

New marksmanship test set for Marines

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Marines will soon take a new annual marksmanship test designed to more closely resemble battlefield shooting, but fewer may qualify as expert riflemen, at least at first.

The new test will require Marines to wear combat gear, place shots for maximum damage, and hit moving targets while the shooter is moving. It's a three-day event, compared to two weeks for the test it's replacing, and is the biggest change in nearly a century to the rifle qualification for the service that touts all of its members as riflemen. Instead of using total points scored to grade shooters from low to high as marksmen, sharpshooters or experts, the new test will classify Marines based on their ability to hit targets with deadly effect, and to hit them correctly in scenario-based drills.

Train-the-trainer courses for marksman-

ship instructors and coaches are set to begin next month and active-duty units will have until Oct. 1 to switch over to the new qualification, officials told reporters in a call Tuesday. Any sailors required to qualify on the old test, such as corpsmen, will also have to qualify on the new one.

But enlisted recruits at boot camps in California and South Carolina and officer candidates training at Quantico, Va., will continue to take the current test, in which shooters fire from prescribed standing, kneeling, sitting and prone positions at various distances, beginning at 100 yards and moving back in stages to 500 yards.

In the new test, Marines will gradually move closer to the targets and at many points will have more latitude to choose shooting positions, including whether to stabilize their weapons with issued bipods, assault packs or by resting their magazines on the ground. They will also have the option to use barricades at some distances.

Shooting assigned M16, M4 or M27 Infan-

try Automatic Rifle with issued optics, they'll first get 50 chances to fire on targets from ranges of 500 to 25 yards — a test portion called "destroys."

Next, from the 25-yard mark, they'll have to put two shots in the chest and one in the head of a target, in the right order, during three pass/fail "drills," including one while advancing.

Aside from moving silhouette targets they'll face at 100 and 200 yards, they'll aim at two types of human-sized targets that feature an image of a bearded man wearing dark clothing and holding a weapon.

For a shot to count, they'll have to hit a home plate-shaped area of his chest or a coffin-shaped "brain box" in his head.

"Sustaining an injury to those areas, the probability for survival just plummets," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Costa, director of marksmanship program management at the Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico. "That's where you've got to put the rounds in to actually eliminate a threat."

Army tests fitness benefits of yoga in basic training

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Army is studying whether the warrior pose could make better warriors after putting hundreds of new recruits through daily yoga and meditation regimens in basic training.

The 10-week pilot program was designed to evaluate possible military benefits of the practices rooted in ancient eastern pacifist philosophies, as the service seeks to address declining fitness among military recruits.

Soldiers in 20 basic training platoons at Fort Jackson, S.C., practiced yoga and meditation daily to assess their effects on factors like physical performance, mental toughness, soldier discipline, injury rates, stress management and graduation rates.

"We realized there's growing scientific evidence that mindfulness and yoga have positive effects on individual holistic health and fitness," said Maj. Kimberley Jordan, a doctor of physical therapy and the officer

overseeing the program. "The basic combat training environment ... was rich in a variety of performance indicators that we could assess or analyze."

Fort Jackson's 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment each had 20 platoons participating, 10 as the test group and 10 as a control group, for a total of about 1,800 participants.

It's one of the few studies on yoga in the military and one of the largest on mindfulness, Jordan said. Researchers were crunching numbers from data collected last fall and final results are expected later this year.

Early feedback suggests improved endurance on ruck marches and obstacle courses, reduced pain during recovery periods and better management of stress and homesickness, said Jordan, who's used yoga herself for injury recovery and has included it in treatment for some of her patients.

While linked to Hindu and Buddhist tra-

ditions, the practices and poses taught were stripped of religious references. Chaplains were also consulted, she said.

Led by contracted trainers, half the trainees did yoga for 15 minutes before and after normal morning physical training exercises — poses like downward dog, plank and chair positions. They also received two hours of weekly instruction in mindfulness in the first four weeks and practiced meditation six days a week for 15 minutes before lights out, for the duration of the program.

The control group platoons used standard Army preparation and recovery drills, such as windmill stretches, bend-and-reach and pushups. Both groups and their drill sergeants took several surveys to gauge their attitudes on the program.

The yoga training aligned with the Army's new comprehensive health and fitness program, introduced to accompany the service's first overhaul of its fitness test in four decades.

Biden to order review of US supply chains

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is preparing to sign an executive order to review U.S. supply chains for large-capacity batteries, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals and semiconductors that power cars, phones, military equipment and other goods.

The United States has become increasingly reliant on imports of these goods — a potential national security and economic risk that the Biden administration hopes to address with the planned 100-day review and the possibility of increased domestic production, according to administration officials who insisted on anonymity to discuss the order. However, Biden will also look to work with international partners to ensure a stable and reliable supply chain.

The order being signed Wednesday will include sectoral reviews to be completed

within one year for defense, public health and biological preparedness, information communications technology, energy, transportation and food production.

