

## Austin: DOD addressing document leak

By DOUG G. WARE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — In his first public remarks about the leak of sensitive military information online, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Tuesday that he's making every effort to assess the damage and minimize the impact on the war in Ukraine.

Austin made the comments during a joint news conference with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and their Philippine counterparts following the first 2+2 ministerial meeting between the two countries in several years.

Austin underscored the importance of getting to the bottom of how and why the documents were posted online. They purportedly contain information about Ukrainian troops and weapons during the conflict with Russia.

The first photographs of the documents were posted to Twitter and Telegram last week. Additional sensitive materials were found a couple days later.

"We will continue to work closely with our outstanding allies and partners, and nothing will ever stop us from keeping

America secure," Austin said during a news conference following the ministerial meeting.

The Pentagon has said it's working to mitigate damage from the documents, but it hasn't said yet whether all the records posted online are authentic.

A spokesperson said this week that some appear to be "altered" and some appear to contain classified information.

Philippines Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said during the news conference that the leak does nothing to harm U.S.-Philippines relations.

"I really don't want to jump to any speculation or jump to any conclusions at this stage," Manalo said. "We have full confidence in the investigation."

"Just let me say that we are confident of the strength of our relationship and our growing partnership," he added.

During the ministerial meeting, the leaders said the U.S. and Philippines agreed to new steps to bolster mutual defense, expand intelligence sharing and carry out joint sails in the South China Sea.

They also discussed interoperability in-

volving four new U.S. military sites in the Philippines that were announced in recent weeks.

Two are just across the sea from Taiwan, which is a sore spot for China because it considers the island a breakaway territory.

"We all reaffirmed today that our mutual defense treaty remains the bedrock of our cooperation," Austin said, emphasizing that the pact would apply to any attack on U.S. or Philippine forces in the South China Sea.

The meeting came as the U.S. and Philippines kicked off their largest military exercises in three decades.

The Balikatan exercises will involve more than 12,000 American troops and almost 5,500 Filipino troops, and include live-fire missile launches, urban and aviation operations, boat-sinking and counter-terrorism drills and humanitarian assistance, officials said.

Balikatan, which means "shoulder to shoulder" in Tagalog, will run until April 28. About a dozen countries including Japan and India but not China were sending observers, organizers said.

## China warns US, Philippines on Balikatan exercises

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — China warned on Wednesday that a deepening security alliance between the United States and the Philippines should not harm its security and territorial interests and interfere in long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

When asked to comment on the combat exercises between American and Filipino forces that started on Tuesday in the Philippines, the Chinese Embassy in Manila on Wednesday issued a statement by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, who said that such drills "should not target any third party and should be conducive to regional peace and stability."

Wang did not say how China would respond if it concludes that the U.S.-Philippine security cooperation was hurting Beijing's core interests.

In Washington, the U.S. and Philippine defense and foreign secretaries met on Tuesday

to discuss the development of nine Philippine military camps, where American forces have been allowed to stay indefinitely under the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

"These sites will support combined training exercises and interoperability between our forces to ensure that we're even better prepared for future crises," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said. He added the U.S. was allocating more than \$100 million to build infrastructure at the sites.

China has strongly opposed that agreement, which would allow American forces to establish military staging grounds and surveillance outposts in the northern Philippines across the sea from the Taiwan Strait and in western Philippine provinces facing the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety on historical grounds. Washington disputes China's claims.

Austin said he also discussed with his Phi-

lippine counterpart, Carlito Galvez, the U.S. delivery of much-needed defense equipment, including radars, unmanned aerial systems, military transport aircraft and coastal and air defense systems to Philippines over the next five to 10 years under a security assistance roadmap.

This year's Balikatan exercises are the largest since the two sides started joint military combat-readiness exercises in the early 1990s. They will run until April 28. About a dozen countries including Japan and India but not China were sending observers, organizers said.

In a live-fire drill the allies will stage for the first time, U.S. and Filipino forces will sink a ship in Philippine territorial waters off western Zambales province on April 26 in a coordinated coastal artillery bombardment and airstrike, Col. Michael Logico, a Philippine spokesman for Balikatan, told reporters on Tuesday.

# Ukraine investigates beheading video

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine launched an investigation Wednesday into a gruesome video circulating on social media that purportedly shows the beheading of a Ukrainian soldier.

The video spread quickly online and sparked outrage from Ukrainian officials. The Kremlin called the footage “horrible” but said it needed to be verified.

The Associated Press was not able to verify the authenticity of the video or the circumstances of where and when it was shot.

Meanwhile, a Russian defense official claimed that fighters from Russia’s paramilitary Wagner group have seized three districts of Bakhmut, the embattled city

that for months has been the focus of Moscow’s grinding campaign in the east.

The video circulating online appears to show a man in green fatigues wearing a yellow armband, typically donned by Ukrainian fighters. He is heard screeching before another man in camouflage uses a knife to decapitate him.

