving scored 35 points, Kevin Durant had 20 points, a career-high 16 assists and 10 rebounds and host Brooklyn beat Indiana to lock up seventh place in East. The Nets will play host No. 8 Cleveland on Tuesday in the play-in tournament, with the winner moving into the playoffs as the No. 7 seed.

**76ers 118, Pistons 106:** Joel Embiid sat out after he clinched the scoring title and James Harden joined him on the bench, leaving Shake Milton and Tyrese Maxey to lead host Philadelphia past Detroit.

**Kings 116, Suns 109:** Justin Holiday, Damian Jones and Donte DiVincenzo each scored 19 points and Sacramento won at Phoenix.

**Lakers 146, Nuggets 141 (OT):** Malik Monk had a career-best 41 points and Austin Reaves set career highs with 31 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists to help Los Angeles win at Denver in overtime in a season finale devoid of star power.

**Hawks 130, Rockets 114:** Trae Young had 28 points and 11 assists, and Atlanta wrapped up the regular season with a victory at Houston that didn't improve its postseason position.

**Celtics 139, Grizzlies 110:** Jayson Tatum scored 31 points, Jaylen Brown added 18 and Boston secured the second seed in the East by winning at Memphis.

**Hornets 124, Wizards 108:** Terry Rozier had 25 points, LaMelo Ball added 24 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists and host Charlotte beat Washington

**Magic 125, Heat 111:** Mo

Bamba and R.J. Hampton each scored 21 points and host Orlando beat Miami.

**Bulls 124, Timberwolves 120:** Patrick Williams scored a career-high 35 points and Ayo Dosunmu had 26 points in a season-high 45 minutes and Chicago won at Minnesota with both teams resting regulars before the postseason.

**Knicks 105, Raptors 94:** Obi Toppin scored a career-high 42 points, Immanuel Quickley had 34 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and host New York beat Toronto to finish a disappointing season.

**Clippers 138, Thunder 88:** Amir Coffey had career highs of 32 points and 13 rebounds, and host Los Angeles routed depleted Oklahoma City to end the regular season on a five-game winning streak.

**Jazz 111, Trail Blazers 80:** Juancho Hernangomez had a season-high 22 points and Utah won at Portland to take the fifth seed in the Western Conference.

# Guardians rout Royals for 1st victory

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Cleveland Guardians won for the first time with their new name as hot-starting rookie Steven Kwan went 5 for 5 on Sunday in a 17-3 romp over the Kansas City Royals.

Oscar Mercado hit a grand slam during a five-RBI performance and Owen Miller drove in a career-high four runs. Cleveland had lost its first two games since changing this season to the Guardians from the Indians, its name since 1915.

Kwan had four singles and a double, was hit by a pitch and scored four runs. The 24-year-old outfielder made his major league debut on opening day and is 8 for 10 in three games.

Cal Quantrill (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings. Kris Bubic (0-1) got two outs and was tagged for five runs, three hits with two walks.

**Reds 6, Braves 3:** Hard-throwing Hunter Greene won his major league debut for visiting Cincinnati, reaching 100 mph with 20 of 92 pitches and topping out at 101.6 mph. The 22-year-old right-hander, the second overall pick in the 2017 draft, allowed Atlanta three runs, four hits and three walks with seven strikeouts in five innings.

Kyle Farmer hit a two-run single in a five-run third.

**Rays 8, Orioles 0:** Two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber allowed three hits in 4⅓ innings on his 36th birthday as host Tampa Bay completed an opening three-

game sweep and improved to 21-1 against Baltimore since the beginning of last year.

Brandon Lowe hit a two-run homer off Tyler Wells (0-1), while Wander Franco had his second three-hit game in three days and drove in a pair of runs as the Rays beat the Orioles for the 15th straight time and matched the fastest start to a season in club history.

**Rangers 12, Blue Jays 6:** Corey Seager capped a six-run fourth inning with a go-ahead single, and visiting Texas rallied from a 6-1 deficit to overcome Vladimir Guerrero Jr.'s 467-foot home run for Toronto, a third-inning drive off Spencer Howard that was the longest of Guerrero's career.