Over the past year, the fragility of vital supply chains has been revealed repeatedly. The coronavirus outbreak led to an initial shortage of masks, gloves and other protective medical equipment. Automakers in the United States and Europe are now dealing with a shortage of computer chips.

Administration officials have met with automakers and are talking with foreign counterparts on how to boost supplies in the short term. But there is no magic bullet to immediately fixing the lack of semiconductors for automakers, an administration official said.

The chip shortage is indicative as to why Biden is trying to be proactive with the reviews, so

that they can strengthen the supply chains to prevent additional challenges from emerging. Administration officials say that they plan to partner with industry and members of Congress as part of the effort and that no tool is off the table, including the use of the Defense Production Act.

Nearly every major automaker that produces vehicles in the U.S. has cut production because of the shortage by canceling shifts, slowing assembly line speeds or temporarily closing factories. Most automakers have tried to limit the cuts to slower-selling vehicles.

But the shortage has forced the Ford Motor Co. to at times cancel shifts at two plants that make the F-Series pickup truck, the top-selling vehicle in the nation. Besides Ford, Stellantis (formerly Fiat Chrysler), General Motors, Toyota and Honda have had to slow production.

Some are building vehicles

without computer chips, which control engines, brakes, transmissions and other tasks, so they can be installed once more semiconductors are available.

The chip shortage has cost the global auto industry the production of about 1 million vehicles, according to IHS Markit. The analytics firm expects the chip crisis to hit bottom toward the end of March, with supplies constrained into the third quarter.

IHS Markit expects the lost production could be made up later in the year. But the shortage could compound already tight vehicle inventories in the U.S., driving up prices that rose when factories were closed last year due to the coronavirus.

Moody's predicts that the chip shortage will cost Ford and General Motors about one-third of their pretax earnings this year. It also expects electric vehicle maker Tesla to be affected, although less than GM and Ford.

Board leaders resign after deadly outages in Texas

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Top board leaders of Texas' embattled power grid operator said Tuesday that they will resign after outrage from over 4 million customers losing electricity last week during a deadly winter storm, including many whose frigid homes lacked heat for days in subfreezing temperatures.

The resignations are the first since the crisis began, and calls for wider firings remain in the aftermath of one of the worst power outages in U.S. history.

All of the five board directors who are stepping down, including Chairwoman Sally Talberg, live outside of Texas, which only intensified criticism of the

Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The resignations are effective Wednesday — a day before Texas lawmakers are expected to sharply question grid managers and energy officials about the failures during hearings at the state Capitol.

Four of the departing board members acknowledged "concerns about out-of-state board leadership" in a letter to grid members and the state's Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT.

Historic snowfall and single-digit temperatures in Texas last week left millions without power and water for days. The storm is blamed for more than 80 deaths in the South, roughly half of which were in Texas.

Va.-based sailor is 4th to die in February from virus

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Virginia-based sailor is the fourth sailor to die in February from the coronavirus, the Navy announced Tuesday.

The sailor was assigned to Assault Craft Unit 4 based at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, according to a statement by Expeditionary Strike Group 2. The individual had tested positive for the coronavirus Friday and was admitted to Sentara Leigh Hospital in Norfolk on Saturday.

The sailor died Monday due to complications related to the virus, according to the Navy statement.

Other sailors who had been in contact with the individual have

been notified and are taking precautions, the Navy said.

The sailor's name is being withheld until 24 hours after next-of-kin notification is complete.

The individual's unit operates air-cushioned landing craft that transport people, weapons and equipment from ship to shore, according to the Navy.

The sailor is the fifth one to die since the pandemic began nearly a year ago. The other sailors were Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41; Chief Petty Officer Herbert Rojas, 50; Petty Officer Second Class Cody Andrew-Godfredson Myers, 26; and Petty Officer 1st Class Marcell L. Orcullo, 42.

The sailor's death increases the number of service members who have died due to the virus to 23.

Tech firms: Little doubt Russia behind hack

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Leading technology companies said Tuesday that a monthslong breach of corporate and government networks was so sophisticated, focused and labor-intensive that a nation had to be behind it, with all the evidence pointing to Russia.

In the first congressional hearing on the breach, representatives of technology companies involved in the response described a hack of almost breathtaking precision, ambition and scope.

The perpetrators stealthily scooped up specific emails and documents on a target list from the United States and other countries.

“We haven’t seen this kind of sophistication matched with this kind of scale,” Microsoft President Brad Smith told the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Smith said investigators estimate at least 1,000 highly skilled engineers would have been re-

quired to develop the code that hijacked widely used network software from Texas-based SolarWinds to deploy malware around the world through a security update.

“We’ve seen substantial evidence that points to the Russian foreign intelligence agency, and we have found no evidence that leads us anywhere else,” Smith said.