A third man holds up a flak jacket apparently belonging to the man being beheaded. All three men speak in Russian.

Since Russia’s forces invaded Ukraine more than a year ago, they have committed widespread abuses and alleged war crimes, according to the United Nations, rights groups and reporting by

The Associated Press.

Ukrainian troops have also been accused of abuses, and last year Kyiv said it would investigate video footage circulated online that Moscow alleged showed Ukrainian forces killing Russian troops who may have been trying to surrender.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the violence in the latest video would not be forgotten — and that Russian forces would be held responsible for such acts.

“Everyone must react, every leader. Do not expect that it will be forgotten, that time will pass,” he said in a video posted to his official Telegram channel.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry

Peskov said that it’s necessary to thoroughly check the “horrible” video — including verifying that it’s real.

“In the world of fakes we live in, the authenticity of the footage must be checked,” he said in a conference call with reporters.

Ukraine’s state security service launched an investigation the video, according to a statement from Vasyl Maliuk, the head of the agency, known as the SBU.

Posters in some pro-Kremlin Russian Telegram channels, while not confirming the authenticity of the video, did not dispute it. Some sought to justify it by saying that Russian troops have become hardened by combat.

## Russian lawmakers OK bill for electronic draft

*Associated Press*

MOSCOW — The upper house of Russia’s parliament on Wednesday swiftly approved a bill that would allow authorities to issue electronic summonses to draftees and reservists amid the fighting in Ukraine.

The Federation Council’s vote was the last step needed before the bill goes to President Vladimir Putin, who is expected to quickly sign it into law.

Lawmakers in Russia’s lower house, the State Duma, passed the measure on Tuesday. The legislation was put on fast track as the Russian military is preparing for an expected Ukrainian counter-offensive, which Ukraine and its Western allies say could start within weeks.

Russia’s current military service rules require the in-person delivery of notices to conscripts and reservists who are called up for duty. In the past, many Russians avoided the draft in the past

by staying away from their address of record. The proposed bill would close that loophole.

Under the new bill, the notices issued by local military conscription offices will continue to be sent by mail but they would be considered valid from the moment they are put on a state portal for electronic services. Recipients who fail to show up would be prohibited from leaving Russia, have their drivers’ licenses suspended and be barred from selling their apartments and other assets.

Kremlin critics and rights activists denounced the new legislation as a step toward a “digital prison camp” that gives unprecedented powers to the military conscription offices.

When the Federation Council considered the bill, Lyudmila Narusova, the widow of Anatoly Sobchak, the former mayor of St. Petersburg who was Putin’s mentor, was the only house member who spoke against the measure.

## S. Korean defense officials mum on ammo loans for US

**BY DAVID CHOI**  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Seoul has agreed to lend Washington hundreds of thousands of artillery shells to shore up its inventory, South Korean media outlets said Wednesday in reports that government officials have declined to address.

South Korea’s Dong-A Ilbo newspaper said Seoul agreed in March to lend 500,000 155 mm artillery shells to the U.S. military. Yonhap News Agency, citing government and defense officials, reported the same day that the deal involved at least 330,000 shells.

The Dong-A Ilbo report cited unnamed government sources who said officials from both countries had “struggled” to devise an agreement in which South Korea could help the U.S. support the war effort in Ukraine without violating South

Korea’s policy of not exporting lethal aid.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol so far has donated humanitarian aid to Ukraine but has publicly declined to send arms directly to the nation.

Government spokespeople in Seoul were close-lipped about the media reports. A Ministry of National Defense spokesman declined to comment and said by phone that the U.S. and South Korea were still discussing “measures to support the protection and freedom of Ukraine.” A spokesman for the Defense Acquisition Program Administration, South Korea’s defense research and procurement agency, also declined to comment.

What appear to be classified U.S. military documents have been posted on social media platforms. The documents revealed South Korean officials discussed sending artillery shells to Poland, Ukraine’s ally.

# Second lawmaker could be returned to Tenn. House

*Associated Press*

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Commissioners in Memphis are scheduled to decide Wednesday whether to return Justin Pearson, a Black Democrat, to the Republican-led Tennessee House after he and a Black colleague were kicked out of the Legislature following their support of gun control protesters.

The Shelby County Board of Commissioners set a vote to determine whether Pearson will be sent back to the Legislature in Nashville.

Republicans banished Pearson and Rep. Justin Jones last week over their role in a gun control protest on the House floor in the aftermath of a deadly school shooting in Nashville that left three children and three adults dead.

The Nashville Metropolitan Council took only a few minutes Monday to unanimously restore Jones to office. He was quickly reinstated to his House seat.

The House's vote to remove Pearson and Jones but keep white Rep. Gloria Johnson drew accusations of racism. Johnson survived by one vote. Republican leadership denied that race was a factor, however. Ahead of the vote, Pearson planned to lead a march from the National Civil Rights Museum to the county commission's office in downtown Memphis.

