

German, Italian troops leave Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The last German and Italian military troops left Afghanistan and arrived home Wednesday, ending the war for two of the NATO coalition's largest contributors as the withdrawal of foreign forces accelerates.

"A historic chapter is coming to an end," German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said in a statement. She thanked the more than 150,000 troops who served in the country since 2002 and said that the nation's military had "proved itself in battle."

Germany most recently had the second largest contribution to the NATO mission after the United States. It focused on northern Afghanistan and last had bases in Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul. Fifty-nine German troops died during the nearly 20 years of war, The Associated Press reported.

Three transport aircraft landed at Wunstorf air base in northern Germany on Wednesday afternoon, the AP reported. The troops, wearing masks, lined up on the

tarmac for a brief ceremony, but the military dispensed with a bigger reception because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have worked long and hard to stand here today," said Brig. Gen. Ansgar Meyer, the last commander of the German contingent, as quoted by the AP. "As your commander, I can say for you: 'Mission accomplished.' You have fulfilled your task."

At the military airport in Pisa, Italy, Italian Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini welcomed the final troops back from Italy's base in Herat. He paid tribute to the 53 Italians who died, and 723 who were injured over the past two decades.

Forces from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden have also left Afghanistan, news reports over the past couple of weeks said. The U.S. and a few other nations remain out of the approximately 36 that once contributed troops to the fight against the Taliban, al-Qaida and other militant groups.

The U.S. military is finalizing its exit from the country by Sept. 11, though most troops are expected to leave well before that date.

Bagram Airfield, once the largest U.S. base in Afghanistan, is expected to close in the coming days, Afghan officials said.

The troop withdrawals come amid increasing violence in Afghanistan, which has seen numerous districts fall to the Taliban in recent weeks.

Leaving Afghanistan without securing peace has led to mixed feelings among defense officials in countries like the Netherlands, which partnered with the U.S. over the last 20 years.

"A great deal has been achieved, but we also need to be realistic: the results are not irreversible," Dutch Defense Minister Ank Bijleveld-Schouten said at a ceremony last week.

Some 650 U.S. troops could remain in the country after the withdrawal to protect the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

Additional U.S. troops could remain until September to ensure the safety of Kabul's international airport. In the longer term, NATO member Turkey could take over handling security for the airport, The New York Times reported Tuesday.

Japan is reportedly mulling empty stands at Olympics

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Japanese officials are mulling whether to prolong emergency COVID-19 mitigation measures that would interfere with this month's Tokyo Olympics, as infections begin to surge again in the country's metropolitan areas.

The Japanese government is considering an extension of Tokyo's quasi-state of emergency by "two to four weeks," which would clash with the start of the games on July 23, Bloomberg reported Tuesday evening, citing Japan's Mainichi newspaper.

Such a declaration would likely mean Olympic events without spectators.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military in Japan reported no new COVID-19 infections on Wednesday.

Japan had 1,765 new cases Wednesday, 692 more than the previous day and 13 less

than the same day last week, according to public broadcaster NHK and the World Health Organization. There were 38 deaths nationwide.

The government has counted more than 795,000 COVID-19 infections during the pandemic and 14,500 deaths, the WHO said.

Tokyo on Wednesday reported another 714 cases, 238 more than the previous day and 95 more than the same day last week, according to NHK, which cited metropolitan government data. There were three deaths.

Okinawa prefecture, home to most U.S. troops in Japan, reported another 67 new infections and two deaths Wednesday, 17 less than the previous day and 29 less than the same day last week, according to NHK.

Okinawa remains in a state of emergency until July 11.

Japan initially lagged other developed nations in inoculating its population but has been offering vaccines in recent weeks at

mass state-run clinics.

Despite these efforts, which have largely focused on the elderly, new cases have begun to trend upward in recent weeks.

The seven-day average rose to 495 on Tuesday from 406 a week prior, according to data presented by NHK. Japan's government has already scaled back the torch relay.

A quasi-state of emergency, which limits alcohol sales, restaurant hours and crowd sizes, is in effect until July 11 for a handful of prefectures, including Tokyo and Osaka.

The government set a limit of 10,000 people, or 50% of a venue's capacity, at Olympic events should the quasi-state of emergency be lifted, despite warnings from infectious disease experts.

Japanese officials and Olympic organizers will hold talks to revisit their policy on spectators should the quasi-state of emergency be extended, the Bloomberg report said.

Coast Guard on Guam now at full strength

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

After a 69-day journey, one of the Coast Guard's newest Sentinel-class fast-response cutters arrived Tuesday at its new homeport on Guam.

The 154-foot Frederick Hatch steamed into Apra Harbor after departing Key West, Fla., on April 21. It joins its two sister cutters, the Myrtle Hazard and the Oliver Henry, which arrived on the U.S. island territory in September and December, respectively.

Placing the three cutters on Guam is meant as a response to "coercive and antagonistic behavior from China," Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz said in October 2019.