U.S. national security officials have also said Russia was likely responsible for the breach, and President Joe Biden’s administration is weighing punitive measures against Russia for the hack as well as other activities. Moscow has denied responsibility for the breach.

Officials have said the motive for the hack, which was discovered by private security company FireEye in December, appeared to be to gather intelligence. On what, they haven’t said.

At least nine government agencies and 100 private com-

panies were breached, but what was taken has not been revealed.

FireEye CEO Kevin Mandia told the Senate that his company has had nearly 100 people working to study and contain the breach since they detected it, almost by accident, in December and alerted the U.S. government.

The hackers first quietly installed malicious code in October 2019 on targeted networks, but didn’t activate it to see if they could remain undetected.

They returned in March and immediately began to steal the login credentials of people who were authorized to be on the network so they could have a “secret key” to move around at will, Mandia said. Once detected, “they vanished like ghosts.”

“There’s no doubt in my mind that this was planned,” the security executive said. “The question really is where’s the next one, and when are we going to find it?”

Government agencies breached include the Treasury, Justice and Commerce departments, but the full list has not been publicly released.

The president of Microsoft, which is working with FireEye on the response, said there are victims around the world, including in Canada, Mexico, Spain and the United Arab Emirates.

The panel, which also included Sudhakar Ramakrishna, the CEO of SolarWinds who took over the company after the hack occurred, and George Kurtz, the president and CEO of CrowdStrike, another leading security company, faced questions not just about how the breach occurred, but also about whether hacking victims need to be legally compelled to be forthcoming when they have been breached.

Even now, three months after the breach was disclosed, the identity of most victims remains unknown.

Southern Baptists oust two churches over LGBTQ issue

Associated Press

The Southern Baptist Convention’s executive committee voted Tuesday to oust four of its churches, two over policies deemed to be too inclusive of LGBTQ people and two more for employing pastors convicted of sex offenses.

The actions were announced at a meeting marked by warnings from two top leaders that the SBC, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, was damaging itself with divisions over several critical issues including race.

“We should mourn when closet racists and neo-Confederates feel more at home in our churches than do many of our people of color,” said the SBC’s president, J.D. Greear, in his opening

speech.

The two churches expelled for LGBTQ inclusion were St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., and Towne View Baptist Church, in Kennesaw, Ga.

St. Matthews Baptist was among more than 12 churches that lost their affiliation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2018 because they made financial contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which had recently lifted a ban on hiring LGBTQ employees.

SBC officials said West Side Baptist Church in Sharpsville, Pa., was ousted because it “knowingly employs as pastor a registered sex offender,” while Antioch Baptist Church in Sevierville, Tenn., has a pastor who was convicted of statutory rape.

No charges against cops involved in NY man’s death

Associated Press

Police officers who put a hood over the head of a mentally distraught Black man, then pressed his body against the pavement until he stopped breathing will not face criminal charges after a grand jury declined to indict them, New York’s attorney general announced Tuesday.

Daniel Prude, 41, died last March, several days after his encounter with police in Rochester, N.Y. Police initially described his death as a drug overdose. It went mostly unnoticed. But nightly protests erupted after body camera video was released nearly six months later following pressure from Prude’s family.

Attorney General Letitia

James, whose office took over the investigation, said her office had “presented the strongest case possible” to the grand jury, but couldn’t persuade it that the officers had committed a crime.

“I know that the Prude family, the Rochester community and communities across the country will rightfully be disappointed by this outcome,” said James, who traveled to Rochester to announce the grand jury’s decision at a church near where Prude was fatally injured.

She said she was bound to respect the grand jury’s decision, but she also condemned a system that she said had “frustrated efforts to hold law enforcement officers accountable for the unjustified killing of African Americans.”

More advocates pushing for school choice

Associated Press

ATLANTA — With her children struggling in many classes last spring, Kelli Rivera became so frustrated with how her suburban Atlanta district was handling the coronavirus pandemic that she withdrew them to home-school them. They're back in public school and mostly attending class in person. For now.

Rivera is thinking of enrolling her younger son in private school next year, and she hopes the state of Georgia might help her pay for it with an expansion of school choice programs.

School choice advocates and lawmakers in many states are counting on the frustrations of parents like Rivera to bolster efforts to pass or expand laws allowing families to use public money to pay for private school or to help teach their own children at home.

Some sort of school choice program already gets public money in 29 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, according to EdChoice, a group that supports the concept.

Backers have said that they are optimistic about making new gains this year as surveys nationwide have indicated private schools have been more likely to offer in-person instruction.

Opponents have argued that vouchers, publicly funded educational savings accounts and tax credits for private school scholarships will sap funding for the traditional public schools, which could be particularly damaging for districts that serve low-income families and face overwhelming challenges. Voucher programs generally target students in less affluent districts where schools are struggling, but opponents argue in some cases they amount to unnecessary subsidies for families who could pay their own way for private school.