The expulsions last Thursday made Tennessee a new front in the battle for the future of American democracy and propelled the ousted lawmakers into the national spotlight. In the span of a few days, the two had raised thousands of campaign

dollars, and the Tennessee Democratic Party had received a new jolt of support from across the United States.

The appointments are on an interim basis. Special elections for the seats will take place in the coming months. Jones and Pearson have said they plan to run in the special election.

Political tensions rose when Pearson, Johnson and Jones joined with hundreds of demonstrators who packed the Capitol last month to call for passage of gun control measures.

As protesters filled galleries, the lawmakers approached the front of the House chamber with a bullhorn and participated in a chant. The scene unfolded days after the shooting at the Covenant School, a private Christian school.

Support for Pearson has come from around the country, including Memphis. During a Monday rally in support of Tyre Nichols, who died in January after he was beaten by police during an arrest, backers of Pearson said the commission was "on the clock."

"You've got one job — to reinstate Justin Pearson," activist LJ Abraham said.

Pearson grew up in the same House district he was chosen to represent after longtime state Rep. Barbara Cooper, a Black Democrat, died in office.

Before he was elected, Pearson helped lead a successful campaign against a planned oil pipeline that would have run through neighborhoods and wetlands, and near wells that pump water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer, which provides drinking water to 1 million people.

# Bodycam video sees Ky. police under fire

*Associated Press*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Police body camera video released Tuesday showed the chaotic moments when police arrived at the scene of a mass shooting at a bank in downtown Louisville, as the shooter they couldn't see from the street rained bullets down on them.

The videos, taken from two wounded officers' lapels, offer a rare perspective of police officers responding to a massacre that killed five and injured eight others Monday. One, a rookie officer, was shot in the head within minutes of arriving at the scene, as his partner was grazed by a bullet and sought cover while still trying to take down the shooter.

Louisville Metro Police Department Deputy Chief Paul Humphrey walked reporters through edited footage and still photos at a new conference Tuesday and praised the responding officers for their heroism.

They received the call of a shooting at Old National Bank at 8:38 a.m., and the two officers arrived three minutes later, according to a chronology provided by police. They hadn't even gotten out of the patrol car when the gunman began firing on them.

"Back up, back up, back up," one officer shouted as gunshots thundered in the background.

One still image from surveillance video showed the 25-year-old shooter, who worked at the bank, holding a rifle, wearing jeans, a blue button-down shirt and sneakers, surrounded by broken glass inside the building. He had already shot numerous people inside.

# Cheaper gas, food provide relief

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer inflation eased in March, with less expensive gas and food providing some relief to households that have struggled under the weight of surging prices but likely still keeping the Federal Reserve on track to further raise interest rates.

The government said Wednesday that consumer prices rose just 0.1% from February to March, down from 0.4% from January to February and the smallest increase since December. Measured from a year earlier, prices were up just 5% in March, down sharply from February's 6% year-over-year increase and the smallest rise in nearly two years.

Much of the drop resulted from price declines

for such goods as gas, used cars and furniture, which had soared a year ago after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, though, so-called core inflation remains high. Core prices rose 0.4% from February to March and 5.6% from a year earlier. The Fed and many private economists regard core prices as a better measure of underlying inflation.

Price increases in the economy's vast service sector — ranging from rents and restaurant meals to haircuts and auto insurance — are keeping core inflation high, at least for now. That trend is widely expected to lead the Fed to raise its benchmark interest rate for a 10th straight time when it meets in May.



# Lawmakers win access to mishandled classified docs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has begun sharing classified documents found in the possession of former President Donald Trump, President Joe Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence with a bipartisan group of lawmakers known as the Gang of Eight, according to five people familiar with the matter.

Top lawmakers, including Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, had been asking the Justice Department for months to provide access to the documents — or at least an assessment of what was in them — so Congress could gauge the potential national security harm.

That process recently got underway, said the people, who insisted on anonymity to discuss private interactions between the Justice Department and Congress.

“They’re finally moving. We’ve got a lot more documents to review and, more importantly, to make sure there was mitigation taken,” Warner said Wednesday, adding that the documents were being received on a rolling basis. He said that while he was “glad to see progress,” it is “still unacceptable for me that it took this long.”

A Justice Department special counsel, Jack Smith, is investigating whether

Trump mishandled roughly several hundred documents with classified markings taken after his term ended to Mar-a-Lago, the former president’s Florida estate, and whether he or his representatives sought to obstruct that probe. Another special counsel, Robert Hur, is also investigating the improper retention of documents from Biden’s time as vice president that have been located in his Delaware home and his pre-presidential think-tank office. Biden has said he had no knowledge the documents were there.

