

Biden: More destroyers moving to Spain

Associated Press

MADRID — President Joe Biden opened his three-day visit to a NATO summit Tuesday by pledging to beef up the American military presence in Europe as he denounced Russia's Vladimir Putin for trying to "wipe out" Ukrainian culture in the ongoing war in eastern Europe.

Biden, in talks with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, detailed plans to increase the number of Navy destroyers based in Rota, Spain, from four to six. Biden said the move was one of multiple announcements he and NATO allies would make to help bolster the alliance in the region during the summit.

Biden arrived in Spain for the NATO summit amid an intense barrage of Russian fire across Ukraine and growing weariness over the grinding war that is battering the global economy.

"Sometimes I think Putin's objective is just to literally change the entire culture — wipe out the culture of Ukraine (with) the kinds of actions he's taking," Biden said after meeting with Sánchez.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the Rota move "will help increase the United States and NATO's mar-

itime presence." He said Biden would announce additional moves Wednesday.

"The president said before the war started that if Putin invaded Ukraine, the U.S. and NATO would enhance the force posture on the eastern flank, not just for the duration of the crisis, but to address the long-term change in the strategic reality that that would present," Sullivan added.

Biden is looking to use this week's NATO summit to shore up allies amid signs of fractures in the western alliance. After heaping an avalanche of sanctions on the Russian economy and funneling billions of dollars of weaponry into Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression, NATO partners are showing signs of strain as the cost of energy and other essential goods has skyrocketed.

As the U.S. president departed for the NATO meeting from German Alps, where he first met this week with leaders of the Group of Seven, French President Emmanuel Macron said the prices are putting European economies in "untenable" situation. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who addressed the G-7 on Monday, has openly worried the West has become fatigued by the cost of the war.

To be certain, the U.S. had already been building up its presence since shortly before the Russian invasion in late February, adding about 20,000 troops to the 80,000 who were previously in Europe.

And the U.S. has signaled the Russian invasion will have reverberations on its and NATO allies' defense posture for years to come.

The U.S. and Spain in a joint statement following the Biden-Sánchez meeting said the invasion "fundamentally altered the global strategic environment" and that the "aggression constitutes the most direct threat to transatlantic security and global stability since the end of the Cold War."

Sullivan suggested that other moves Biden is set to announce will involve positioning "additional forces on the eastern flank" of NATO "in a steady state." He declined to say if some U.S. forces which serve in NATO's eastern flank on a rotational basis would become permanent.

NBC reported Monday that Biden was expected to announce the extension of some Poland and Baltic deployments which came in the days ahead of Russia's February invasion of Ukraine.

Macron: Russia can't win in Ukraine after strike on mall

Associated Press

KREMENCHUK, Ukraine — France's president denounced Russia's fiery airstrike on a crowded shopping mall in Ukraine as a "new war crime" Tuesday and vowed the West's support for Kyiv would not waver, saying Moscow "cannot and should not win" the war with its neighbor.

The strike, which killed at least 18 people in the central city of Kremenchuk, came as leaders from the Group of Seven nations met in Europe. It was part of an unusually intense barrage of Russian fire all across Ukraine, including in the capital of Kyiv, that drew new attention to a war that some fear could fade from the headlines as it drags on.

Speaking at the end of the G-7 summit in Germany, French President Emmanuel Macron appeared to address that concern, vowing that the seven leading industrial-

ized democracies would support Ukraine and maintain sanctions against Russia "as long as necessary, and with the necessary intensity."

"Russia cannot and should not win," he said. He called Monday's attack on the mall "a new war crime."

As they have in other attacks, Russian authorities claimed the shopping center was not the target.

How to counter Russia and back Ukraine will be the focus of a summit this week of the western NATO alliance, whose support has been critical to Kyiv's ability to fend off Moscow's larger and better equipped forces. Ukrainian leaders, however, have said they need more and better weapons if they are to keep holding off and even drive back Russia, which is pressing an all-out assault in Ukraine's eastern region of the Donbas.

As Macron spoke, rescuers combed

through the charred rubble of the shopping mall that authorities said was struck when more than 1,000 afternoon shoppers and workers were inside.