Texas

AUSTIN — About 1,000 COVID-19 vaccines were lost to disruptions caused by last week's cold wave, which a top state health official said Tuesday was a relatively small number of doses.

Meanwhile, 4.5 million doses of the vaccine against the illness caused by the new coronavirus have been given so far, said Imelda García, the state's associate health commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services. At a virtual news conference, she said that 3.1 million were first doses while 1.4 million were second doses.

Another 1.4 million more doses arrived Monday and Tuesday, she said.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported another 234 deaths from COVID-19 Tuesday. According to Johns Hopkins University researchers, that brought the state's pandemic death toll to 42,318, the third-most in the country and the 24th most per capita.

Oregon

FLORENCE — The state of Oregon has fined a Florence restaurant nearly \$18,000 for willfully exposing workers to COVID-19 after an investigation in which officials said compliance officers were threatened.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration on Tuesday announced the fine for The New Blue Hen, The Register-Guard reported.

The New Blue Hen, doing business as Little Brown Hen Café, had been allowing indoor dining since at least Dec. 26, a state investigation found.

Complaints about the restaurant led to an inspection during which, "several people — including one carrying a firearm — blocked the business' entrance and threatened compliance officers" on Jan. 4, accord-

ing to the state.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas on Tuesday lowered the eligibility age for receiving the coronavirus vaccine from 70 to 65, making shots available to another 115,000 people in the state, according to Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

Hutchinson announced the move as the state reported 834 new cases of the virus, bringing its total since the pandemic began to 316,593. The state's deaths from COVID-19 grew by 14 to 5,377 while the number of people hospitalized with the illness decreased by 43 to 545.

Hutchinson said the state has enough supply of the vaccine to handle the expanded eligibility. Previously, the vaccine had been available to emergency workers, nursing home residents and staff, teachers and people 70 years old and older.

During the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases in Arkansas has decreased by nearly 78%, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins University.

Tennessee

NASHVILLE — More than 2,400 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in Tennessee's most populous county went to waste over the past month while local officials sat on tens of thousands of shots that they thought had already gone into arms, the state's top health official announced Tuesday.

The finding comes after the Department of Health launched an investigation over the weekend into an initial report that recent severe winter storms caused 1,000 doses to be tossed in Shelby County, which encompasses Memphis.

But Health Commissioner Lisa Piercey on Tuesday revealed that the problems were far more widespread. She said issues dating back to Feb. 3 ranged from multiple incidents of spoiled

doses, an excessive vaccine inventory, insufficient record-keeping and a lack of a formal process for managing soon-to-expire vaccines. A federal investigation is also expected.

Mississippi

JACKSON — Mississippi teachers and first responders will be eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine starting Monday, Gov. Tate Reeves announced Tuesday.

Vaccinations in Mississippi are currently available for people 65 and older, health care workers and those who are at least 16 and have health conditions that might make them more vulnerable to the virus.

Reeves said teachers and first responders put themselves at risk to support the community during the pandemic and deserve to be next in line.

About 350,000 people in Mississippi have now received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine as of Tuesday, according to data from the state Department of Health.

Florida

HIALEAH — Florida's teachers and law enforcement officers who are 50 and older will be the next groups to get the coronavirus vaccine as the percentage of older residents inoculated is reaching a point where the program can be expanded, Gov. Ron DeSantis said Tuesday.

DeSantis did not say specifically when the new groups will be able to get the vaccine, but he expects it to be soon through the recently added sites run by the federal government.

DeSantis said at least 50% of the state's 4 million residents who are 65 or older have been vaccinated, which is why Florida can soon start inoculating other groups. He said the number of residents currently ill with COVID-19 and hospitalized have continued to fall.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Good Samaritan returns wallet to woman's home

FL YULEE — A Florida woman said she was reunited with her lost wallet after a good Samaritan found it at Walmart and returned it to her home.

Debra Glover-Crosby was shopping at the northern Jacksonville store when she noticed she had lost her wallet and had to pay with cash, First Coast News reported. As she was returning home, her doorbell security system notified her someone was at her door.

She opened the application on her phone to find a video of a man saying he had found her wallet and would place it by the Amazon packages outside her Yulee home.

The wallet was returned with all of its contents, Glover-Crosby said. The good Samaritan didn't identify himself.

Man accused of fatally stabbing mother's dog

NC WILMINGTON — A North Carolina man was arrested on a charge of animal cruelty after investigators said he stabbed his mother's dog to death, a sheriff's office said.

An arrest warrant from the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office accused John Ryan Stout, 29, of killing his mother's dog, news outlets reported. According to a sheriff's office spokesperson, deputies were alerted to the dog's possible killing and went to Stout's home, where he said the dog died of natural causes and was buried in the backyard.

Several days later, the sheriff's office said, a 911 caller told authorities they found a dead dog inside a trash bag. The spokes-

person said a necropsy showed the dog had been stabbed to death, and the dog was identified as belonging to Stout's mother.

