

Biden visits Kyiv, expresses solidarity

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — President Joe Biden paid an unannounced visit to Ukraine on Monday to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a defiant display of Western solidarity with a country still fighting what he called “a brutal and unjust war” days before the one-year anniversary of Russia’s invasion.

“One year later, Kyiv stands,” Biden declared after meeting Zelenskyy at Mariinsky Palace. Jamming his finger for emphasis on his podium, against a backdrop of three flags from each country, he continued: “And Ukraine stands. Democracy stands. The Americans stand with you, and the world stands with you.”

Biden spent more than five hours in the Ukrainian capital, consulting with Zelenskyy on next steps, honoring the country’s fallen soldiers and seeing U.S. Embassy staff in the besieged country.

The visit comes at a crucial moment: Biden is trying to keep allies unified in their support for Ukraine as the war is expected to intensify with spring offensives. Zelenskyy is pressing allies to speed up delivery of promised weapon systems and calling on the West to provide fighter jets — something that Biden has declined to do.

The U.S. president got a taste of the terror that Ukrainians have lived with for close to a year when air raid sirens howled just as he and Zelenskyy wrapped up a visit to the gold-domed St. Michael’s Cathedral.

Looking solemn, they continued unperturbed as they laid two wreaths and held a moment of silence at the Wall of Remembrance honoring Ukrainian soldiers killed since 2014, the year Russia annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula and Russian-backed fighting erupted in eastern Ukraine.

The White House would not

go into specifics, but national security adviser Jake Sullivan said that it notified Moscow of Biden’s visit to Kyiv shortly before his departure from Washington “for deconfliction purposes” in an effort to avoid any miscalculation that could bring the two nuclear-armed nations into direct conflict.

In Kyiv, Biden announced an additional half-billion dollars in U.S. assistance — on top of the more than \$50 billion already provided — for shells for howitzers, anti-tank missiles, air surveillance radars and other aid, but no new advanced weaponry.

Ukraine has also been pushing for battlefield systems that would allow its forces to strike Russian targets that have been moved back from frontline areas, out of the range of HIMARS missiles that have already been delivered. Zelenskyy said he and Biden spoke about “long-range weapons and the weapons that may still be supplied to Uk-

raine even though it wasn’t supplied before.” But he did not detail any new commitments.

“Our negotiations were very fruitful,” Zelenskyy added.

Biden’s mission with his visit to Kyiv, which comes before a scheduled trip to Warsaw, Poland, is to underscore that the United States is prepared to stick with Ukraine “as long as it takes” to repel Russian forces even as public opinion polling suggests that U.S. and allied support for providing weaponry and direct economic assistance has started to soften. For Zelenskyy, the symbolism of having the U.S. president stand side by side with him on Ukrainian land as the anniversary nears is no small thing as he prods allies to provide more advanced weaponry and step up delivery.

“I thought it was critical that there not be any doubt, none whatsoever, about U.S. support for Ukraine in the war,” Biden said.

N. Korean missiles fired after latest ICBM test

BY DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea launched at least two short-range ballistic missiles off its eastern coast Monday, a day after U.S. bombers carried out joint air drills over and near the Korean Peninsula.

Two missiles were fired from South Pyongan province at 7 a.m. and 7:11 a.m. toward the East Sea, or Sea of Japan, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a message to news agencies. The missiles flew an estimated 242 and 211 miles.

The “successive ballistic missile launches are significant provocations that harm peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula,” the Joint Chiefs said.

Japanese broadcaster NHK, citing unnamed government officials, said the missiles appeared to fall outside the country’s exclusive economic zone.

The launches came two days after the communist regime fired an intercontinental ballistic missile — its first missile test since Jan. 1 — which the state-run Korean Central News Agency said was organized “suddenly” without prior notice by leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea announced Saturday that the ICBM was a Hwasong-15 that flew at a maximum altitude of 3,584 miles and at a distance of 614 miles.

Kim Yo Jong, Kim’s sister and a senior party official, on Monday disparaged the South’s military and described the ICBM launch as a “surprise.”

“The frequency of using the Pacific as our firing range depends upon the U.S. [military] ...” she said in a statement released by KCNA.

The launch comes as South Korea’s Ministry of National Defense prepares to participate in a tabletop exercise in Washington, D.C., that includes a scenario addressing the North’s nuclear threat.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, after meeting his South Korean counterpart last month, told reporters that joint drills will be increased “going forward” and that “you can look to see deeper consultation between our two countries and leadership.”

Pyongyang has often criticized joint drills between the U.S. and South Korea and views them as a rehearsal of invasion.

Marines hone island-fighting skills on Okinawa

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa — The Marine Corps took on fellow Marines and Army Special Forces during a recent jungle warfare exercise to hone a key piece of the Marine commandant's island-fighting doctrine for the Pacific.

About 600 members of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines and 1st Battalion, 7th Marines took positions in Okinawa training areas starting Feb. 13 for the third annual Jungle Warfare Exercise, said Maj. Charlie Richardson, future operations officer for the 4th Marine Regiment. They stayed in the field until Friday, when the exercise concluded.