The Frederick Hatch, built in Louisiana by Bollinger Shipyards, carries a crew of 24. Approximately 100 of their dependents had already arrived on Guam ahead of the cutter. Photos posted to the ship's Facebook page on Tuesday showed spouses

and children greeting the arriving crew with heartfelt embraces and colorful signs.

The ship's commander, Lt. Craig R. Rooke, said the crew had been away from their families since November, when they reported to Louisiana.

"For the majority of the crew, they'd never been underway before, so it was an experience," he told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Wednesday. "It was stressful, but at the same time we made it enjoyable as well."

Throughout its journey, which covered approximately 11,400 nautical miles, the cutter stopped at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, transited the Panama Canal and made port calls in Mexico, Los Angeles and Hawaii.

The voyage also provided time for training exercises and real-world experience, according to the cutter's prolific Facebook posts.

"A lot of [the crew] were learning their jobs and there was a lot of

training — everyone handled it very well," Rooke said. "It was a good time, we learned a lot and we're excited to be out here in Guam."

Now that they're in homeport, Rooke said the crew will be taking some time off before preparing for the triple commissioning of the Frederick Hatch and its sister ships on July 29.

The trio of fast-response cutters now homeported on Guam replace the Coast Guard's 110-foot patrol boats and possess advanced communications technology and surveillance systems, according to a statement issued by the service in February.

Armed with four .50-caliber machine guns and a remote-controlled 25-mm cannon, the \$65 million cutters can be used for search and rescue, drug interdiction, defense operations, maritime law enforcement and environmental protection.

They can reach speeds up to 28 knots and can remain at sea for

five days, giving them a range of more than 2,500 nautical miles, according to the Coast Guard.

The Guam-based cutters are expected to help police China's illegal fishing in the region through "fisheries patrols, enhance maritime domain awareness and enforcement efforts" with U.S. partners in the Western Pacific "who have limited offshore surveillance and enforcement capacity," then-national security adviser Robert O'Brien said Oct. 23.

In December, the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard issued "Advantage at Sea," a triservice naval strategy responding to China's "revisionist approach that aims at the heart of the United States' maritime power." The report suggested that a more robust Coast Guard presence in the Western Pacific could provide joint force commanders greater flexibility in responding to China's "gray zone" confrontations that remain below the threshold of armed conflict.

Putin: US aircraft joined UK destroyer in Black Sea

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft was operating in sync with a British destroyer last week when the ship sailed through the Black Sea in what he described as a "provocation" to test Moscow's response.

Moscow said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of Britain's Defender on June 23 to force it from an area near Crimea that Moscow claims as its territorial waters. Britain insisted its ship wasn't fired upon and said it was sailing in Ukrainian waters. The episode was the latest to raise tensions between

Russia and the West since Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, a move not recognized by most countries but one that gives it access to a long Black Sea coast.

The U.S. Defense Department had no immediate comment.

Asked if the events could have triggered World War III, Putin responded that the West wouldn't risk a full-scale conflict.

"Even if we sank that ship, it wouldn't put the world on the brink of World War III because those who do it know that they can't emerge as winners in that war, and it's very important," Putin said during his annual live call-in show when Russians ask him questions.

Japan-based sailor accused of drunken driving after crash

By SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japanese police say a U.S. Navy sailor was intoxicated when he crashed his vehicle into two trucks on a Japanese expressway on May 16 in Yokohama.

The unnamed service member, who is assigned to Yokosuka Naval Base, was "involved in a multi-vehicle accident, driving the wrong way on the Shuto Highway, after entering from an exit ramp" at about 3:45 a.m., base spokesman Randall Baucom said in an email Wednesday.

"The sailor was treated at a local hospital and the occupants of the other vehicles did not seek medical care at the scene," he said.

The Navy did not provide the sailor's name, age, rank or unit, and a Kanagawa Prefectural Police spokesman identified the driver only as a 25-year-old petty officer third class. It's customary in Japan for some government officials to speak the media without giving their names.

The sailor told police he drank alcohol in his car in Tokyo after driving there by himself, according to the spokesman. Police referred a case of suspected drinking and driving to the Yokohama District Public Prosecutor's Office without making an arrest, he said. In Japan, it is prosecutors, not police, who decide on formal charges.

Baucom said the Navy is cooperating with police.

4 more bodies found in Fla. condo rubble

Associated Press

SURFSIDE — Four more bodies have been found in the rubble of a collapsed Florida condo tower, a fire official said Wednesday, raising the death toll in the disaster to 16 people.

Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah told family members at a morning briefing that rescuers found the bodies Tuesday night. He said relatives have not yet been identified.

In addition to the four bodies, crews also found other human remains. Rescuers were able to build a ramp for a crane to reach areas at the top of the pile they had not been access before, Jadallah said.

State Fire Marshal Jimmy

Petronis described the ramp as “a Herculean effort” that would allow the use of more heavy equipment.