Kateryna Romashyna, a local resident, said she had just arrived at the mall when there was an explosion. The blast knocked her down. When another came about 10 minutes later, she realized she needed to get away.

"I ran away from the epicenter with all of my strength," she said. Fighting back tears, she added: "You have to be a real monster" to strike a shopping mall.

Many of those inside quickly fled the building when an air raid siren sounded and took shelter across the street, Ukrainian Interior Minister Denis Monastyrsky said.

In addition to the 18 killed, authorities said 59 were wounded. Another 21 people are still missing, Monastyrsky said.

IG: Army billed \$1M each for printers

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

The price was wrong at U.S. military bases in Kuwait.

The Army's property books were off by millions of dollars, the Defense Department Inspector General said in a report released Monday.

Among the errors were 82 printers worth \$412 apiece listed as being worth \$1.1 million each, the report said. A simulator for the base fire department worth \$499,950 was listed at \$36.3 million in the Army's databases.

And an Army property book officer told auditors he erroneously listed 17 refrigerators worth \$24,170 each at \$652,606 per unit.

A lack of accountability skewed the costs provided to a base operations and security

support contractor, and the Army's sloppy bookkeeping on just one aspect of a contract at the two bases may be off by as much as \$48 million, the report said.

The audit investigated the Army's oversight on a contract for Area Support Group-Kuwait at Camp Arifjan and Camp Buehring.

The auditors compared the property books held by the military and by the contractor, which wasn't named in the report.

Both the military and the contractor are supposed to track how much government property is supplied.

But the contractor's records included at least 23,374 more items of government property than the military was tracking, the report said, adding that un-

accounted items could have been lost or stolen without the Army's knowledge.

The contractor said it had losses of \$13.5 million worth of equipment over the last 11 years.

The military's acquisition rules say that contractors must inform the government when property given to them is lost, stolen or destroyed.

But without accurate records, the Army cannot verify whether the contractor is telling the truth about how much government property was lost in Kuwait, the report said.

Auditors found one of the printers at a contractor's staff apartment outside Camp Arifjan, despite language in the contract saying that someone from the military would have to give approval for it to leave the base,

the report said.

"The Army's lack of accountability and oversight of location of the (item) allowed the contractor to take the printer off base without detection," the report said.

Meanwhile, the government's property records overstated the costs of what it was providing contractors by \$48.3 million, the report said.

The Army maintains a database of its property with information about how much each item costs as well as a description. But items considered "nonstandard" must be manually added into the system, the report said.

The Army official in charge of managing the property books said he put the wrong total into the database on several items, the report said.

Navy: USS Benfold on routine operation in South China Sea

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A U.S. Navy warship entered the South China Sea over the weekend, one day after a Navy reconnaissance aircraft flew through the adjacent Taiwan Strait.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold, homeported at Yokosuka, sailed west from the East China Sea to the South China Sea through the Verde Island Passage in the Philippines on Saturday, according to a tweet that day from Chinese think tank South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative. The passage separates the islands of Luzon and Mindoro.

The Benfold was still in the region Tuesday on routine operations, U.S. 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Hayley Sims told Stars and Stripes by phone.

The Navy sometimes sends warships on freedom-of-navigation operations past islands claimed by China and other nations in the South China Sea, including Taiwan and Vietnam. Those missions are meant to challenge those maritime claims and maintain free passage, according to the Navy. China also claims a large portion of the sea itself as its maritime territory.

In January, the Benfold steamed past the Spratly and Pratacel island chains on a freedom-of-navigation operation. However, Sims said the destroyer was not on such a mission Tuesday.

The Benfold arrived in the South China Sea one day after a Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft flew through the Taiwan Strait, a 110-mile-wide waterway that separates the island of Taiwan from mainland China.

Ruling won't keep DOD from providing covered abortions

By CAITLIN DOORBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Department health care providers will continue performing abortions in cases of rape, incest or if the mother's life is endangered despite some states banning such procedures, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Gilbert Cisneros wrote in a memo issued Tuesday.

The announcement follows a Supreme Court ruling issued Friday that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, a case that for nearly 50 years kept states from banning abortions. Some 16 states have or are expected to ban abortions — some with no exception for rape or incest, according to The Associated Press.