Troopers can wear long sleeves to cover tattoos

GA MACON — Georgia's Department of Public Safety said state troopers still can't have visible tattoos, but can now wear long-sleeved shirts year-round to cover up markings on their lower arms.

Applicants still can't have tattoos on their neck or face.

Allen said that troopers are typically required to switch from the long-sleeved to short-sleeved uniforms during warmer months. The new policy says troopers with forearm tattoos do not have to make the switch.

Authorities capture illegal ball python, iguana

HI HONOLULU — The Hawaii Department of Agriculture captured a ball python and an iguana in separate residential areas on Oahu, both of which are illegal to own in the state.

The Honolulu Police Department responded to a home in Aiea after a resident reported seeing a 3-foot-long snake at a neighbor's home. Arriving officers covered the snake, identified as a ball python, with a trash can and called agricultural inspectors, who then took it to a department quarantine facility.

Ball pythons pose a threat to Hawaii's environment as they can prey on native birds and their eggs.

Police said in a separate incident that a woman reported an iguana in her backyard. Arriving officers contained the animal, more than 3 feet long, until agri-

cultural inspectors arrived and transferred it to a quarantine facility.

Iguanas, native to central Mexico through South America, are known to have established populations in parts of the island, but they are illegal to import, possess and transport in the state.

Police: Man hits priest, barricades self in church

FL MELBOURNE — A man struck a priest and barricaded himself inside a Florida church before he was arrested by police, officials said.

News outlets said that police officers in Melbourne arrived to the Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church in response to an incident involving church officials and a man.

Police said the man hit one of the priests and was seen with a firearm when officers arrived at the scene.

The man barricaded himself near the front door of the church and threatened to kill himself, reports said.

SWAT members negotiated with the man, who was finally arrested more than four hours later.

Police: Dad-to-be making gender reveal device dies

NY LIBERTY — An expectant father was killed when a device he was building for a gender reveal party exploded, police in New York said.

Christopher Pekny, 28, was assembling a device for his child's gender reveal party in the Catskills town of Liberty when it exploded, state police said.

Pekny was killed by the blast and his brother, Michael Pekny, 27, was injured, police said. Mi-

chael Pekny was treated for his injuries at an area hospital.

Report: Exits at state Capitol violated fire code

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A report by a New Mexico television station found that the emergency exits at the state Capitol building in Santa Fe violated the fire code.

All the marked emergency exits at the state Capitol were locked from the inside during business hours, KRQE-TV found.

The fire code states that any door marked with an illuminated exit sign is considered an emergency exit and cannot be locked from the inside while the building is occupied during normal business hours, the TV station reported.

The doors have since been unlocked.

Gun, credentials stolen from FBI agent's car

CA LAFAYETTE — A gun, law enforcement badge and credentials were stolen from an FBI agent's car in Northern California, the agency said.

The agency said it is working with the Lafayette Police Department to recover the .40 caliber Glock 22 pistol, law enforcement badge and credentials "in the interest of public safety," the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The incident happened in a parking lot adjacent to American Kitchen, according to the restaurant's owner, Victor Ivry.

The agent was having brunch with four other people when a person in the parking lot approached a white Kia and "smashed the right rear," Ivry told The Chronicle.

— From wire reports



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Crash leaves Woods with serious injuries

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In a career filled with remarkable comebacks, Tiger Woods faces his toughest recovery of all.

Woods was driving through a sweeping, downhill stretch of road through the coastal suburbs of Los Angeles when his SUV struck a sign, crossed over a raised median and two oncoming lanes before it toppled down an embankment, coming to a halt on its side.

The airbags deployed. A sheriff's deputy poked his head through a hole in the windshield to see Woods, still wearing his seatbelt, sitting in the driver's seat.

The crash caused "significant" injuries all down his right leg that featured rods, pins and screws during what was described as a "long surgical procedure" at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Anish Mahajan, the chief medical officer, said Woods shattered tibia and fibula bones in his right leg in mul-

multiple locations. Those were stabilized by a rod in the tibia. He said a combination of screws and pins were used to stabilize additional injuries in the ankle and foot.

A statement on his Twitter account said he was awake, responsive and recovering.

"I will say that it's very fortunate that Mr. Woods was able to come out of this alive," said Carlos Gonzalez, the deputy from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who was the first on the scene after a neighbor called 911.

"As if his body hasn't endured enough," Jon Rahm, the No. 2 player in the world, said from the Workday Championship in Florida. "I just hope he can get out of the hospital after recovery and he can still play with his kids and have a normal life."

The single-car crash was the latest setback for Woods, who at times has looked unstoppable on the golf course with his 15 major championships and

record-tying 82 victories on the PGA Tour. He is among the most recognizable sports figures in the world, and at 45 with a reduced schedule from nine previous surgeries, remains golf's biggest draw.