A lawyer for Pence also said in January that an apparently small number of papers were inadvertently boxed and transported to his Indiana home at the end of the Trump administration.

Punchbowl News first reported the development.

The Biden administration held a classified briefing on the documents earlier this year for members of Congress, but senators accused the executive branch of stonewalling and insisted that they needed for national security reasons to see for themselves what materials the men had been holding.

The Justice Department had said it wanted to be cooperative with the lawmakers’ demands within the confines of the ongoing investigations.

# Manhattan DA sues Jim Jordan for Trump probe

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg sued Rep. Jim Jordan on Tuesday, an extraordinary move as he seeks to halt a House Judiciary Committee inquiry that the prosecutor contends is a “transparent campaign to intimidate and attack” him over his indictment of former President Donald Trump.

Bragg, a Democrat, is asking a judge to invalidate subpoenas that Jordan, the committee’s Republican chair, has issued or plans to issue as part of an investigation of Bragg’s handling of the case, the first criminal prosecution of a former U.S. president.

U.S. District Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil, a Trump appointee who previously served as a federal bankruptcy court judge, declined Tuesday to take immediate action on the lawsuit. She scheduled an initial hearing for April 19 in Manhattan, the day before the committee plans to question, under subpoena, a former top prosecutor who was involved in the Trump probe.

Bragg’s lawsuit, a forceful escalation after weeks of sparring with Jordan and other Republican lawmakers in letters and media statements, seeks to end what it says is a “constitutionally destructive fishing expedition” that threatens the sovereignty and integrity of a state-level prosecution.

“Congress lacks any valid legislative purpose to engage in a free-ranging campaign of harassment in retaliation for the District Attorney’s investigation and prosecution of Mr. Trump under the laws of New York,” the lawsuit says, citing the lack of authority in the Constitution for Congress “to oversee, let alone disrupt, ongoing state law criminal matters.”

In response, Jordan tweeted Tuesday: “First, they indict a president for no crime. Then they sue to block congressional oversight when we ask questions about the federal funds they say they used to do it.”

The Judiciary Committee recently issued a subpoena seeking testimony from Mark Pomerantz, the former prosecutor who previously oversaw the Trump investigation and sparred with Bragg over the direction before leaving the office last year. Pomerantz, who has declined to cooperate with the committee, is under subpoena to testify at a deposition on April 20 unless Vyskocil intervenes. The committee has also sought documents and testimony from the DA’s office, but Bragg has rejected those requests.

# Democrats pick Chicago for 2024 convention, cite critical Midwest

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats announced Tuesday that they will hold their party’s 2024 national convention in Chicago, choosing the biggest liberal city in the Midwest as they try to keep the momentum going after a strong midterm election performance in the key battleground region.

Organizers from Chicago, Atlanta and New York spent months lobbying to be the site of the convention, but the final decision lay with President Joe Biden, who is expected to formally launch his reelection campaign in the coming weeks.

“Chicago is a great choice,” Biden, who was flying to Northern Ireland, said in a statement. “Democrats will gather to showcase our historic progress including build-

ing an economy from the middle out and bottom up, not from the top down.”

The Democratic National Committee said its convention would be held Aug. 19-22 and noted that Illinois, along with Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, was part of the critical Midwestern “blue wall,” which was key to Democrats’ success in the 2020 and 2022 elections. That rosy language omits the fact that Michigan and Wisconsin narrowly broke for Donald Trump in 2016, helping the Republican win the White House.

The DNC said Chicago represents the party’s diversity and “formidable coalition” and that the Midwest will “showcase President Biden’s economic agenda” including spending on public works.

# Doctors turn to old drug as STDs climb

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials released data Tuesday showing how chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis cases have been accelerating, but doctors are hoping an old drug will help fight the sexually transmitted infections.

Experts believe STDs have been rising because of declining condom use, inadequate sex education and reduced testing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Millions of Americans are infected each year. Rates are highest in men who have sex with men, and among Black and Hispanic Americans and Native Americans.

“Sexually transmitted infections are an enormous, low-priority public health problem. And they’ve been a low-priority problem for decades, in spite of the fact that they are the most commonly reported kind of infectious disease,” said Dr. John M. Douglas

Jr., a retired health official who lectures at the Colorado School of Public Health.

To try to turn the tide, many doctors see promise in doxycycline, a cheap antibiotic that has been sold for more than 50 years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is drafting recommendations for using it as a kind of morning-after pill for preventing STDs, said Dr. Leandro Mena, director of the agency’s STD prevention division.

The drug is already used to treat a range of infections. A study published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine showed its potential to prevent sexually transmitted infections.

In the study, about 500 gay men, bisexual men and transgender women in Seattle and San Francisco with previous STD infections took one doxycycline pill within 72 hours of unprotected sex. Those who took the pills

were about 90% less likely to get chlamydia, about 80% less likely to get syphilis, and more than 50% less likely to get gonorrhea compared with people who did not take the pills after sex, the researchers found.