Federal law already barred the DOD from performing or funding abortions — except in cases of rape or incest or when the life of

the mother would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, according to the Pentagon.

"The Supreme Court's decision does not prohibit the department from continuing to perform covered abortions, consistent with federal law," Cisneros said. "There will be no interruption to this care."

Should charges or lawsuits be filed against DOD abortion providers or beneficiaries in places where state laws conflict with the federally covered abortions, the Pentagon will help secure attorneys for them, he said.

Affected service members may take leave and travel to receive abortion care in states where it is legal, and DOD civilians "may continue to request sick leave and other forms of leave as necessary" to seek health care, the undersecretary said.

Aide: Trump was told protesters had weapons

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cassidy Hutchinson, a key aide in Donald Trump's White House, told the House committee investigating the violent Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection Tuesday that Trump was informed that people rallying on the mall that morning had weapons, but he told officials to "let my people in" and march to the Capitol.

Hutchinson quoted Trump as directing his staff, in profane terms, to take away the magnetometers that he thought would slow down supporters who'd gathered in Washington. In videotaped testimony played before the committee, she recalled the former president saying words to the effect of: "I don't f-in' care that they have weapons."

"They're not here to hurt me. Take the f-in' mags away. Let my people in. They can march to the Capitol from here," Hutchinson testified.

Hutchinson, a top aide to Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows, said she was "scared and nervous for what could happen" ahead of the riot after conversations with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, Meadows and others.

Meadows told Hutchinson that "things might get real real

bad," she said. Giuliani told her it was going to be "a great day" and "we're going to the Capitol." She described Meadows as unconcerned as security officials told him that people at Trump's rally had weapons — including people wearing armor and carrying automatic weapons.

Hutchinson told the panel that she was apprehensive ahead of time because she had heard plans for a rally and possible movements to the Capitol, where hundreds of Trump's supporters later violently pushed past police and broke through windows and doors, interrupting the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

"I had a deeper concern for what was happening with the planning aspects of it," Hutchinson told the panel.

The 25-year-old, who was a special assistant and aide to former Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows, has already provided a trove of information to congressional investigators and has sat for four interviews behind closed doors. But the committee called the hearing this week to hear her public testimony.

Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee's chairman, said that in recent days, the panel had received in-

formation about what Trump and his aides were saying during critical hours of Jan. 6, and that it was critical for the American people to hear that information immediately.

The committee's vice chairwoman, Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, said the hearing would shed light on Trump's conduct at the time, the "actions and statements" of senior advisers and also what they knew about the prospect of violence in the days before the violent attack. She told the panel in earlier interviews that Meadows was warned about possible unrest.

Her appearance was cloaked in extraordinary secrecy.

The committee announced the surprise hearing with only 24 hours' notice, and Hutchinson's appearance was only confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the matter.

While it is unclear what new evidence she might provide Tuesday, Hutchinson's testimony is likely to tell a first-hand story of Trump's pressure campaign, and how the former president responded after the violence began, more vividly than any other witness the committee has called in thus far.

In brief excerpts of testimony revealed in court filings, Hutch-

inson told the committee she was in the room for White House meetings where challenges to the election were debated and discussed, including with several Republican lawmakers.

In one instance, Hutchinson described seeing Meadows incinerate documents after a meeting in his office with Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., Politico reported in May.

She also revealed the White House counsel's office cautioned against plans to enlist fake electors in swing states, including in meetings involving Meadows and Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. Attorneys for the president advised that the plan was not "legally sound," Cassidy said.

During her three separate depositions, Hutchinson also testified about her boss' surprise trip to Georgia weeks after the election to oversee the audit of absentee ballot envelope signatures and ask questions about the process.

She also detailed how Jeffrey Clark — a top Justice Department official who championed Trump's false claims of election fraud and whom the president contemplated naming as attorney general — was a "frequent presence" at the White House.

High court backs coach who prayed on field postgame

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday that a former Washington state high school football coach who knelt and prayed on the field after games was protected by the Constitution, a decision that opponents said would open the door to "much more coercive prayer" in public schools.

The court ruled 6-3 for the coach with the conservative justices in the majority and the liberals in dissent. The case was the latest in a line of rulings for religious plaintiffs.