“Now you are able to leverage massive equipment to remove mass pieces of concrete that could lead to those incredible good news events,” Petronis told Miami television station WSVN.

More than 140 people remained unaccounted for as of Wednesday.

The discovery of the bodies came the morning after Florida authorities asked the federal government for an additional rescue team to comb the rubble of the tower, a request that underscored the strenuous nature of the open-ended search for survivors in an area

prone to tropical weather.

The possibility that severe weather in coming days could further stretch Florida’s search and rescue resources prompted state officials to ask the federal government for the additional team, Kevin Guthrie of the Florida Division of Emergency Management said Tuesday. Already, intermittent bad weather has caused temporary delays in the search.

Guthrie said the new team, which would likely come from Virginia, would be on hand if severe weather hits the area in coming days and allow crews that have been working at the site for days to rotate out. Authorities said it’s still a search-and-rescue operation, but no one has been found alive since

hours after the collapse Thursday.

“There are two areas of (possible storm) development out in the Atlantic, heading to the Caribbean. We have eight urban rescue teams in Florida. We talked about doing a relief,” Guthrie said at a news conference Tuesday night. “We have all the resources we need, but we’re going to bring in another team. We want to rotate those out so we can get more resources out.”

The National Hurricane Center says two disorganized storm systems in the Atlantic have a chance of becoming tropical systems in the coming days, but it is unclear at this point whether they would pose a threat to the United States.

Microsoft exec: Targeting of Americans’ records ‘routine’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal law enforcement agencies secretly seek the data of Microsoft customers thousands of times a year, according to congressional testimony being given Wednesday by a senior executive at the technology company.

Tom Burt, Microsoft’s corporate vice president for customer security and trust, will tell members of the House Judiciary Committee that federal law enforcement in recent years has been presenting the company with between 2,400 to 3,500 secrecy orders a year, or about seven to 10 a day.

“The fact that law enforcement requested, and courts approved, clandestine surveillance of so many Americans represents a sea change from historical norms,” Burt will say.

The relationship between law enforcement and Big Tech has attracted fresh scrutiny in recent weeks with the revelation that Justice Department

prosecutors obtained phone records belonging not only to journalists, but also to members of Congress and their staffers as part of leak investigations. Microsoft, for instance, was among the companies that turned over records under a court order, and because of a gag order, had to then wait more than two years before disclosing it.

Since then, Brad Smith, Microsoft’s president, called for an end to the overuse of secret gag orders, arguing in a Washington Post opinion piece that “prosecutors too often are exploiting technology to abuse our fundamental freedoms.” Attorney General Merrick Garland, meanwhile, has said the Justice Department will abandon its practice of seizing reporter records and will formalize that stance soon.

Burt is among the witnesses at a Judiciary Committee hearing about potential legislative solutions to intrusive leak investigations.

Cosby sex assault conviction overturned by Pa. high court

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania’s highest court overturned Bill Cosby’s sex assault conviction Wednesday after finding that an agreement with a previous prosecutor prevented him from being charged in the case.

Cosby has served more than two years of a three- to 10-year sentence at a state prison near Philadelphia. He had vowed to serve all 10 years rather than acknowledge any remorse over the 2004 encounter with accuser Andrea Constand.

The 83-year-old Cosby, who was once beloved as “America’s Dad,” was convicted of drugging and molesting the Temple University employee at his suburban estate.

He was charged in late 2015, when a prosecutor armed with newly unsealed evidence — Cosby’s damaging deposition from her lawsuit — arrested him days be-

fore the 12-year statute of limitations expired.

The trial judge had allowed just one other accuser to testify at Cosby’s first trial, when the jury deadlocked. He then, however, allowed five other accusers to testify at the retrial about their experiences with Cosby in the 1980s.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court said that testimony tainted the trial, even though a lower appeals court had found it appropriate to show a signature pattern of drugging and molesting women.

Cosby was the first celebrity tried and convicted in the #MeToo era, so the reversal could make prosecutors wary of calling other accusers in similar cases. The law on prior bad act testimony varies by state, though, and the ruling only holds sway in Pennsylvania.

Prosecutors did not immediately say if they would appeal or seek to try Cosby for a third time.

Deaths likely tied to US heat wave

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — About a dozen deaths in Washington and Oregon may be tied to an intense heat wave that brought scorching temperatures to the Northwest and caused one power utility to impose rolling blackouts amid heavy demand.

The dangerous weather that gave Seattle and Portland consecutive days of record high temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit eased in those cities on Tuesday. But inland Spokane, towns in eastern Oregon and cities in Idaho saw temperatures spike.

The National Weather Service said the mercury reached 109 F in Tuesday in Spokane — the highest temperature ever recorded there.

Meanwhile, authorities said multiple re-

cent deaths in the region were possibly related to the scorching weather.

The King County Medical Examiner's office said two people died due to hyperthermia, meaning their bodies had become dangerously overheated. The Seattle Times reported they were a 65-year-old Seattle woman and a 68-year-old Enumclaw, Wash., woman.