The Marines — with support from the Navy, Air Force and Army — were evaluated on how they maintained multiple communication channels, resupplied and sustained themselves in an aus-

tere environment, purified their water and cared for their casualties.

“With each of these exercises, we’re taking a facet of stand-in-force, [expeditionary advanced base operations] concepts, and we’re able to put that to the test,” Richardson said Tuesday.

The stand-in force is a key tenet of Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger's 3½-year-old service-wide redesign called Force Design 2030. It calls for inserting smaller, mobile units within range of enemy missiles to seize and hold key islands and deny enemy vessels access to the surrounding seas.

Richardson would not say that the adversary in this scenario is China, but the communist nation is identified as a threat in the 2022 National Defense Strategy.

Tuesday morning, about 200 Marines from 3rd Battalion

queued at Camp Schwab's Landing Zone Phoenix. They clambered in waves aboard CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters, some carrying portable Stinger and Javelin anti-tank missiles, others with Carl-Gustaf recoilless rifles.

The Super Stallions dropped the Marines onto the Northern Training Area, an 18,000-acre swath surrounding the service's Jungle Warfare Training Center, also known as Camp Gonsalves in Higashi. Their job was to disperse, occupy defensive positions, link up with a friendly force and prepare to contest the amphibious landing by other Marines and soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group out of Torii Station, Richardson said.

Portable generators and communications gear, both voice and data, filled the back of small, two-person utility vehicles. The all-terrain vehicles were loaded onto

the helicopters for insertion as well. Redundant communications systems allowed the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Jason Copeland, to oversee the action from a forward command-and-control node, a vehicle or a rear command post.

Elements of the battalion on Wednesday and Thursday participated in live-fire training at the Whiskey 174 Joint Okinawa Training Range Complex, an uninhabited island off the coast, 3rd Marine Division spokesman Lt. Col. Kurt Stahl said Thursday. They were backed by mortars and close air support.

Around noon Tuesday, a C-130 from the Air Force's 353rd Special Operations Wing landed approximately 50 Marines from the regimental headquarters on the Kadena Air Base flight line. They moved to an empty building and set up yet another command post.

Wreckage of WWII sub USS Albacore found near Japan

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**
Stars and Stripes

The long-lost wreckage of a U.S. Navy submarine credited with sinking nearly a dozen enemy ships during World War II before vanishing in late 1944 has been found off the coast of northern Japan, Navy officials announced Thursday.

The USS Albacore's wreckage was confirmed by the Naval History and Heritage Command's Underwater Archaeology Branch after it was located recently off the coast of Hokkaido, the Navy said in a news release. The NHHC used information and imagery provided by Tamaki Ura, a University of Tokyo professor who has specialized in developing autonomous underwater vehicles to confirm the identity of the submarine. The Albacore dis-

appeared while patrolling in the Pacific Ocean and had at least 85 sailors aboard.

“As the final resting place for [U.S.] sailors who gave their life in defense of our nation, we sincerely thank and congratulate Dr. Ura and his team for their efforts in locating the wreck of Albacore,” Samuel Cox, the director of the NHHC, said in a statement.

The Albacore was last heard from by the U.S. military on Oct. 28, 1944, according to naval records. It was believed sunk in a Nov. 7, 1944, explosion reported in Japanese military records, likely the result of hitting a mine. The location of the ship's wreckage appeared to confirm those details, according to the Navy.

The vessel was commissioned on June 1, 1942, and was credited with sinking at least 10 ships.

USS Barry wraps up nearly 7 years in Western Pacific

By **ALEX WILSON**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The guided-missile destroyer USS Barry steamed out of Tokyo Bay on Friday, beginning a 17-day journey to the U.S. and concluding nearly seven years in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Barry will steam toward its new homeport, Naval Station Everett, Wash., where it's scheduled for routine maintenance, the U.S. 7th Fleet said in a Friday news release.

“Barry and her crew stood the watch in the Western Pacific for nearly seven years,” said Capt. Walt Mainor, commander of Destroyer Squadron 15 and Carrier Task Force 71. “She leaves with an incredible legacy of being the Navy's oldest destroyer who still accomplished the mission. She

held the line and provided incredible firepower to our team without fail.”

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer arrived in Japan in March 2016 and routinely joined the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike group on its patrols. The Barry participated in seven multinational exercises, visited 12 foreign ports and sailed nearly 3.8 million miles during its time in the Indo-Pacific, according to the news release.

“USS Barry participated in numerous events that contributed to the security and stability of the vital Indo-Pacific region and sets a high standard for destroyer Sailors left to carry on the mission in Japan,” 7th Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Kristina Wiedemann told Stars and Stripes in an email.

The Barry is replaced by the USS Shoup.

High court weighs internet liability protection

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Islamic State gunmen killed American college student Nohemi Gonzalez as she sat with friends in a Paris bistro in 2015, one of several attacks on a Friday night in the French capital that left 130 people dead.

Her family's lawsuit claiming YouTube's recommendations helped the Islamic State group's recruitment is at the center of a closely watched Supreme Court case being argued Tuesday about how broadly a law written in 1996 shields tech companies from liability. The law, known as Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, is credited with helping create today's internet.