The case forced the justices to wrestle with how to balance the religious and free speech rights of teachers and coaches with the rights of students not to feel pressured

into participating in religious practices. The liberal justices in the minority said there was evidence that Bremerton High School Coach Joseph Kennedy's prayers at the 50-yard-line had a coercive effect on students and allowed him to incorporate his "personal religious beliefs into a school event."

Dissenting Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that the decision "sets us further down a perilous path in forcing states to entangle themselves with religion."

But the justices in the majority emphasized that the coach's prayers came after the games were over and at a time when he wasn't responsible for students and was free to do other things.

The coach and his attorneys at First Liberty Institute, a Christian legal group, were among those cheering the decision. Kennedy said in an interview that his first reaction was one of pure joy.

"Just like in all my football games I just threw my arms up, you know, 'touchdown,'" he said. He described the seven years since the dispute began as tough on his family but "absolutely worth it."

Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing for the majority in the ruling, declared, "The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect and tolerance, not censorship and suppression, for religious and non-religious views alike."

Bodies of migrants found in truck in Texas

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Fifty people died after being abandoned in a tractor-trailer without air conditioning in the sweltering Texas heat, one of the worst tragedies to claim the lives of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico. More than a dozen people — their bodies hot to the touch — were taken to hospitals, including four children.

A city worker heard a cry for help from the truck parked on a lonely San Antonio back road late Monday afternoon and discovered the gruesome scene inside the trailer, Police Chief William McManus said. Hours later, body bags lay spread on the ground.

Forty-six people were found dead at the scene, authorities said. Four more later died after being taken to hospitals, said Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, the county's top elected official.

Among the dead were 39 males and 11 females, he said.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said those who died “were likely trying to find a better life.”

“This is nothing short of a horrific human tragedy,” Nirenberg said.

Attempts to cross the U.S. border from Mexico have claimed thousands of lives in in both countries in recent decades.

President Joe Biden called the latest deaths “horrifying and heartbreaking.” He said initial reports were that smugglers or human traffickers were to blame.

“Exploiting vulnerable individuals for profit is shameful, as is political grandstanding around tragedy, and my administration will continue to do everything possible to stop human smugglers and traffickers from taking advantage of people who are seeking to enter the United States between ports of entry,” Biden said in a statement.

The home countries of all of the migrants and how long they were abandoned on the side of the road were not immediately

known.

Twenty-two were from Mexico, seven from Guatemala and two from Honduras, Roberto Velasco Álvarez, head of the North America department in Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, said on Twitter. Desperate families were reaching out to the Mexican consulate in San Antonio throughout the morning looking for their loved ones, an employee there said.

South Texas has long been the busiest area for illegal border crossings. Migrants ride in vehicles through Border Patrol checkpoints to San Antonio, the closest major city, where they disperse across the United States.

Wolff said Tuesday that authorities believe the truck came from Laredo, a border city about 150 miles south.

“They had just parked it on the side of the road,” Wolff said. “Apparently had mechanical problems and left it there. The sheriff thinks it came across from Laredo.”

Federal worker vaccine mandate block revived

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — In a reversal for President Joe Biden, a federal appeals court in New Orleans on Monday agreed to reconsider its own April ruling that allowed the administration to require federal employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The new order from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans vacates an earlier ruling by a three-judge panel that upheld the mandate. The new order means a block on the mandate imposed in January by a Texas-based federal judge remains in effect, while the full court's 17 judges take up the ap-

peal. Biden had issued an order Sept. 9 requiring that more than 3.5 million federal executive branch workers undergo vaccination, with no option to get regularly tested instead, unless they secured approved medical or religious exemptions.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Brown, who was appointed to the District Court for the Southern District of Texas by then-President Donald Trump, issued a nationwide injunction against the requirement in January. At the time, the White House said 98% of federal workers were already vaccinated.

Brown's ruling was followed by back-and-

forth rulings at the 5th Circuit.

In February, a 5th Circuit panel refused to block Brown's ruling pending appeal.

But after hearing arguments in March, a different panel ruled 2-1 that Brown did not have jurisdiction in the case. The panel said those challenging the requirement could have pursued administrative remedies under Civil Service law.

Judges Carl Stewart and James Dennis, who were nominated by Democratic President Bill Clinton, were in the majority. Judge Rhessa Barksdale, nominated by Republican President George H.W. Bush, dissented.