The study was led by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco and built on a similar French study that saw promise in the idea.

Mena, of the CDC, said there is no sign the STD trend is slowing.

Experts noted the CDC will have many factors to weigh as it develops the recommendations.

Among them: The drug can cause side effects like stomach problems and rashes after sun exposure. Some research has found it ineffective in heterosexual women. And widespread use of doxycycline as a preventive measure could contribute to mutations that make bacteria impervious to the drug.

## Huge plastics fire prompts evacuation in Indiana city

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Ind. — An evacuation order affecting more than 1,000 people was expected to remain in place through Wednesday around a large industrial fire in an Indiana city near the Ohio border where crews worked through the night to douse piles of burning plastics, authorities said.

Multiple fires, which began burning Tuesday afternoon, continued burning Wednesday morning within about 14 acres of various types of plastics stored both inside and outside buildings at the former factory site in Richmond, 70 miles east of Indianapolis, Richmond fire Chief Tim Brown said.

“There’s plastics inside buildings, there’s plastics out-

side buildings, there’s plastics in semitrailers that are throughout the grounds here at the complex, so we’re dealing with many type of plastics. It’s very much a mess,” Brown said.

Brown said a plume of smoke continued rising Wednesday from the site and about 15 firefighters had remained in place overnight working to fight the flames, which he said are contained within the old factory site.

State and federal regulators were at the scene to assess air quality and other environmental impact.

Richmond Mayor Dave Snow said Wednesday that the plastics recycling site had been under a city order to clean up and remediate the complex.

## Criminal probe focuses on school where teacher shot

Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Prosecutors in the Virginia city where a 6-year-old shot his teacher in an elementary school classroom are investigating whether the “actions or omissions” of any school employees could lead to criminal charges, according to court documents released Tuesday.

Howard Gwynn, the commonwealth’s attorney in Newport News, filed a petition for a special grand jury to probe if any “security failures” contributed to the shooting at Richneck Elementary in January that seriously wounded teacher Abby Zwerner.

Gwynn wrote that an investigation could also lead to recommendations “in the hopes that such a situation never occurs

again.”

Gwynn’s petition was released a day after his office charged the boy’s mother with felony child neglect and a misdemeanor count of endangering a child by reckless storage of a firearm. The child used his mother’s 9 mm handgun to shoot Zwerner. Police say the weapon was legally purchased.

Last week, Zwerner filed a \$40 million lawsuit against the school system, accusing school officials of gross negligence and of ignoring multiple warnings from teachers and other school employees that the boy had taken a gun to school on the day of the shooting.

Zwerner also alleges that school officials knew the boy “had a history of random violence” at school and at home.

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# Lakers outlast Wolves in play-in game

*Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — Nearly everything about this season has been a grueling challenge for the Los Angeles Lakers, so nobody in a gold jersey really seemed surprised when Anthony Davis committed a baffling foul that allowed Minnesota's Mike Conley to snatch a playoff berth from their hands with 0.1 seconds on the regulation clock.

The Lakers simply absorbed the latest body blow to their championship hopes and played on.

Five overtime minutes later, they finally claimed a postseason berth that seemed all but unattainable just a couple of months ago.

LeBron James had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and the Lakers snagged the seventh spot in the Western Conference playoffs with a 108-102 victory over the short-handed Timberwolves in the NBA's play-in tournament Tuesday night.

Conley hit three clutch free throws to tie it after Davis fool-

ishly fouled him on a three-point attempt, but the Lakers coolly kept rolling toward their 10th win in 12 games. Their reward is a date with the second-seeded Memphis Grizzlies in the first round starting Sunday.

"It took everything out of us to get to where we are, and it took more out of us tonight," Davis said. "But we've got a couple of days before we go to Memphis to start preparing for them. It's been a battle. It's been an up-and-down season for us, but now is the time to show who we are, and we showed it tonight."

Dennis Schröder scored 21 points, drilling a tiebreaking three-pointer on a pass from James with 1.4 seconds left in regulation before icing the win with two free throws with 8.4 seconds left in overtime for the Lakers, who started the season 2-10 and sat six games below .500 at the trade deadline.

"Once you get to the end of things, to have everyone healthy, to be playing in the type of rhythm we're playing in, to de-

fend at the level that we're defending at, going into the most important time of the year, you can't ask for a better situation," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said.

The Wolves still forced overtime when Conley hit his free throws after Davis stepped on his foot after he had already released a three-point attempt. Davis and James said they had a mix-up about who was supposed to defend the shooter in the corner.

"The play was between me and AD, and we discussed it on the bench, and then we moved forward," James said. "We've still got five more minutes to play. That's how we started overtime. We were able to recalibrate. Get our game back."

Instead of getting down, the Lakers went back to work.