A related case, set for arguments Wednesday, involves a terrorist attack at a nightclub in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2017 that killed

39 people and prompted a suit against Twitter, Facebook and Google, which owns YouTube.

The tech industry is facing criticism from the left for not doing enough to remove harmful content from the internet and from the right for censoring conservative speech. Now, the high court is poised to take its first hard look at online legal protections.

A win for Gonzalez's family could wreak havoc on the internet, Google and its many allies have said. Yelp, Reddit, Microsoft, Craigslist, Twitter and Facebook are among the companies warning that searches for jobs, restaurants and merchandise could be restricted if those social media platforms had to worry about being sued over the recommendations they provide and their users want.

"Section 230 underpins a lot of

aspects of the open internet," said Neal Mohan, who was just named senior vice president and head of YouTube.

Gonzalez's family, partially backed by the Biden administration, has argued that lower courts' industry-friendly interpretation of the law has made it too difficult to hold Big Tech companies accountable. Freed from the prospect of being sued, companies have no incentive to act responsibly, critics have said.

They are urging the court to say that companies can be sued in some instances.

Beatriz Gonzalez, Nohemi's mother, said she barely uses the internet, but hopes the case results in it becoming harder for extremist groups to access social media.

"I don't know much about social media or these ISIS organiza-

tions. I don't know nothing about politics. But what I know is that my daughter is not going to vanish just like that," Gonzalez said in an interview with The Associated Press from her home in Roswell, N.M.

Her daughter was a 23-year-old senior at California State University, Long Beach, who was spending a semester in Paris studying industrial design. Her last communication with her mother was a mundane exchange about money via Facebook, two days before the attacks, Gonzalez said.

The legal arguments have nothing to do with what happened in Paris. Instead, they turn on the reading of a law that was enacted "at the dawn of the dot-com era," as Justice Clarence Thomas, a critic of broad legal immunity, wrote in 2020.

At least 1 dead, 4 hurt in New Orleans shooting

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A shooting during a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans killed one person, wounded four and sent panicked families running for cover, police said Monday.

One suspect was taken into custody shortly after the shooting Sunday night, the New Orleans Police Department said.

The victims were three males and two fe-

males, including one child, the department said. Police said all five were taken to the hospital, where one of the male victims was pronounced dead. The four other victims were hospitalized but stable Monday.

The shooting happened during the Krewe of Bacchus parade, WWL-TV reported, in a neighborhood outside the tourist-packed French Quarter.

The route was filled with families with young children enjoying the parade when they heard gunshots, witnesses told the station. Chaos ensued as people ran, took cover and tried to protect their children.

Two guns were recovered, Chief Deputy Superintendent Hans Ganthier said. The parade was temporarily halted after the shooting.

Buttigieg: Rail firm must 'make residents whole'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg sent a letter Sunday to the CEO of Norfolk Southern, warning that the freight rail company must "demonstrate unequivocal support for the people" of East Palestine, Ohio, and surrounding areas after a fiery train derailment led to the release of chemicals and residents expressing concerns about their health.

"Norfolk Southern must live up to its commitment to make residents whole — and must also live

up to its obligation to do whatever it takes to stop putting communities such as East Palestine at risk," Buttigieg wrote. "This is the right time for Norfolk Southern to take a leadership position within the rail industry, shifting to a posture that focuses on supporting, not thwarting, efforts to raise the standard of U.S. rail safety regulation."

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said Friday that the chemicals that spilled into the Ohio River are no longer a risk, even as people in the community say they have con-

stant headaches and irritated eyes.

The state plans to open a medical clinic in the village of 4,700 to analyze their symptoms, despite repeated statements that air and water testing has shown no signs of contaminants.

Still, uncertainty persists about the consequences of a derailment that occurred roughly two weeks ago.

Peter DeCarlo, a professor of environmental health and engineering at Johns Hopkins University, told ABC News on Sun-

day that more testing is needed to determine which chemicals are present.

"We just don't have the information we need to understand what chemicals may be present," DeCarlo said. "We know it started as vinyl chloride, but as soon as you burn that all bets are off. You have a lot of chemical byproducts that can happen from a combustion process like that."

Asked if he would move back to East Palestine if he were already living there, DeCarlo said: "I have two little boys. I would not."

Congressional delegation visits Taiwan

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A delegation of U.S. lawmakers met with the head of Taiwan's legislature on Monday as part of a five-day visit to the self-ruled island that comes as U.S.-China relations remain tense after weeks of trading accusations over a spy balloon.

The delegation that arrived Sunday includes Reps. Ro Khanna, of California; Tony Gonzales, of Texas; Jake Auchincloss, of Massachusetts; and Jonathan Jackson, of Illinois.

They are expected to meet President Tsai Ing-wen as well as business people. On Monday, they held talks with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.'s founder Morris Chang, considered the father of the island's chip industry.

Khanna, a Democrat who represents Silicon Valley, said he was in Taiwan to learn about the island's role in the semiconductor industry.

Khanna and Auchincloss are both members of the new House select committee fo-

cused on competition with China.

He addressed the implicit threat facing their visit, as China opposes any form of exchange between Taiwan and foreign governments.