He won the 2008 U.S. Open with shredded knee ligaments and two stress fractures in his left leg. His personal life imploded on Thanksgiving weekend in 2009 when he was caught having multiple extramarital affairs, and he returned to win his 11th award as PGA Tour player of the year and reach No. 1.

And then after four back surgeries that kept him out of golf for the better part of two years, he won the Masters in April 2019 for the fifth time, a victory that ranks among the great comebacks in the sport.

Now it's no longer a matter of when he plays again — the Masters is seven weeks away — but if he plays again.

No charges were filed, and police said there was no evi-

dence he was impaired.

Woods was in Los Angeles over the weekend as the tournament host of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club. Monday and Tuesday had been set aside for Discovery-owned GOLFTV for Woods to give playing tips to celebrities. A tweet Monday showed him in a cart at Rolling Hills Country Club with comedian David Spade. He also worked with NBA great Dwyane Wade, who posted a video to his Instagram account.

Woods was headed to Rolling Hills on Tuesday when the accident happened.

"It was a great day," Wade said Tuesday night on Turner Sports, where he is a studio analyst. "And I woke up today so proud to be able to post that moment for the world, like a little snippet of our moment together. And I took a nap, and I woke up to the news. So, you know, just like everybody out there, my thoughts and prayers are all to his loved ones."

Ramey, No. 14 Texas rally for OT win over No. 17 Kansas

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Courtney Ramey scored 15 points and made two free throws with a minute left in overtime to give Texas the lead as the 14th-ranked Longhorns earned a regular-season sweep of No. 17 Kansas with a 75-72 win Tuesday night.

The Jayhawks had a chance to tie after Ramey's free throws, but Jalen Wilson lost the ball driving for a layup. Kai Jones made one free throw for Texas (14-6, 8-5 Big 12) with 5 seconds left for the final margin.

Ochai Ogbajai scored 17 points for Kansas (17-8, 11-6), which had its five-game winning streak snapped. The Jayhawks lost to the Longhorns twice in the regular season for

the first time since the Big 12 went to round-robin play in 2011-2012. Texas' 25-point win at Kansas on Jan. 2 was the Jayhawks' worst home loss under coach Bill Self.

No. 2 Baylor 77, Iowa State 72: Adam Flagler scored a season-high 22 points, Jared Butler had 15 of his 18 points after half-time and the host Bears finally overcame the rust of a three-week break and the Cyclones.

Baylor (18-0, 10-0 Big 12) played for the first time since an 83-69 win at then-No. 6 Texas on Feb. 2 when it had matched the best start in school history. The Bears then had six consecutive games postponed because of COVID-19 issues in the program.

Michigan State 81, No. 5 Illinois 72: Aaron Henry scored 20

points and Joshua Langford had 15 points and a career-high 16 rebounds to lead the host Spartans past The Fighting Illini.

Michigan State (12-9, 6-9 Big Ten) earned a desperately needed quality win to bolster its chances of playing in 23 straight NCAA Tournaments.

Kansas State 62, No. 7 Oklahoma 57: Mike McGuirl scored 19 points, hitting three straight threes in the final minutes, and the host Wildcats took down the Sooners.

Oklahoma led by six with three minutes to play before McGuirl took over.

No. 8 Villanova 81, St. John's 58: Caleb Daniels scored 17 points, and Collin Gillespie and Jermaine Samuels each had 14 to lead the host Wildcats past the Red Storm.

Villanova (15-3, 10-2 Big East) avenged a Feb. 3 loss to St. John's (14-9, 8-9) in New York. St. John's has done little to build off the upset, losing three of four.

No. 10 West Virginia 74, TCU 66: Taz Sherman scored 23 points, Derek Culver had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and the Mountaineers continued their solid play on the road by beating the Horned Frogs.

Georgia Tech 69, No. 16 Virginia Tech 53: Moses Wright scored 17 of his 26 points in the second half, helping the visiting Yellow Jackets pull away from the Hokies.

Mississippi 60, No. 24 Missouri 53: Devontae Shuler scored 14 points and the host Rebels swept the season series against the sputtering Tigers.

Cavs edge Hawks, end 10-game skid

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Lamar Stevens drove for an easy dunk with 4.1 seconds left and Atlanta failed to get off a final shot as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Hawks 112-111 on Tuesday night to end their 10-game losing streak — the NBA's longest this season.

It was Cleveland's first win since Feb. 1, and for long stretches of the fourth quarter it appeared in doubt.

Collin Sexton scored 29 points, Darius Garland 17 and Jarrett Allen had 13 points and 14 rebounds for the Cavs, who also got five three-pointers from rookie Dylan Windler.

Trae Young, snubbed as an All-Star reserve earlier in the day, had 28 points and 12 assists, and Kevin Huerter scored 22 for the Hawks. Clint Capela added 17 rebounds.