And the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office on Tuesday told the Daily Herald in Everett, Wash., that three men — ages 51, 75 and 77 — died after experiencing heat stroke in their homes. They were from Everett, Granite Falls and Marysville in Washington.

The heat may have claimed the life of a worker on a nursery in Oregon, the state's worker safety agency, known as Oregon

OSHA, said on Tuesday.

The man who died was from Guatemala and had apparently arrived in the United States only a few months ago, said Andres Pablo Lucas, owner of Brother Farm Labor Contractor that provided workers for the nursery, including the man who died.

Officials in Bremerton, Wash., said heat may have contributed to four deaths in that Puget Sound city. But Vince Hlavaty, Bremerton's medical officer, told the Kitsap Sun that firefighters cannot say definitively whether the heat was the cause of death.

In Bend, Oregon, authorities said the deaths of two homeless people in extreme heat may have been weather-related.

Several cities in Idaho also topped 100 F on Tuesday with the hottest spot in Lewiston where the temperature reached 115 F.

Black hole witnessed absorbing neutron star

Associated Press

Talk about a heavy snack. For the first time, astronomers have witnessed a black hole swallowing a neutron star, the most dense object in the universe — all in a split-second gulp.

Ten days later, they saw the same thing on the other side of the universe. In both cases, a neutron star — a teaspoon of which would weigh a billion tons — orbits ever closer to that ultimate point of no return, a black hole, until they finally crash together and the neutron star is gone in a gobble.

Astronomers witnessed the last 500 orbits before the neutron stars were swallowed, a process that took far less than a minute and briefly generated as much energy as all the visible light in the observable universe.

"It was just a big quick (gulp), gone," said study co-author Patrick Brady, an astrophysicist at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. The black hole "gets a nice dinner of a neutron star and makes itself

just a little bit more massive."

The bursts of energy from the collisions were discovered when detectors on Earth spotted the mergers' gravitational waves, cosmic energetic ripples soaring through space and time as first theorized by Albert Einstein. They each came from more than one billion light-years away. The waves were detected in January of 2020, but the study analyzing and interpreting the data by more than 100 scientists was published Tuesday in *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

While astronomers had seen gravitational waves from two black holes colliding with each other and two neutron stars colliding with each other, this is the first time they saw one of each crashing together.

Neutron stars are corpses of massive stars, what's leftover after a big star dies in a supernova explosion. Some black holes are created when an even bigger star collapses into itself, creating something with such powerful gravity that not even light can escape.

EU citizens might lose legal status to live in UK

Associated Press

LONDON — Marlies Haselton has called Britain home for more than 30 years. The Dutch national married a Briton, had her children there, and considers herself "part and parcel" of the United Kingdom. Until Britain's divorce from the European Union, she had never given a thought to her immigration status in the U.K.

Haselton, 55, is among the millions of Europeans who have freely lived, worked and studied in the U.K. for decades, but whose rights are no longer automatically granted due to Brexit. Britain's government introduced a "settlement" plan for the country's large European migrant community in 2019, and the deadline for applications was Wednesday.

From Thursday, any European migrant who hasn't applied will lose their legal right to work, rent housing and access to some hospital treatments or welfare benefits in the U.K. They may even be subject to deportation.

Meanwhile, the freedom of

movement that over 1 million Britons have long enjoyed in EU countries is also ending. Those applying for post-Brexit residency permits in France also face a deadline on Wednesday.

Many older people who have lived in the U.K. for decades are not aware they have to apply, and official figures show that only 2% of applicants were 65 years old or older. Many parents also don't realize they have to apply for their children, migrants rights' groups say.

Other vulnerable people, such as an estimated 2,000 children in social care, also risk falling through the cracks and ending up with no legal status.

For Haselton and many others, it's a moment that drives home the impact of Britain's referendum to leave the EU five years ago. Although Haselton successfully received her "settled" status, meaning she can reside permanently in the U.K., she said the whole process has made her feel insecure about the life she built in Britain.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Error sends dumpling machine to wrong city

ME PORTLAND — Trying to fill this dumpling order left one business in a pinch: A common but disruptive shipping error sent a custom dumpling-making machine manufactured in China to the wrong Portland in May.

The owners of Little Brother Chinese Food, which sells frozen dumplings in Portland, Maine, ordered a custom dumpling machine to help them fulfill demand, but an emailed shipping receipt delivered the bad news, the Portland Press Herald reported.

“We saw that it was headed for Tacoma, Washington, and then Portland, Oregon,” Richard Lee said.

Lee and co-owner Claire Guyer hired customs broker Oceanair to help redirect the machine they hoped would fold some 3,000 dumplings a week for them. Kelly L’Heureux, vice president of Oceanair, filed a required document that directed the machine to be put on a truck to Maine, not Oregon, when it landed in Tacoma.