China claims the island as part of its territory to be united by force if necessary, and has stepped up military and diplomatic harassment of Taiwan.

"Our efforts to come here are in no way provocative of China, but consistent with the president's foreign policy that recognizes the importance of the relationship like Taiwan, while still seeking ultimately, peace in the region," Khanna said.

You Si-kun, head of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan, used the speech to hit back at Wang Yi, the Chinese Communist Party's most senior foreign policy official, who said over the weekend at the Munich Security Conference that Taiwan "has never been a country and it will not be a country in the future."

"China ignores historical fact and claims to have sovereignty over Taiwan. Taiwan has already become an independent sover-

eign nation. ... Taiwan has never been ruled by the People's Republic of China for a single day," You said.

The delegation's visit follows a sensitive trip made by a senior Pentagon official on Friday, reported by the Financial Times.

A Pentagon spokesperson did not comment on the visit by Michael Chase, deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, repeating that "our commitment to Taiwan is rock-solid and contributes to the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and within the region." Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it had no information about any such visit.

Tensions between the U.S. and China again ratcheted up last month after Washington accused Beijing of sending a spy balloon that was shot down over the American East Coast, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken canceled a trip to Beijing. Blinken also said over the weekend that the United States was concerned that China would provide weapons to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

Police find body in case that led to online circus

Associated Press

LONDON — Police searching for a woman who vanished three weeks ago in northwest England found a body in a river close to where she was last seen, the Lancashire Constabulary said Sunday. Formal identification of the body is pending.

The search for Nicola Bulley, 45, has riveted Britain since she went missing on Jan. 27 while walking her dog along the River Wyre. It also generated a circus of sorts in the tiny community of St Michael's on Wyre as speculation on social media spurred unofficial searches and attracted amateur sleuths.

Would-be rescuers broke into derelict buildings despite police assurances that exhaustive searches were taking place. Some launched nighttime patrols, challenging locals who came face-to-face with strangers rattling their gates and

prowling through their front gardens.

Confidence in the police plummeted amid criticism that police had botched the search for Bulley, a mortgage adviser who was last seen shortly after taking her daughters, ages 6 and 9, to school on a Friday morning.

The Lancashire police department, which dedicated 40 detectives to the investigation, came under increasing criticism the longer the case went unsolved. In an apparent effort to respond, the force said Bulley was classified as a "high-risk" missing person "based on a number of specific vulnerabilities." It later revealed she had struggled with alcohol and perimenopause before she vanished. The disclosure prompted further backlash, with senior members of the government decrying the release of such personal information.

Japanese bid farewell to panda heading to China

Associated Press

TOKYO — Thousands of Japanese fans, some wiping away tears, bid farewell to a beloved Japanese-born giant panda that made her final public appearance Sunday before flying to her home country, China.

The panda fans gathered at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo for one last look at Xiang Xiang, the park's idol since her birth in June 2017.

Sunday's viewing was limited to 2,600 lucky ones who won their tickets in an extremely competitive lottery.

But many others who didn't win came anyway to say their goodbyes from outside of the panda house.

Though she was born and grew up at the Tokyo zoo, Xiang Xiang, whose parents Ri Ri and Shin Shin are on loan from China, must return to that country.

China sends pandas abroad as a sign of goodwill but maintains

ownership over the animals and any cubs they produce. The animals are native to southwestern China and are an unofficial national mascot.

Divided into groups of about 10, the visitors were given only a few minutes to quietly say goodbye to Xiang Xiang as she nonchalantly nibbled on bamboo sticks. Viewers held up their cellphones and cameras to capture her every move.

"I wish Japanese-born pandas could stay in Japan," said Takamichi Masui, an auto parts maker who traveled from Mie, in central Japan. "So many people who came today and fans are sad to see her go. When I saw (Xiang Xiang), I got teary. I wish Xiang Xiang could stay, though I understand it's difficult."

He said he worries if Xiang Xiang can smoothly adapt to her new life in China.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Escaped zoo owl can remain in wilds of NYC

NY NEW YORK — For two weeks, an owl that escaped from New York's Central Park Zoo has flown from treetop to treetop, eluding capture and amassing legions of fans worried about its ability to survive alone in the big city.

But it appears Flaco, a Eurasian eagle-owl, has regained his killer instincts and is becoming an old hand at swooping down from his lofty perch to feed on the park's bounty of rats.

As a result, Zoo officials announced that they were suspending recovery operations, at least for now, but will keep a close eye on the owl's health.

Officials acknowledged that recovering Flaco had proven difficult, especially "since he has been very successful at hunting and consuming the abundant prey in the park."

Endangered penguin chicks hatch at aquarium

AZ SCOTTSDALE — An Arizona aquarium is celebrating the hatching of three endangered African penguin chicks, saying the tiny additions are genetically valuable as zoos and aquariums around the world work to ensure the species' survival through breeding programs and conservation efforts.

Officials at OdySea Aquarium made the announcement Friday, posting video of the fuzzy birds on social media. They hatched a few weeks ago and will remain behind the scenes with their parents until they're ready for a public appearance.