"That was totally on me," said Davis, who had 24 points and 15 rebounds. "He faded out of bounds where I was going. But it goes back to next-play mentality, and we got it done in overtime."

Los Angeles finally won it with defense, holding the Wolves to seven points in the final 11 minutes from midway through the fourth quarter while rallying from a 15-point deficit.

Conley scored 23 points for Minnesota, which gave an inspired effort for the first three quarters while playing without starters Rudy Gobert and Jaden McDaniels. Gobert is suspended for punching teammate Kyle Anderson during Minnesota's regular-season finale against New Orleans, while McDaniels is out indefinitely with a broken hand after punching a wall in frustration Sunday.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 24 points for the Wolves, who will host New Orleans or Oklahoma City on Friday for the eighth spot and a first-round date with top-seeded Denver beginning Sunday.

The Pelicans hosted the Thunder on Wednesday night, and Minnesota must then beat the winner to reach the playoffs for only the third time in 19 seasons.

## Atlanta holds off Miami, grabs seventh seed in East

*Associated Press*

MIAMI — Quin Snyder's bags were packed in February for an overseas trip. He was going to spend time with some friends and family, see some coaches he's gotten to know over the years.

Then the Atlanta Hawks called with a job offer, to bring him on as coach.

And now Snyder's bags are packed again — for the playoffs, starting with a trip to Boston.

Trae Young scored 25 points, Clint Capela grabbed 21 rebounds and the Hawks earned the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs by beating the Miami Heat 116-105 in a play-in tournament game Tuesday night.

"Our guys are trying to be the best version of ourselves at the end of the year," Snyder said. "The year's not over. So hopefully we can take this and continue to build on it. It's one game — but it was our game."

Dejounte Murray added 18 points for the Hawks, who avenged a five-game Round 1 loss to Miami last season and earned an East first-round matchup with Boston that will start Saturday.

Kyle Lowry scored 33 points — his highest-scoring game in his two Miami seasons — for the Heat, who will host either Toronto or Chicago on Friday to decide the No. 8 seed and a spot against top overall seed Milwaukee in Round 1. The Raptors and Bulls played Wednes-

day; the winner of Friday's game opens the series against the Bucks on Sunday.

Tyler Herro scored 26 for Miami, and Jimmy Butler finished with 21.

"Come Friday, we have to play the legit exact opposite of how we played tonight," Butler said.

For the Hawks, four reserves — Saddiq Bey, Bogdan Bogdanovic, Onyeka Okongwu and Jalen Johnson — combined for 53 points.

The Hawks improved to 3-0 all-time in play-in tournament games; that's the best mark in the league, one that New Orleans could match when it played host to Oklahoma City on Wednesday night.

And they earned this one on

the boards. Atlanta outrebounded Miami 63-39, including 22-6 on the offensive glass that keyed a 26-6 edge in second-chance points.

"We all understand the moment and the time of year it is," Young said. "Credit our guys for being locked in, ready and focused on the game plan."

The Hawks took two timeouts in the first 3:53 of the third quarter, as most of what was a 24-point lead with 2:37 left in the first half — 63-39 was the margin — got whittled away, and fast.

Miami cut the margin to 15 by halftime, then opened the third quarter on a 16-6 run. Add it all up, and it was a 27-8 run in about 7 minutes of play to get the Heat within 71-66.



# Bruins top Capitals, break NHL points record

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins saved their latest record-setting performance of the season for their home crowd.

Brad Marchand and Tyler Bertuzzi had power-play goals and the Bruins broke the NHL points record with a 5-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night in their regular-season home finale.

Under chants of “We want the Cup!” from fans inside TD Garden, the Bruins won their seventh straight to push their points total to 133, one more than the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens. Those Canadiens played in an era without overtime and shootouts. The Bruins have 11 extra points — five for shootout wins and six for overtime wins — unavailable to the Canadiens when they set the record.

“We’re happy about it, don’t get me wrong. But it’s a regular-season record,” Marchand said. “Playoffs start and everything starts over again. There’s going to be 16 teams that have the same goal in mind and what we’ve accomplished so far has no bearing on that.”

The Bruins broke the mark a

game after setting the NHL victory record with 63 on Sunday at Philadelphia, breaking a tie with the 1995-96 Detroit Red Wings and 2018-19 Tampa Bay Lightning.

“I think (Montreal’s) wins in 80 games is a little more significant,” Bruins coach Jim Montgomery said. But he added it’s still meaningful “because those were dominant hockey teams.”

**Hurricanes 4, Red Wings 1:** Stefan Noesen and Jordan Martinook scored early and host Carolina maintained its hold on first place in the Metropolitan Division with one game remaining in the regular season.

Brent Burns and Jesperi Kotkaniemi also scored and Antti Raanta made 20 saves as the Hurricanes shed a slump that included the team’s only three-game stretch without a point this season.