Arlington might have to remove killer's remains

The Washington Post

Arlington National Cemetery would be required to disinter the remains of a former Navy officer who murdered a junior sailor decades ago under a proposed amendment to the annual defense budget bill.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., submitted the measure last week during the House Armed Services Committee's markup of the proposed legislation. No one on the panel objected.

The amendment directs the Army and Department of Veterans Affairs to remove An-

drew J. Chabrol's remains from the nation's largest military cemetery no later than Sept. 30, 2023.

They would be given to his relatives or, if none can be found, disposed of “as the Secretary of the Army deems appropriate,” the proposal says.

Her amendment also would empower the Army and VA to review other cases in which veterans who committed capital crimes were buried in national cemeteries, dating to Jan. 1, 1990. Current law allows for such reviews in cases dating only to December 2013.

A spokesman for Arlington National Cemetery said officials there do not comment on pending legislation.

In 1993, Chabrol was executed in Virginia for the murder of Petty Officer 2nd Class Melissa Harrington, an enlisted sailor within his Virginia Beach Navy unit who had reported him to her command for stalking and harassment. Court testimony revealed that Chabrol, despite not facing meaningful consequences from the Navy, had plotted revenge, keeping a journal detailing for months what he called “Operation Nemesis.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Restaurant workers shot in argument over mayo

GA ATLANTA — A man who complained there was too much mayonnaise on his sandwich opened fire at an Atlanta sandwich shop, killing one employee and injuring another, police said.

The shooting happened at a Subway restaurant attached to a gas station in downtown Atlanta. Police said the man argued with the two female workers and then opened fire, news outlets reported.

“What you’re seeing behind me is the result of a tragedy, a senseless tragedy that we’ve seen numerous times throughout the year where an argument leads to gunfire and now we have someone dead,” interim police Chief Darin Schierbaum told WSB-TV.

Police did not immediately release the names of the two women, and the condition of the injured woman wasn’t immediately available.

City halts hyperbaric wellness treatments

NC RALEIGH — The Raleigh Fire Department has ordered a wellness company to stop offering an oxygen-rich hyperbaric therapy treatment because of the fire risk.

Officials with Restore Hyper Wellness told the Raleigh News and Observer they are working with city and state fire marshals to bring back the service, called mild hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

The city shut the service down after a fire inspector visited the clinic and said there

was no fire suppression system. The business disputes that one is needed.

The treatment involves increased oxygen and air pressure, which can increase the risk of severe fire.

Proponents said the treatment is valuable for wound healing and other conditions, though critics have said its benefits are unproven in some areas.

5 people shot, hurt during trail ride event

TX TYLER — Five people were shot and injured during an outdoor event in East Texas that featured a trail ride, according to authorities.

The Smith County Sheriff’s Office said it received a call about multiple gunshot victims in a large pasture area in the eastern part of the county. People were taking part in an annual trail ride sponsored by Unified Elite Riderzz from nearby Marshall, Texas.

Authorities said witnesses told investigators that following a fight near a concert stage, one or more trail ride groups started shooting into the crowd.

After the initial shooting, some of the people at the event ran to the security area that had been collecting firearms from attendees and got their guns back, the sheriff’s office said. A second and third shooting then took place.

Aviator honored at memorial service

WV CHARLESTON — A West Virginia aviator who trained more than 40,000 pilots has been honored

at a memorial service at a county courthouse, officials said.

The Kanawha County Commission said the flag at the courthouse in Charleston was lowered to half-staff in honor of Benny Mallory, who was described by officials as a local aviation pioneer.

West Virginia International Yeager Airport said Mallory died June 20 at age 91.

Officials said he owned Mallory Airport in South Charleston. Mallory trained more than 40,000 pilots and charted over 35,000 flight hours, officials said.

Flags were also lowered at the airport in honor of Mallory.

Woman charged after freezing son’s body

MI DETROIT — A Detroit woman has been charged in the death of her 3-year-old son after police found the boy’s decomposing body in a basement freezer.

The 31-year-old woman is charged with first-degree murder, child abuse and torture and concealing the death of an individual, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said.