Man charged after error with sauce led to threat

IA ANKENY — Police arrested an Iowa man after he allegedly threatened to blow up a McDonald’s restaurant for neglecting to include dipping sauce with his order of chicken McNuggets.

Television station WHO 13 reported that police in the Des Moines suburb arrested the 42-year-old man after he admitted to investigators that he called the Ankeny restaurant upon re-

alizing his order mistakenly didn’t include the dipping sauce. During the call, he threatened to blow up the restaurant and punch an employee.

The man was charged with a felony of false report of an explosive or incendiary device.

Kayaker finds plastic bin containing body

OH DELAWARE — A kayaker picking up trash and debris at an Ohio lake ended up finding a man’s body in a plastic storage container, authorities said.

The Delaware County sheriff’s office said the kayaker called authorities to report finding the large bin in Alum Creek lake and seeing what appeared to be a human leg inside.

Crews recovered the bin from the water and confirmed that the bin contained the body of a man.

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation is taking part in the investigation. The sheriff’s office says it’s unclear how long the plastic bin has been in the river.

Venomous snake has escaped in capital city

NC RALEIGH — Officials in North Carolina were warning people to be on the lookout for a venomous snake on the loose.

The Raleigh Police Department sent out a notice urging anyone who sees the missing zebra cobra to stay away and call 911. They say the venomous snake could spit and bite if cornered.

An animal control officer was

called to a home for a report of a snake on a resident’s porch, police said. But when the officer arrived, the snake had slithered away. Then they learned that a zebra cobra was missing from a home in the area.

Venomous snakes are legal to own in North Carolina, but they must be kept in an escape-proof, bite-proof enclosures and owners must notify law enforcement if one escapes.

Motorist tops 100 mph in multi-county chase

ME BANGOR — A man who led police on a chase topping 100 mph across two counties in Maine faces numerous charges, police said.

It started when the motorist declined to stop for a trooper in Stetson and sped away in a sport utility vehicle. At one point, the motorist stopped, entered a home and then departed with a stolen vehicle, police said.

The man tried to steal another car after the vehicle was disabled by spike mats, police said.

The man had two outstanding warrants and faces new charges including eluding an officer, passing a roadblock, driving to endanger, burglary and theft, police said.

Historic inn to reopen after virus shutdown

MS GREENVILLE — A historic northwest Mississippi building complex with 19th-century roots was purchased by a nonprofit economic development group and will reopen as a hotel this fall after closing down during

the pandemic.

The Delta Democrat-Times reported that the Greenville Inn and Suites building was purchased from the Mississippi Levee Board in June by Main Street Greenville, a division of Greater Greenville Development Foundation. The plan is for it to reopen as a 36-room, boutique hotel in September.

The property was originally comprised of a bank built in 1880, and the Levee Board Building built in 1883.

The Levee Board acquired the bank in 1919. In 1997, the property was converted into a hotel and a third building was erected, creating a courtyard between the two original buildings.

Police: Man attacked 2 men with screwdriver

DE MILLSBORO — A Millsboro man faces several felonies after police said he attacked two men with a screwdriver on a Delaware beach during an argument over Jet Skis.

Delaware State Police said investigators determined that an argument began when a man arrived at the beach area in the Pot-Nets Seaside Mobile Home Park with his family on Jet Skis. Then, police said the 51-year-old Millsboro man grabbed a screwdriver and stabbed the second man in the head and cut the torso of a third man who tried to break up the fight.

The three men received medical attention for their injuries and police charged the Millsboro man with aggravated menacing, second-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

— From wire reports

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Hawks even series with Bucks at 2-2

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Hawks proved they are more than a one-man team.

Now, it's the Milwaukee Bucks who may have to show they can get by without the Greek Freak.

With Trae Young sidelined by an unusual injury, Lou Williams and a host of Hawks stepped up to fill the void, leading Atlanta to a 110-88 rout of the Bucks in Game 4 to even the Eastern Conference finals Tuesday night.

"A total team effort," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said.

In another stunning twist to a series no one saw coming, two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo hobbled off the court with an injured left knee, depriving the Bucks of their best player.

"We'll see how he is tomorrow," coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We'll take everything as it comes. We'll evaluate it. We've got a heck of a team, a heck of a roster."

Williams started for Young and did a stellar job with 21 points, Bogdan Bogdanovic

added 20 to break a series-long slump, and Atlanta pulled away in the third quarter to tie the series at two wins apiece.

Game 5 is Thursday night in Milwaukee.

It's not known if Young or Antetokounmpo will be able to play.

Williams, long one of the NBA's best players off the bench, will be ready to start again for the Hawks, if needed.

"I knew about an hour before this game that I was going to start, when they said Trae was out, so I just had to refocus my energy, put on a different hat and get ready for the game," Williams said,

Young was declared out about 45 minutes before tipoff, having sustained a bone bruise when he twisted his right ankle stepping on an official's foot along the sideline in Game 3. He watched from the bench in a black warmup suit, barely noticeable with a hood over his head and a mask across his face.