The three chicks have yet to

be named, and their sexes have not yet been determined. For now, they're known by their numbers: 42, 43 and 44.

Nuclear reactors delayed again at cost of \$200M

GA ATLANTA — Georgia Power Co. has again delayed the projected startup for two new units at its Vogtle nuclear power plant near Augusta, saying its share of the costs will rise by an additional \$200 million.

Southern Co., the utility's Atlanta-based parent, announced the delays and higher costs on Thursday as it announced its yearly corporate earnings for 2022.

Georgia Power says Unit 3 could now begin commercial operation in May or June, pushing back from the most recent deadline of the end of April. The company also said Unit 4 will begin commercial operation sometime between this November and March 2024. The company previously promised commercial operation of Unit 4 by the end of 2023. When complete, the two units will be the first entirely new U.S. reactors in decades.

Bill would halt libraries' display of sexual content

ND BISMARCK — Dual efforts to prohibit public libraries from displaying "explicit sexual material" passed the Senate and House floors in North Dakota on Thursday after undergoing debate among lawmakers in each chamber.

Supporters said the bills would reduce children's exposure to pornography, while op-

ponents said it would limit children's access to scientific and educational content on the human body.

The Senate bill would charge a person with a class B misdemeanor — up to 30 days of imprisonment and a fine of \$1,500 — for willfully displaying "objectionable materials" in places that minors visit.

Objectionable materials include content that shows or describes sexual activity, human genitals after puberty, sadomasochistic abuse and more. The bill would apply to schools and libraries, but not to colleges, universities, museums or art galleries.

Forest Service issues kill order for feral cows

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A helicopter with a shooter will fly over a portion of the vast Gila Wilderness in southwestern New Mexico this week, searching for feral cows to kill.

U.S. Forest Service managers approved the plan Thursday to protect sensitive spots in the nation's first designated wilderness area. The move sets the stage for legal challenges over how to handle unbranded livestock and other stray cows as drought deepens in the West.

The Gila National Forest issued the decision amid pressure from environmental groups who raised concerns about nearly 150 cattle whose hooves and mouths are damaging streams and rivers.

Ranchers, meanwhile, have criticized the plan to shoot cows from a helicopter as animal cruelty. They said the action violates federal regulations and

will be problematic when carcasses are left to rot.

A section of the Gila Wilderness will be closed to the public starting Monday. A helicopter will launch Thursday, with shooters spending four days looking for feral cattle in rugged areas that include the Gila River.

Nurse pleads not guilty to cutting off man's foot

WI ELLSWORTH — A western Wisconsin nurse accused of amputating a hospice patient's frostbitten foot without his consent and without doctor's orders pleaded not guilty Thursday.

A lawyer for 38-year-old Mary K. Brown, of Durand, Wis., entered pleas of not guilty for her to charges of mayhem, physical abuse of an elderly person and intentionally abusing a patient, causing great bodily harm, WEAU-TV and WQOW-TV reported.

After she cut off the man's right foot on May 27, Brown told her colleagues that she wanted to display it at her family's taxidermy shop with a sign that said: "Wear your boots kids," according to charges filed in Pierce County.

The amputation happened May 27, and within about a week, the 62-year-old man was dead. A criminal complaint gave no indication the amputation was a factor in his death.

Brown is not allowed to work in any capacity as a caregiver, whether employed or as a volunteer, online court records state. She no longer works at Spring Valley Health and Rehab Center.

— From wire reports

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Stenhouse wins longest Daytona 500 in history

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Ricky Stenhouse Jr. has had a roller coaster career in which he had to fight to keep a job, lost his seat at a NASCAR powerhouse team and opened his 14th season mired in a five-year losing streak.

To say this Daytona 500 was a milestone race was an understatement — for Stenhouse and for NASCAR.

Stenhouse won the Daytona 500 in double overtime and under caution Sunday night in the longest running of “The Great American Race.” The two overtimes pushed the 65th running of the race to a record 212 laps — a dozen laps beyond the scheduled distance and a whopping 530 miles. It provided anxious moments before a landmark celebration: the first Daytona 500-winning team co-owned by a Black man and a woman.

Stenhouse’s win for JTG Daugherty Racing was the third of his career. JTG is the first single-car team to win the Daytona 500 since The Wood Brothers Racing did it with Trevor Bayne in 2011.

The team is owned by Tad and Jodi Geschickter, along with former NBA player Brad Daugherty.

Daugherty, who left the track earlier Sunday with an eye irritation, is the first Black car owner to win the race, and Jodi Geschickter joined Teresa Earnhardt as female car owners to win the Daytona 500. Earnhardt ran

Dale Earnhardt Inc. when Michael Waltrip and Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Daytona 500 in 2003 and 2004.

To get to victory lane Sunday, JTG stuck with Stenhouse and even reunited him this season with the crew chief who led him to a pair of Xfinity Series titles years ago.

Mike Kelly’s biggest task was convincing Stenhouse that he can indeed win races. So ahead of the Daytona 500, he taped a note inside the Chevrolet. The message? The team believes in the driver.