Bucks 139, Timberwolves 112: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 37 points, eight rebounds and eight assists as host Milwaukee spoiled the debut of new Minnesota coach Chris Finch.

Antetokounmpo put up those numbers in just 29 minutes. Bryn Forbes added a season-high 23 points as the Bucks won their third straight and had seven players score

in double figures. Milwaukee shot 53.5% overall and went 20-for-42 from three-point range.

76ers 109, Raptors 102: Tobias Harris scored 12 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Philadelphia ended Toronto's four-game winning streak.

Joel Embiid had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers, and Furkan Korkmaz added 19 points.

Nets 127, Kings 118: Bruce Brown scored 13 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to lead host Brooklyn over Sacramento.

James Harden recorded his sixth triple-double with the Nets, finishing with 29 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists. He ranks second in franchise history, one behind Jason Kidd.

Pistons 105, Magic 93: Rookie guard Saben Lee scored a career-best 21 points, Josh Jackson added 18 and Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak with a win at Orlando.

The Pistons' ninth victory of the season ended the Magic's three-game winning streak and put a damper on Orlando center Nikola Vucevic's selection as a reserve for the NBA All-Star Game. Vucevic finished

with 20 points and nine rebounds.

Warriors 114, Knicks 106: Stephen Curry welcomed fans back to Madison Square Garden with another big night in the building, scoring 37 points and leading Golden State past host New York.

Curry scored 26 points in the second half and added six rebounds and six assists. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 19 points and Andrew Wiggins had 16 for the Warriors.

Mavericks 110, Celtics 107: Luka Doncic hit a tiebreaking three-pointer with 0.1 seconds remaining — the Dallas sensation's second go-ahead three in the final minute — and the host Mavericks avoided a fourth-quarter collapse with a victory over Boston. The Celtics trailed by 11 points with three minutes to go.

Clippers 135, Wizards 116: Kawhi Leonard scored 32 points and host Los Angeles snapped Washington's season-high five-game winning streak.

Nuggets 111, Trail Blazers 106: Nikola Jokic had 41 points and Jamal Murray celebrated his 24th birthday by scoring 19 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter to lead host Denver over Portland.

Zion leads list of All-Star reserves

Associated Press

New Orleans forward Zion Williamson now can be called an NBA All-Star, and only three others in the game's 70-year history have gotten there at a younger age.

Williamson is one of four first-time All-Stars, all revealed Tuesday night when the league announced the reserves for the March 7 game in Atlanta. Joining him as fellow All-Star rookies: Boston's Jaylen Brown, New York's Julius Randle and Chicago's Zach LaVine.

Phoenix's Chris Paul is an All-Star for the 11th time, and Brooklyn's James Harden is one for the ninth consecutive year. The rest of the reserves include Philadelphia's Ben Simmons, Boston's Jayson Tatum and Orlando's Nikola Vucevic from the Eastern Conference, along with the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis, the Los Angeles Clippers' Paul George, Utah teammates Donovan Mitchell and Rudy Gobert, and Portland's Damian Lillard from the Western Conference.

"It's definitely an honor," Mitchell said.

Team captains LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and Kevin Durant of the Brooklyn Nets will draft their teams next week, with the rosters to be unveiled March 4. Starters, revealed last week, were chosen through a combination of voting by fans, NBA players and a media panel.

Reserves were chosen through voting by the league's head coaches.

"You do the best that you can," Orlando coach Steve Clifford said. "When you look at this year in the East there were a number of guys who are worthy of making it."

Atlanta's Trae Young, an All-Star last season, is not one this year despite averaging 26.9 points entering Tuesday, the most among anyone not selected. Miami forwards Bam Adebayo and Jimmy Butler didn't make the cut, nor did Phoenix's Devin Booker.

"Devin Booker is the most disrespected player in our league!!!! Simple as that," James tweeted. Utah's Mike Conley — someone the NBA-leading Jazz desperately

wanted to see get there for what would have been the first time — also missed out on the nod.

"For a guy like him who's done so many things in his career, on and off the floor, he deserves this," Mitchell said of Conley.

Not enough coaches agreed. There's still a chance for Conley, because Davis is likely to miss the game because of injury. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver will choose any injury replacements; a player who bows out will be replaced by someone else from his respective conference.

Williamson is 20, and only Kobe Bryant, James and Magic Johnson were younger in their All-Star debuts.

Randle has been the best player for the Knicks, who are trying to make the playoffs for the first time since 2013. Brown is averaging a career-best 25.5 points for Boston. And LaVine has been to All-Star weekend plenty of times before, winning two dunk contests and an MVP award at the Rising Stars game. But this will be his first time in the All-Star Game itself.

Lower cap makes tag less fun in NFL

Associated Press

NFL teams could begin playing tag on Tuesday, and it's no kids' game for the 32 teams.