Turns out, he wasn't needed.

"Everybody played with confidence. Everybody played at a

high level," Williams said "Going back to Milwaukee, we're going to have to bottle it up and take it with us."

Antetokounmpo endured a dismal first half, scoring just six points and chucking up a pair of airballs from the free-throw line. He bounced back with eight points in the first 4½ minutes of the third quarter, including a step-back jumper that sliced Atlanta's lead to 62-54.

The next time down the court, Williams worked a pick-and-roll with Clint Capela, who went up for a dunk that Antetokounmpo tried to contest.

The Bucks star landed awkwardly and went down in a heap, grasping at his left knee while a hush fell over the arena.

The entire Milwaukee bench came out to check on Antetokounmpo, who had to be helped to the locker room with what was diagnosed as a hyperextended knee. He returned briefly to the bench, but never made it back to the court, heading to the locker room for good when the Hawks blew the game open.

Atlanta outscored the Bucks 25-8 the rest of the quarter to

seize a commanding 87-62 lead.

The Hawks led 51-38 at half-time, holding the Bucks to their lowest-scoring half of the post-season.

Middleton struggles

Two nights after tying his career playoff high with 38 points in a Game 3 victory, Milwaukee's Khris Middleton was held to 16 points on 6-for-17 shooting.

He missed all seven of his three-point attempts.

Reddish shines

With Young out, Atlanta needed some little-used players to step up.

No one was bigger than Cam Reddish.

In just his second appearance since February, Reddish scored 12 points, pulled down five rebounds and came up with two steals.

Reddish missed the final 42 games of the regular season with an Achilles injury and the first two rounds of the playoffs. His first appearance since Feb. 21 came during garbage time of the Bucks' blowout win in Game 2.

More slipping, sliding at Wimbledon, even without rain

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Asked about his connection with the Centre Court crowd after his second victory there this week, Novak Djokovic joked: "I seem to be having a really nice connection with the grass."

The five-time champion at the All England Club chuckled at his own line, then added, "I don't recall falling this much in the first two matches of Wimbledon."

Yes, less than 24 hours after Serena Williams and Roger Federer's opponent pulled out of matches after getting hurt in falls, the slips kept coming Wednesday.

The No. 1-seeded Djokovic was no worse for wear after losing his footing at least five times while beating Kevin Anderson 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 in a rematch of their 2018 final at the Grand Slam tournament, but he was

merely one example of someone who couldn't stay upright.

Bianca Andreescu, Nick Kyrgios, John Isner and a ball kid were among the folks taking tumbles on Day 3.

"I didn't slip just once; I slipped, like, six times during the match. The courts are pretty wet," said Andreescu, the 2019 U.S. Open champion and No. 5 seed who lost to Alize Cornet 6-2, 6-1 on No. 2 Court. "I mean, the courts are super slippery. I have only played here once before, but they weren't like this at all."

Williams' latest bid for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam title ended with her "heartbroken" and in tears after just 30 minutes and less than a set Tuesday. She injured her right leg when her left shoe lost traction behind the baseline in almost the exact same spot that Adrian Mannari-

no twisted his right knee while leading Federer.

Both of those matches were on Centre Court. But Isner's trouble came on Court 18 during his five-set loss Wednesday, and Kyrgios came down awkwardly on No. 1 Court.

In what sounded like an attempt to dispel the notion that anything might be different about the grass two years since the tournament was last held, the All England Club issued a statement Tuesday night that said, in part: "The preparation of the grass courts has been to exactly the same meticulous standard as in previous years."

Wimbledon's courts are removed annually and new grass is installed. So the fact that the 2020 edition was called off because of the pandemic shouldn't affect things.

Edmonton's McDavid takes home Hart, Lindsay awards

Associated Press

Connor McDavid's award-winning season came with one regret. In earning his second career MVP honor Tuesday, the Edmonton Oilers captain wished his team was still playing.

"We had a special group this year, and obviously we didn't do what we wanted to do," McDavid said, referring to the Oilers being swept in the first round of the playoffs by the Winnipeg Jets.

"But it was still so fun to be a part of, and get the fans of Edmonton excited again for what's to come," he added. "We had so many guys take the next step, and I'm just part of that. If we're all continuing to do that, we're going to go and do some special things in this league."

McDavid became just the second unanimous Hart Trophy selection — joining Wayne Gretzky in 1982 — in receiving all 100 first-place votes from members of the Professional Hockey Writers' Association. The 24-year-old doubled up on honors by also winning his third Ted Lindsay Award as the league's most outstanding player, which is voted on by NHL players.

The NHL presented its awards remotely for a second consecutive season because of the coronavirus pandemic, and a day after Tampa Bay opened the Stanley Cup Final series with a 5-1 win over Montreal. In previous years, the awards ceremony was held in Las Vegas after the playoffs, and with an audience and players present.