“When I woke up today I told myself that I was going to do something that I used to do for Ricky when we had tough days,” Kelly said. “I just wrote him a note that only he would see. It was on top of the roll bar in front of him, and it just said, ‘We believe.’ That’s been our motto the whole offseason — that we believe.

“We’re trying to get people to believe in Ricky Stenhouse Jr. again.”

Stenhouse’s only other victories came in 2017, at Talladega and the summer race at Daytona.

Now, the 35-year-old from Olive Branch, Miss., has a repeat win at Daytona in NASCAR’s biggest race of the season.

“I think this whole offseason Mike just preached how much we all believed in each other. They left me a note in the car that said they believe in me and to go get the job done,” Stenhouse said. “Man, this is unbelievable. This was the site of my last win back in 2017.

We’ve worked really hard. We had a couple shots last year to get a win and fell short.

“It was a tough season, but man, we got it done, Daytona 500.”

Kyle Larson was collected in the race-ending crash after he jumped out of line too early in an attempt to win. His disappointment was alleviated by Stenhouse’s victory.

“Happy that Ricky won. I’m super happy. That’s all I could think about after I crashed, waiting to hear that he won,” Larson said. “He’s one of my best friends, so I was like yelling into my helmet when I helped push him to the lead there. I was hoping it was going to stay green so it would have been me or him win.

“I can’t wait to go get changed and go give him a big hug because he is one of my great buddies.”

Reigning Cup champion Joey Logano finished second in a Ford for Team Penske, which won the race last year with Austin Cindric.

“Second is the worst, man,” Logano said. “Congratulations to Ricky. There’s nothing like winning the Daytona 500. That’s why it stings so much finishing second.”

Christopher Bell was third in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing and followed by Chris Buescher in a Ford for RFK Racing and pole sitter Alex Bowman of Hendrick Motorsports in a Chevrolet. It marked the first time the pole sitter has finished in the top five since Bill Elliott in 2001.

Tatum scores record 55 points in NBA All-Star Game

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Jayson Tatum put on a record-setting show, and made Giannis Antetokounmpo look like a genius.

Tatum scored an All-Star Game-record 55 points on his way to winning MVP honors, and Team Giannis ended LeBron James’ hold on All-Star captain supremacy by beating Team LeBron 184-175 in the NBA’s annual showcase exhibition on Sunday night.

Tatum had 27 points in the third quarter, another All-Star Game record for any period. He was the first pick by Antetokounmpo in the starters’ portion of the All-Star draft, and in the end, that pick proved to be the right one.

And the MVP award Tatum was given is named for Kobe Bryant, one of his heroes.

“It means the world,” Tatum said. “You think of all the legends and great players that have played this game, and in all honesty, records are made to be broken. I’ll hold it for as long as I can, but I’m certain someone will come along in a couple years and try to break it.”

Tatum broke Anthony Davis’ All-Star record of 52 points. He was 22-for-31 from the floor, plus had 10 rebounds and six assists.

It was James’ first loss in six times as captain. Antetokounmpo improved to 1-2 in his All-Star captaincies, and became the first captain to hoist a new trophy presented to the winners of the All-

Star Game.

“Winner, winner, chicken dinner,” Antetokounmpo said.

Later, with a more serious tone, Antetokounmpo said he had a reason for choosing Tatum.

“I knew he would take it serious. It was a no-brainer,” he said.

Donovan Mitchell added 40 for Team Giannis, which got 26 points from Damian Lillard — including the game-winner to push his team past the target score.

Jaylen Brown scored 35 points and had 14 rebounds for Team LeBron, while Kyrie Irving had 32 points and 15 assists and Joel Embiid finished with 32 points.

Brown and Tatum — Boston teammates — were reveling in a back-and-forth duel during a stretch of the second half.

“It was a normal day for us,” Tatum said. “Just millions of people watching.”

Lillard, the winner of the three-point contest on All-Star Saturday Night, made eight threes — including a half-court pullup in the third quarter.

“That was the worst basketball game I’ve ever seen,” Team LeBron coach Michael Malone said, clearly poking fun at the defense-optional event.

Winning coach Joe Mazzulla of Team Giannis said he had a very simple strategy.

“Stay out of the way, enjoy it, have fun, allow the guys to just be themselves,” Mazzulla said. “I think it’s important, especially in this league, that guys are just able to be themselves.”

Edey's 21st double-double leads Purdue

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Zach Edey had 26 points and 11 rebounds for his 21st double-double this season to lead No. 3 Purdue past Ohio State 82-55 on Sunday.

Trey Kaufman-Renn scored 11 points and David Jenkins Jr. added nine points for the Boilermakers (24-4, 13-4 Big Ten). Mason Gillis contributed seven points and 10 rebounds for Purdue, which had a 44-21 rebounding advantage.

"It's not just Edey, their (power forwards) really go to the glass," said Ohio State coach Chris Holtmann, whose team lost its eighth consecutive game. "We had a couple missed block-outs. But we got shoved underneath a lot. They're always active. They're the third-ranked offensive rebounding team in the country. They're an elite offensive rebounding team."

The Boilermakers were motivated after being outrebounded 35-23 in host Maryland's 68-

54 victory on Thursday. That was just the third time Purdue was outrebounded this season.