**Nationals 4, Mets 2:** Nelson Cruz hit his 450th home run and added a tiebreaking two-run single in a three-run eighth inning, preventing New York from a four-game sweep in Washington.

**Twins 10, Mariners 4:** Gary Sánchez hit a grand slam into the third deck and Byron Buxton had two of host Minnesota's six home runs. The Twins' first 13 runs scored on homers, the longest for a team at a season's start since 1900, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

**White Sox 10, Tigers 1:** Tim Anderson had two doubles and a single in his first game following a two-game suspension for bumping umpire Tim Timmons last Sept. 27 to lead visiting Chicago past Detroit.

**Athletics 4, Phillies 1:** Billy McKinney homered and Daulton Jefferies (1-0) and four relievers combined on a three-hitter in Phi-

adelphia to give Oakland manager Mark Kotsay his first win since replacing Bob Melvin.

**Pirates 9, Cardinals 4:** Michael Chavis hit a go-ahead grand slam as Pittsburgh overcame a three-run, third-inning deficit to win at St. Louis.

**Brewers 5, Cubs 4:** Mike Brosseau's first career pinch-hit homer snapped a seventh-inning tie against Daniel Norris (0-1), and Willy Adames and Rowdy Tellez also went deep as visiting Milwaukee won its first game.

**Rockies 9, Dodgers 4:** C.J. Cron hit a two-run homer on an afternoon when a whipping wind with 40 mph gusts made flyballs an adventure in Denver, and Bud Black earned his 1,000th win as a major league manager.

**Giants 3, Marlins 2:** Heliot Ramos had two hits and scored a run in his major league debut, and Mauricio Dubón added an RBI double for host San Francisco.

**Astros 4, Angels 1:** Alex Bregman put Houston ahead with a two-run single in the fifth, and José Urquidy yielded four hits over five innings. Chas McCormick had an RBI single, and rookie shortstop Jeremy Peña delivered three hits as the defending AL champions took three of four in Anaheim, Calif.

**Padres 10, Diamondbacks 5:** Jurickson Profar hit a grand slam off Caleb Smith (0-1), Jorge Alfaro followed with another homer in a five-run second inning and San Diego won at Arizona for its third straight.

## Dalbec's HR helps Red Sox avoid sweep, beat Yanks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Red Sox slugger Bobby Dalbec didn't homer until the 19th game of his rookie season last year, a slump that nearly took him into May.

"Oh, I remember," he quipped.

He'll remember this one more fondly.

Dalbec hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the sixth inning and Boston avoided a season-opening sweep against its longtime rival with a 4-3 win over the New York Yankees on Sunday.

The Red Sox blew multirun leads in the first two games of the series and did so again Sun-

day. This time, they rallied back, with Dalbec connecting off reliever Clarke Schmidt (0-1) for his first of the season.

Boston ended an eight-game regular-season skid against New York — a stretch that doesn't include its victory in last year's AL wild-card game. The rivals don't play again until July 7.

Rookie right-hander Kutter Crawford (1-1) threw two of the Red Sox's 5⅓ scoreless relief innings for his first big league win, and Jake Diekman pitched the ninth for his first save. J.D. Martinez had an RBI double, one of the team's five hits.

The Yankees' Anthony Rizzo made it 3-all with a two-run single in the fourth, scoring newcomers Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Jose Trevino after they opened the inning with their first hits in pinstripes.

Rizzo and Giancarlo Stanton continued torrid starts to the season. Rizzo had a hit and walked twice, and Stanton had three hits. Both homered in each of New York's first two games. Stanton had gone deep in six straight games against Boston.

The Red Sox are going closer-by-committee to start the year, and Diekman surely earned

himself another ninth-inning look. The sidearm-slinging lefty struck out Aaron Judge on 11 pitches to open the ninth, then got Stanton and Joey Gallo swinging, too.

"He's absolutely nasty," Boston starter Tanner Houck said.

Dalbec hit 25 homers as a rookie last season but batted .240 with 156 strikeouts in 133 games. He improved dramatically in the second half, posting a .955 OPS and driving in 42 runs over 61 games. The 26-year-old said he learned late last year how to make quick fixes when his swing got out of whack.