Toronto's Auston Matthews finished second in the MVP voting, followed by

Colorado's Nathan MacKinnon.

Vegas' Marc-Andre Fleury beat out Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevskiy and Colorado's Philipp Grubauer to win his first Vezina Trophy as the NHL's goalie of the year. The Golden Knights tandem of Fleury and Robin Lehner already won the William M. Jennings Trophy for combining to allow an NHL-low 124 goals this season.

The 36-year-old Fleury finished third in the NHL with 26 wins, a 1.98 goals-against, a 92.8 save percentage and six shutouts in 36 games. He also closed the season with a nine-game winning streak, while moving into third place on the NHL career list with 492 wins.

The New York Rangers' Adam Fox won the Jack Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenseman, beating out Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman and Colorado's Cale Makar.

The 23-year-old Fox led NHL defensemen with 42 assists and was second with 47 points. He also ranked seventh among skaters in ice-time. Fox became the second player to win the Norris in his second season, joining Bobby Orr who won in 1968.

Minnesota's Kirill Kaprizov won the Calder Memorial Trophy as rookie of the year, becoming just the fourth rookie since 1993-94 to lead his team in scoring. The 24-year-old from Russia led NHL rookies with 27 goals and 51 points, and became the first Wild player to win the Calder.

Carolina goalie Alex Nedeljkovic and Dallas forward Jason Robertson were the other two Calder finalists.

Sergachev finds his place with the Tampa Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Mikhail Sergachev put on a Montreal Canadiens jersey when they chose him with the ninth pick in the 2016 draft, then wore one in a game just four times before being traded to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

That was not enough time for Sergachev to imagine lifting the Stanley Cup with Montreal's iconic "CH" logo on his chest.

"I was still too young, but getting drafted was pretty cool," the 23-year-old Russian recalled. "My parents were happy. I was happy. And getting traded: Obviously it was great getting traded here."

Four years since the trade, Sergachev is trying to go back-to-back with the Lightning by beating the team that picked him and sent him packing. The bruising defenseman known for his offensive acumen has added some snarl, physicality and sacrifice to his game to become a complete player.

"He wants to work at being a 200-foot, all-around defenseman, and he's definitely coming into his own," veteran teammate Ryan McDonagh said. "The thing I love about him is his willingness to get better in all areas and taking a lot of pride in being tough to play against: being physical, blocking shots, just taking a lot of pride and keeping the puck out of his own net."

Sergachev has only three assists in 19 games this postseason, but he is doing so many of the other important things needed to win at this stage of the playoffs. He blocked two shots in the waning minutes of Game 7 of the semifinals against the New York Islanders and was huffing and puffing on the bench after being on the ice for 2:25 — more than double the longest average shift in the NHL.

Bulldogs too much for Vandy, even up CWS series

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Mississippi State's first three wins in the College World Series were one-run games. The Bulldogs' fourth was a blowout, and it was well-timed.

Houston Harding and Preston Johnson combined on a four-hitter and MSU capitalized on struggling Vanderbilt, pitching in a 13-2 victory Tuesday night that forced a deciding third game in the College World Series finals.

The easy win allowed Bulldogs coach Chris Lemonis to hold back rested pitchers, including star reliever Landon Sims,

for the winner-take-all Game 3 on Wednesday night.

"We're ecstatic because, one, we're still playing, and, two, we used two arms tonight," Lemonis said. "We have an opportunity to use some different guys tomorrow now because of the score. It was nice after the game. I grabbed Landon, I said, 'Man, it was sure nice not having to pitch you tonight' because I feel like in every win for the last month he has been out there."

The Commodores (49-17) will be going for their second straight national title and

third since 2014 after their most lopsided loss in their 29 all-time CWS games.

"Just got to have a short memory," Vandy's CJ Rodriguez said. "I think we need to wash it out as fast as we can and get it done tomorrow."

Mississippi State (49-18) will be playing for its first championship.

"This game is done, and we're going to remain cool, calm and collected and bring the same energy out tomorrow," MSU's Scotty Dubrule said. "Tomorrow is a new day, and we're going to have to face some tough arms."

Judge, Sánchez lift Yanks past Angels

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge and Gary Sánchez powered a long-awaited onslaught from New York's star-studded lineup, helping the Yankees overcome two more home runs by big league leader Shohei Ohtani to beat the Los Angeles Angels 11-5 Tuesday night.

Judge and Sánchez each homered as New York set a season high for runs.

Ohtani cleared the right field fence with a pair of scorching, low drives that pushed his major league-most total to 28. José Iglesias also homered for the Angels, a two-run drive in the second inning.

Sánchez hit a solo shot in the first inning for his 14th of the season, and Judge's two-run shot in the second was his team-leading 18th. Both homers came off Andrew Heaney (4-6), who was charged with seven runs in three-plus innings.

Dodgers 3, Giants 1: Max Muncy homered, Walker Buehler pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and Los Angeles swept a two-game series against visiting San Francisco.