Carolina has 111 points, one more than the New Jersey Devils. With the win, the Hurricanes clinched home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs. A victory Thursday night at Florida would give the Hurricanes a division title for the third season in a row.

**Devils 6, Sabres 2:** Tomas Tatar had two goals and an assist, and host New Jersey clinched home ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs while ending Buffalo’s postseason hopes.

Jack Hughes scored a late empty-net goal for his 97th point this season, breaking the franchise record of 96 set by Patrik Elias in 2000-2001.

**Oilers 2, Avalanche 1 (OT):** Evan Bouchard scored a power-play goal 1:50 into overtime, Stuart Skinner stopped 28 shots and visiting Edmonton won its eighth straight.

Mattias Ekholm also scored for the Oilers, who remain in the chase for the Pacific Division title with one game remaining. They also extended their points streak to 14 straight games.

**Golden Knights 4, Kraken 1:** Michael Amadio had two goals and an assist, and host Vegas moved closer to claiming the Pacific Division with a victory over Seattle.

Reilly Smith had a three-point game, scoring on the rebound of a shot by linemate Amadio. Smith also picked up assists on Amadio’s goals. Jo-

nathan Marchessault scored on a 5-on-3 power play and William Karlsson had two assists for Vegas.

**Maple Leafs 4, Lightning 3:** Minor league call-up Joseph Woll made 45 saves, William Nylander had a goal and two assists, and visiting Toronto beat Tampa Bay in a preview of an opening-round playoff series next week.

**Jets 3, Wild 1:** Mark Scheifele scored his 42nd goal, Connor Hellebuyck made 33 saves and visiting Winnipeg clinched the last spot in the Western Conference playoffs.

**Blackhawks 5, Penguins 2:** Buddy Robinson and Andres Athanasiou scored 26 seconds apart in the third period and visiting Chicago dealt Pittsburgh’s playoff chances a significant blow.

**Canucks 3, Ducks 2:** J.T. Miller had a goal and an assist and visiting Vancouver got its third win in four games.

**Flyers 4, Blue Jackets 3 (OT):** Owen Tippett scored his second goal of the game with 15.5 seconds left in overtime and host Philadelphia snapped a seven-game losing streak.

# Cook’s goal lifts US women’s soccer over Ireland

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Alana Cook scored her first international goal on her 26th birthday and the United States beat Ireland 1-0 in an exhibition Tuesday night as the teams prepare for the Women’s World Cup this summer.

It was the Americans’ first game without Mallory Swanson, who tore the patellar tendon in her left knee during Saturday’s game against Ireland in Austin, Texas.

Swanson was the top scorer for the U.S. this year with seven goals. She had scored in six straight games, tied for the fourth-longest streak in team history.

It appears unlikely that Swanson will be able to play in the World Cup. She returned home to Chicago after the injury and she announced on social media that she had surgery Tuesday morning.

“This is hard,” she wrote on Instagram.

“I’m in shock and don’t have much to say other than thank you to everyone for the messages. I feel the love and prayers, and holding them close to my heart.”

The U.S. shuffled its lineup for the City Park match in Swanson’s absence. It was the final chance for U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski to look at players before announcing a 23-player World Cup roster, which is due in mid-July.

The coach said he’ll analyze the game in the coming days. It wasn’t immediately clear whether he would make a like-for-like swap for Swanson or whether he’d try a new tactic going forward.

“So with losing Mal, conceptually we may look slightly different, because you look at this team, it was going to be built around Mal and [Sophia Smith] and their attacking power,” Andonovski said. “Now with Mal not being there, we’re going to have to make a decision.

What are we going to go for? Like-for-like and try the same way, or is Mal going to be replaced by a group of players?”

Emily Fox, who scored in Saturday’s 2-0 victory over Ireland, was available off the bench. Casey Murphy started in goal rather than Alyssa Naeher, and Rose Lavelle didn’t play because of an unspecified injury she picked up in Austin.

Andonovski started Alyssa Thompson, an 18-year-old forward who was drafted this season out of high school by Angel City of the National Women’s Soccer League. Thompson was brought in as a replacement for Swanson for Tuesday’s game.

“Once we lost Mal in the last game, we knew that may be a long-term injury. We wanted to explore every possible option before we make the final decision, and one of those was Alyssa Thompson,” Andonovski said.

# Rays beat Red Sox for 11th straight win

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Rays just keep adding to their perfect start, one sweet swing at a time.

The Rays ran their season-opening winning streak to 11 games, using another homer from Brandon Lowe and a strong performance by Shane Bieber to beat the Boston Red Sox 7-2 on Tuesday night.

Tampa Bay's winning streak is one game short of the franchise record set in 2004, and the Rays became one of only four teams since 1901 to win the first 11 games of a season.

"The history of it is not lost on us," Lowe said. "We understand what's happening, but we're not putting any added pressure on anything. We're not staring at our schedule or staring at our record right now. ... And it's not one guy doing it. It's nice knowing that it's one through nine, and if you don't get the job done, the next guy will."