Gillis said the team worked on more mental reps than physical reps to regain its rebounding form.

"It's more about getting our minds right and prepared for the game," he said.

Purdue coach Matt Painter said his team did a good job being quick to the basketball.

"In our game at Ohio State, I don't think we did as good a job on our box-outs," Painter said. "I thought we did a pretty good job there. Being able to rebound someone by 23 is pretty impressive."

Brice Sensabaugh led the Buckeyes (11-16, 3-13) with 20 points.

No. 2 Houston 72, Memphis 64: J'Wan Roberts had a career-high 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Marcus Sasser also scored 20 points as the host Cougars won their seven straight game.

Jamal Shead added 10 points for Houston (25-2, 13-1 American Athletic Conference). The Cougars shot 45% but struggled from deep, going 3-for-17 on three-pointers.

Elijah McCadden had 20 points and six rebounds, DeAndre Williams added 18 points and Damaris Franklin scored 10 for Memphis (20-7, 10-4). The Tigers shot 44%, including 6-for-15 on three-pointers.

No. 23 North Carolina State 77, North Carolina 69: Jarkel Joiner took over during a critical second-half stretch, matching his season high with 29 points to lead the host Wolfpack past the rival Tar Heels.

Joiner had 20 of his points after the break. That included an impressive flurry in a tight game that finally gave N.C. State (21-7, 11-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) some breathing room.

Caleb Love scored 23 points to lead North Carolina (16-11, 8-8), which continued a February

crash that has put its NCAA Tournament chances in growing jeopardy. The Tar Heels lost for the fifth time in six games this month after shooting just 35.5%, a performance that a dominating rebounding effort (48-34) couldn't offset.

Northwestern 80, Iowa 60: Boo Buie finished with 23 points and eight assists and the host Wildcats cruised to a wire-to-wire victory over the Hawkeyes to up their winning streak to five.

Buie made six of 11 shots from the floor with three three-pointers and all eight of his free throws for Northwestern (20-7, 11-5 Big Ten Conference). Ty Berry hit three three-pointers and scored 16. Brooks Barnhizer came off the bench to score 12 and grab a team-high seven rebounds.

Kris Murray finished with 14 points and five rebounds to pace Iowa (17-10, 9-7). Tony Perkins scored 11 and Filip Rebraca pitched in with 10 points and seven boards.

Rahm holds on to win at Riviera, solidifies No. 1 rank

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jon Rahm is playing at such a high level he felt he didn't need the Official World Golf Ranking to tell him he was the No. 1 player in golf.

Rahm earned another trophy Sunday in the Genesis Invitational, his fifth in his last nine tournaments worldwide, and this was a big one. He won on a course like Riviera, at a tournament hosted by Tiger Woods and after a tense battle with Max Homa that required Rahm's best golf.

And now he's officially No. 1.

"I don't need a ranking to validate anything," Rahm said. "Having the best season of my life, and hopefully, I can keep it going."

In a back-and-forth final round — Rahm went from a

three-shot lead to a one-shot deficit at one point — the Spaniard pulled away with a pivotal recovery for par, a 45-foot birdie putt and an 8-iron to 2 feet on the par-3 16th.

That carried him to a 2-under 69 and a two-shot victory over Homa (68), with Patrick Cantlay (67) another shot behind.

"I wanted to push him. He is a spectacular golfer," said Homa, who got choked up twice speaking to the media because of how much his hometown event means to him. "I've known him since college and he's been like this since then — No. 1 amateur in the world, No. 1 player in the world, all the accolades.

"I wanted to make him beat me and I think I did that."

Woods could claim a small consolation. He finished a 72-

hole event for the first time since the Masters last April, though he was quick to joke, "Unfortunately, my streak continues." He now has played 12 times as a pro at Riviera without winning.

Under the circumstances, this wasn't a bad week.

Woods played only three times last year because of a fused back and battered legs from surgeries (left) and a car crash (right). This was a rare appearance, and Woods doesn't know if he'll play again before the Masters.

He still had the largest gallery to the end, thousands of fans packed on the hill over the 18th green to watch him close out with a par in that familiar red shirt under a black vest.

And then the spectators turned their attention to a terrif-

ic duel between Rahm and Homa that wasn't really decided until Homa tried to chip in for birdie on the 18th and fell to his knees when the ball banged off the pin.

Rahm has not finished out of the top 10 in his last 10 tournaments. It was his third win in five starts on the PGA Tour this year, and he already has earned more than \$9 million the last two months.

This wasn't as easy as it looked at the end, when all he had to do was tap in for par and scoop up his two young sons.

"That was a tough week and a tough Sunday," Rahm said.

He finished at 17-under 267 and earned \$3.6 million from the \$20 million purse, the second straight elevated event on the PGA Tour.

Rantanen lifts Avs past Oilers in OT

Associated Press

DENVER — Mikko Rantanen scored with 21 seconds remaining in overtime, and the Colorado Avalanche rallied to beat the Edmonton Oilers 6-5 on Sunday.

J.T. Compher had a goal and three assists, Nathan MacKinnon had a goal and an assist and Artturi Lehkonen, Valeri Nichushkin and Logan O'Connor added goals for Colorado, which won its third straight. Alexandar Georgiev stopped 35 shots.