Applying franchise and even transition tags to players can have major ramifications on a team's present and future. That was never more of a consideration than this year, with the salary cap decreasing for now by \$18 million. That's the first time the cap has gone down, which is due to lost revenues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has always gone up," says Bill Polian, a Pro Football Hall of Fame executive. "So have the expectations of the players and agents. This is the first time this is not happening. That is a sea change."

While this mini-tidal wave likely is only

for the upcoming season — the league's broadcast deals should be solidified soon and will bolster future caps — it certainly could have a significant impact.

Consider the Super Bowl champs. The Buccaneers don't relish losing the likes of linebackers Shaq Barrett and Lavonte David, wide receiver Chris Godwin, running back Leonard Fournette, tight end Rob Gronkowski or defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh.

Look for one of them, probably sackmaster Barrett or dynamic pass catcher Godwin, to get tagged for a one-year, guaranteed contract. Barrett was a franchise player in 2020 and would get about \$19 million if tagged again. Godwin would get nearly \$16 million.

Bucs coach Bruce Arians said after win-

ning the NFL title that the team would find ways to keep key players. It will take some financial imagination.

"I'm very, very confident," Arians said. "I have all the trust in the world in (GM Jason Licht) and what he will do. There will be dollars involved, but I think this group is so close that sometimes dollars don't matter. But we're going to do everything we can to get the dollars right, too."

The biggest name — if not the best player — who might wind up tagged is Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott. His ankle injury early last season muddled the picture in Dallas, but the team insists Prescott is the guy, even if it means a second straight franchise player designation — at nearly \$38 million.

Kapanen scores in OT to lift Pens

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kasperi Kapanen scored on a one-timer 1:43 into overtime, lifting the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 3-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night.

The Penguins won for the fourth time in five games against the Capitals this season, including two in overtime and one in a shootout. They also won for the eighth time this season after entering the third period tied or trailing and moved within a point of the second-place Caps in the Eastern Division.

"It's a big win for us, especially against these guys who are up at the top," Kapanen said. "It's a good feeling to be able to help the team win and see the smiles on your teammates' faces. It's been a while since I scored, so that's always a little bit of a confidence booster, too."

Kapanen and Jake Guentzel each had a goal and an assist for Pittsburgh, and Evgeni Malkin scored his

fifth goal of the season.

Conor Sheary and Richard Panik scored for Washington, which only led for 22 seconds all night. Viktor Vanecek made 34 saves.

Sabres 4, Devils 1: Victor Olofsson scored his sixth power-play goal, Linus Ullmark was magnificent in making 41 saves and visiting Buffalo beat slumping New Jersey.

Rasmus Asplund and Dylan Cozens broke the game open early in the third period with goals in a 1:34 span that send the Devils to their third straight loss. Cody Eakin scored an empty-net goal with less than a second to play.

Senators 5, Canadiens 4 (SO): Josh Norris scored the shootout winner to lift host Ottawa over Montreal.

Tim Stutzle also beat Montreal goalie Carey Price in the shootout. Ottawa's Brady Tkachuk opened with a miss and Senators netminder Matt Murray stopped Corey Perry and Jonathan Drouin.

Blackhawks 6, Blue

Jackets 5 (SO): Patrick Kane scored career goal No. 398 and collected three assists, helping visiting Chicago beat Columbus in a shootout.

Alex DeBrincat had the only successful attempt in the tiebreaker. Cam Atkinson, Patrik Laine and Jack Roslovic came up empty for the Jackets in the shootout against Kevin Lankinen.

Predators 2, Red Wings 0: Pekka Rinne made 24 saves in his first shutout of the season, leading visiting Nashville over Detroit.

Filip Forsberg and Eeli Tolvanen scored power-play goals in the third period as the Predators improved to 2-1 on a four-game trip.

Oilers 4, Canucks 3: Dominik Kahun scored twice and Leon Draisaitl had three assists to help visiting Edmonton rally past Vancouver.

Connor McDavid and Tyler Ennis also scored in the Oilers' fourth consecutive win. Mike Smith had 30 saves.

Canadiens fire Julien amid 3-game slump

Associated Press

MONTREAL — The struggling Montreal Canadiens fired head coach Claude Julien and associate coach Kirk Muller on Wednesday following a three-game skid.

Assistant coach Dominique Ducharme was appointed interim coach, and Alex Burrows was added to the Canadiens' coaching staff.

After a one-week break in their schedule, the Canadiens have lost three in a row. They've lost five of six and six of eight since a strong start.

A 5-4 shootout loss in Ottawa against the Senators on Tuesday night marked the end of the line for Julien, who returned for his second go-round as Montreal's coach midway through the 2016-17 season.

The Canadiens were battling the Toronto Maple Leafs for the top spot in the North Division earlier in the season but have since dropped into fourth.

Julien had to leave the team during the first round of the playoffs last year in Toronto when he had a stent installed in a coronary artery. Muller took over the head coaching duties and the Habs extended the top-seeded Philadelphia Flyers to six games before bowing out.