**Angels 2, Nationals 0:** Shohei

Ohtani pitched seven sparkling innings for host Los Angeles, and rookie catcher Logan O'Hoppe hit his team-leading fourth homer.

Ohtani (2-0) set an Angels record with his 10th straight start allowing two or fewer runs. Nolan Ryan had a nine-game streak across the 1972-73 seasons.

**Rangers 8, Royals 5 (10):** Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning for host Texas, and Jacob deGrom had nine strikeouts to break a franchise record that had been held by Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan.

While deGrom ended up with a no-decision, the nine Ks pushed his season total to 27 and set a new mark for a Rangers pitcher in his first three appearances — that had been Ryan's 26 after he joined the team in 1989.

**Marlins 8, Phillies 4:** Luis Arraez became the first player to hit for the cycle for visiting Miami, finishing with four hits and two RBIs. Before Tuesday, the Marlins were the only active

major league team without a cycle in its history.

**Orioles 12, Athletics 8:** Ryan Mountcastle homered twice and tied a team record with nine RBIs, helping host Baltimore rally for the victory.

**Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 1:** Willy Adames broke up Merrill Kelly's no-hit bid in the seventh inning by smashing a solo homer to center field, sending Corbin Burnes and visiting Milwaukee to the victory.

**Cubs 14, Mariners 9:** Nelson Velázquez hit his first career grand slam in his team's eight-run third inning, and host Chicago rallied for the win.

**Yankees 11, Guardians 2:** Gerrit Cole pitched seven effective innings and Franchy Cordero hit a three-run homer, powering visiting New York to the victory.

**Blue Jays 9, Tigers 3:** Kevin Kiermaier hit a solo home run and made a sensational leaping catch at the wall, leading host Toronto to the win.

**Cardinals 9, Rockies 6:** Nolan Gorman sparked visiting St. Louis' three-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking solo homer off Pierce Johnson.

**Giants 5, Dodgers 0:** Alex Wood and five relievers combined on a three-hitter, and host San Francisco beat Los Angeles to end a six-game losing streak to its NL West rival.

**Braves 7, Reds 6:** Matt Olson and Ozzie Albies homered, and host Atlanta overcame a rocky season debut by Kyle Wright.

**Padres 4, Mets 2:** Ryan Weathers got his first big league win in two years, and Manny Machado hit a key two-run double for visiting San Diego.

**Pirates 7, Astros 4:** Rookie Ji-Hwan Bae hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting host Pittsburgh to the victory.

**Twins 4, White Sox 3 (10):** Hanser Alberto's throwing error allowed the automatic runner to score from second base, sending host Minnesota to the extra-inning victory.

## Cavinder twins won't return to Miami after 1 season

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The Cavinder twins, Haley and Hannah — two of the most prominent athletes in the name, image and likeness era of college athletics — announced Tuesday that they will not return to the Miami Hurricanes next season, ending their tenure after one year with the program.

The Cavinders — who are 22 and were listed as seniors on the Miami roster — both played four seasons in college, but they could have played next season, too, because of the NCAA ruling that restored a year of eligibility to all athletes who went through a pandemic-affected season.

They transferred from Fresno State to Miami in April 2022 with hopes of playing in the NCAA Tournament and probably exceeded even their own expectations by helping the Hurricanes fall just short of reaching the Final Four.

### Griner writing memoir on captivity

NEW YORK — Saying she is ready to

share the "unfathomable" experience of being arrested and incarcerated in Russia, basketball star Brittney Griner is working on a memoir that is scheduled to be released in spring 2024.

Griner was arrested last year at the airport in Moscow on drug-related charges and detained for nearly 10 months, much of that time in prison. Her plight unfolded at the same time Russia invaded Ukraine and further heightened tensions between Russia and the United States, ending only after she was freed in exchange for the notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

The memoir is currently untitled and will eventually be published in a young adult edition. Financial terms of the book were not disclosed.

### Kingsbury joining USC's staff

LOS ANGELES — Kliff Kingsbury is joining Lincoln Riley's coaching staff at Southern California as a senior offensive analyst.

USC announced the addition Tuesday of

Kingsbury, who was fired by the Arizona Cardinals in January after four seasons as their head coach.

Kingsbury went 28-37-1 at Arizona, making one playoff appearance. Before that, he spent six seasons as Texas Tech's head coach and earned a reputation as one of football's most innovative offensive minds.

### Big Ten names new commissioner

The Big Ten is hiring former Major League Baseball executive Tony Petitti to be its next commissioner, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because a deal was still being finalized. An announcement is expected from the conference by the end of the week.

Petitti has extensive background in television, working for ABC, CBS and MLB Network. He was also chief operating officer for MLB, taking over the position Rob Manfred held before he became commissioner.