The Avalanche were playing for the second consecutive day; they won at St. Louis 4-1 on Saturday afternoon.

"It was ugly game, on our side of it anyway," Colorado coach Jared Bednar said. "We had a bunch of guys that looked really tired and mentally tired."

After the Oilers iced the puck to set up a faceoff in their zone, Rantanen made them pay with his 36th goal of the season.

Edmonton lost its third straight game after regulation

and its fourth in a row overall. The Oilers, who haven't won in Denver since Dec. 11, 2018, have blown three-goal leads in consecutive games and have dropped six straight to the Avalanche.

Warren Foegele scored twice, Mattias Janmark had a goal and an assist and Tyson Barrie and Leon Draisaitl also scored for the Oilers. Jack Campbell had 36 saves.

Coyotes 3, Blue Jackets 2 (OT): Barrett Hayton scored in overtime, Connor Ingram stopped two breakaways in the closing seconds and host Arizona extended its points streak to nine games with a win over Columbus.

Arizona jumped out to an early lead on first-period goals by Travis Boyd and Nick Schmaltz. The Coyotes have their longest points (5-0-4) streak since a 12-game run in 2012.

The last-place Blue Jackets picked up the pressure in the third period and Patrick Laine

tied the game on a power play with five minutes left.

Devils 4, Jets 2: Fabian Zetterlund and Miles Wood scored in a two-minute span of the third period and Mackenzie Blackwood made 23 saves as host New Jersey rallied past Winnipeg.

The Jets led 2-1 heading into the third period on the strength of first-period goals by Cole Perfetti and Neal Pionk. The Devils rallied with three goals in the third and extended their home winning streak to six games.

Dawson Mercer scored twice for the Devils, including an empty-netter.

Wild 4, Predators 3: Ryan Hartman scored on a rebound to put host Minnesota ahead with 21 seconds left, just 26 seconds after Nino Niederreiter tied the game for Nashville.

Kirill Kaprizov scored twice and Brandon Duhaime added a goal for Minnesota, which won in regulation for the first time in 13 games since Jan. 17.

Tommy Novak and Roman Josi scored for Nashville and assisted on Niederreiter's goal. Filip Gustavsson, who stopped 23 shots, is 9-1-1 in his last 11 home starts.

Senators 7, Blues 2: Tim Stutzle and Brady Tkachuk had three-point games to lead host Ottawa past St. Louis.

Stutzle had two goals and an assist and extended his point streak to four games (four goals, six assists). Tkachuk extended his career-best point streak to seven games (5 goals, 6 assists) with a goal and two assists.

Blackhawks 5, Maple Leafs 3: Patrick Kane had his ninth career regular-season hat trick and rookie Cole Guttman scored the winner as host Chicago topped Toronto and climbed out of last place in the NHL.

Max Domi had a goal and three assists for the Blackhawks, who won their second straight following a three-game losing streak.

Swanson scores again as US women shut out Japan

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Malory Swanson is making the most of every opportunity for the United States, and her timing couldn't be better ahead of the Women's World Cup later this year.

Swanson scored in the 45th minute, and the United States shut out Japan 1-0 Sunday to remain undefeated in the SheBelieves Cup.

"Honestly, I think this off-season I kind of just reevaluated my game," Swanson said. "And I think one thing was that I wasn't finishing easy chances, all of last calendar year, so I just wanted to come into this year and just be able to finish easy chances and just put them away."

She did just that when she got the ball on a pass from Alex Morgan and outraced the defender before beating goalkeeper Ayaka Yamashita from the center of the box with a shot off her right foot to the far corner.

U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said Swanson's speed certainly makes his life easier. He also made clear Swanson showed much more on her goal, controlling the ball with two touches in the air at full speed.

"That's technicality," Andonovski said. "I mean that's a very skillful player. And then at the end, with the pressure on the back ... when she finished that goal, it looked like the game stopped for her so she can finish, do her final touch."

The forward scored both

goals in Thursday night's win over Canada. She now has 31 goals in her national team career.

Swanson also set a career-high scoring in her fifth straight international game dating back to Nov. 13 after not making the cut for the 2021 Olympics. That tied the longest scoring streak by a U.S. women's player since Christen Press had a six-game scoring streak between November 2019 and February 2020.

"I just want to win and I think that we're going into a World Cup and the intensity just needs to be picked up," Swanson said. "Honestly, just being able to be more of a leader on this team, and have people see that spark and see that fire and see that 'Let's go!' kind of thing."

Goalkeeper Casey Murphy preserved the shutout with a couple of big saves, her first off a shot by Yui Hasegawa's right foot right in front of the box in the 81st minute. Murphy made another big save early in the four minutes of stoppage time, smothering a left-footed shot by Jun Endo.

"Those are the moments you train for, right, is those big saves in the last 10 to 15 minutes," Murphy said. "So it was just staying in the game and making sure that I was doing whatever it took to keep the ball out of the back of the net."

The Americans will be looking for their fourth straight win in this annual event Wednesday night in Texas when they play Brazil.