Chris Taylor had a two-run single in the first inning of the fifth consecutive victory for the defending World Series champions, who chased Giants ace Kevin Gausman after five innings and won despite getting just three hits.

Steven Duggar had an RBI double in the seventh for the Giants, who have lost three straight for the first time since the Dodgers swept them in San Francisco on May 21-23.

Buehler (8-1) didn't allow an earned run while striking out seven. He outpitched Gausman (8-2) who gave up three hits and

five walks.

Phillies 4, Marlins 3: Vince Velasquez tossed a two-hitter over seven innings, Rhys Hoskins hit a solo homer and host Philadelphia held on to beat Miami.

Velasquez (3-2) allowed singles to Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Jon Berti, struck out seven and retired the last 13 batters he faced.

Marlins rookie lefty Trevor Rogers (7-5) gave up two runs on two hits, striking out nine in 5 2/3 innings. Adam Duvall hit a two-run homer for Miami.

Nationals 4, Rays 3: Kyle Schwarber led off the first inning with his 12th home run in 10 games, and host Washington beat Tampa Bay for its third straight win, moving above .500 for the first time since the opening week of the season.

Schwarber tied Albert Belle in 1995 for the most home runs over a 10-game span since at least 1901.

Blue Jays 9, Mariners 3: Marcus Semien homered and drove in five runs, Bo Bichette hit a three-run homer and Toronto beat visiting Seattle.

Red Sox 7, Royals 6: J.D. Martinez drove in four runs, including two on a go-ahead double in the sixth inning, and host Boston outlasted slumping Kansas City.

Whit Merrifield, Michael A. Taylor and Ryan O'Hearn homered for the Royals, who lost their seventh straight.

Mets 4, Braves 3: James McCann hit a tying three-run homer off Charlie Morton in the four-run seventh inning, Francisco Lindor followed four batters later, singling in the go-ahead run off A.J. Minter, and New York won at Atlanta.

White Sox 7, Twins 6: Gavin Sheets had

two hits and two RBIs in his major league debut, helping Lucas Giolito and host Chicago beat Minnesota. Leury García also drove in two runs as Chicago increased its AL Central lead to 2½ games over Cleveland after the Indians' matchup with Detroit was postponed by rain. The White Sox had dropped seven of nine.

Cardinals 3, Diamondbacks 2: Carlos Martínez ended a seven-start winless streak, Nolan Arenado broke a fifth-inning tie with a two-run homer and host St. Louis beat Arizona for its first consecutive wins in two weeks.

Arizona lost its third straight on the road since winning Saturday at San Diego to end a record 24-game road losing streak.

Rockies 8, Pirates 0: German Márquez came within three outs of what would have been a record-tying eighth no-hitter this season before allowing Ka'ai Tom's single leading off the ninth inning in host Colorado's win over Pittsburgh.

Padres 5, Reds 4: Tommy Pham homered and San Diego relievers pitched four scoreless innings in a win at Cincinnati.

Brewers 2, Cubs 1: Brandon Woodruff pitched another gem and Milwaukee made the most of its two hits, hanging on to edge visiting Chicago for a season-high seventh straight win.

Orioles 13, Astros 3: Cedric Mullins homered among his four hits, Austin Hays and Maikel Franco had three RBIs each and Baltimore won at Houston.

Rangers 5, Athletics 4: Joey Gallo homered twice to give him 18 on the season, putting Texas ahead with his sixth-inning drive, and Nick Solak added a late two-run shot in a win at Oakland.

Attorney: Woman says Dodgers' Bauer assaulted her

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police are investigating an allegation of assault against Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Trevor Bauer, and an attorney for the accuser says the woman has obtained a protection order.

Major League Baseball also is looking into the allegation.

"The Dodgers were made aware of the allegations against Trevor Bauer late this afternoon and immediately contacted MLB, which will be handling

this matter," the team said in a statement during its game Tuesday night against San Francisco.

"The Dodgers take any allegations of this nature very seriously, but will have no further comment at this time," the club said.

The protection order was obtained under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and was the result of an "assault that took place at the hands of Mr. Bauer" where the woman "suf-

fered severe physical and emotional pain," attorney Marc Garelick said.

Pasadena police spokesman Lt. Bill Grisafe confirmed that the department is looking into accusations of an assault involving Bauer, but provided no additional details. TMZ, which first reported the story, said Bauer lives in Pasadena.

Jon Fetterolf, Bauer's co-agent, disputed the allegations that Bauer committed any non-consensual violence. He said

Bauer met the woman in April, and the two had "a brief and wholly consensual sexual relationship initiated" by the woman.

"Her basis for filing a protection order is nonexistent, fraudulent and deliberately omits key facts, information and her own relevant communications," Fetterolf said. "Any allegations that the pair's encounters were not 100% consensual are baseless, defamatory and will be refuted to the fullest extent of the law."