“The alleged facts in this case have astounded even the seriously jaded,” Worthy said. “Our children continue to be at risk — not just from gun violence but also from the alleged murderer that lives in the house with them.”

Detroit police officers and members of Child Protective Services were conducting a welfare check at the home when they discovered the boy’s body, Police Chief James White said. It was not immediately clear how or when the boy died or

how long his body had been in the freezer.

Five other children lived at the home, White said. They were placed in the custody of Child Protective Services.

Superintendent’s false captivity charges tossed

WI OCONTO — False imprisonment charges have been dismissed against a northeastern Wisconsin school superintendent accused of illegally detaining some students in a high school bathroom during searches for vaping devices.

A judge in Oconto County said facts in the criminal complaint against Kelly Casper were insufficient to support the six counts of false imprisonment against her.

“There’s nothing here that would allow me to conclude that there was a lack of consent or the defendant would know there was a lack of consent, or that she would know she did not have lawful authority to confine or restrain,” Judge Marc Hammer said.

Casper, 52, resigned as Surging School District superintendent effective June 30. She was charged last February with confining six female students who were asked to take off some of their clothes in a school bathroom during the searches Jan. 17 and 18.

Oconto County District Attorney Edward Burke determined the searches were lawful. He did file the false imprisonment charges, however, saying the students were illegally confined. The school board placed Casper on paid administrative leave soon after.

— From wire reports

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MLB hands out suspensions for brawl

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Los Angeles Angels interim manager Phil Nevin was suspended 10 games and Seattle Mariners outfielder Jesse Winker received a seven-game ban from Major League Baseball for their roles in a bench-clearing brawl during the second inning of Sunday's game.

Nevin and Winker were two of 12 players or coaches suspended between the teams, according to an MLB release Monday night.

Mariners shortstop J.P. Crawford received five games, Angels pitchers Ryan Tepera and Andrew Wantz were suspended for three, and Mariners outfielder Julio Rodríguez, Angels reliever Raisel Iglesias and major league interpreter Manny Del Campo received two games.

Angels third baseman Anthony Rendon, who is out for the rest of the season after undergoing wrist surgery, will be suspended five games when he returns from the injured

list. For now, he is prohibited from sitting on the bench for the next seven games.

Nevin received a significant suspension for Angels pitcher Wantz intentionally throwing at Winker while warnings were in place for both teams. Nevin made the late decision to pitch Wantz instead of scheduled starter Jose Suarez.

Nevin's suspension began Monday night as the Angels opened a series against the Chicago White Sox. Bench coach Ray Montgomery, who received a two-game suspension, will manage in Nevin's place. Montgomery and catching coach Bill Haselman (one game) will begin serving their suspensions after assistant pitching coach Dom Chiti returns from his five-game ban.

The punishments were announced within 90 minutes of Los Angeles' and Seattle's games Monday night.

Winker was hit by the first pitch of the second inning by Wantz, who had also thrown a

pitch behind Rodríguez's head during in the first inning. Wantz, who is suspended for three games, is the only player not appealing.

The up-and-in pitches appeared to be the Angels' response to Erik Swanson's 95 mph fastball near Mike Trout's head during the ninth inning Saturday night. Trout voiced his frustration about the pitch following the game.

Winker reacted to getting hit by Wantz, angrily yelling and gesturing toward the Angels' dugout. Winker then charged Los Angeles' dugout on the third-base side after yelling at Nevin with both benches and bullpens emptying.

The brawl lasted nearly four minutes, with both teams appearing to throw multiple punches.

The game was delayed for 18 minutes. Of the eight who were ejected, Seattle manager Scott Servais is the only one who wasn't suspended.

Guerrero, Jays end Red Sox win streak at 7 games

Associated Press

TORONTO — Toronto's Kevin Gausman gave the Red Sox a rough time as Boston got back to playing its biggest foes in the AL East.

Gausman matched a season high with 10 strikeouts over seven innings, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit one of three Toronto home runs and the Blue Jays halted Boston's seven-game winning streak, beating the Red Sox 7-2 Monday night.

The Red Sox, who came in 7-14 against AL East opponents, lost the opener of a stretch in which they face Toronto, Tampa Bay and the New York Yankees 20 times in 23 games.

The Red Sox have 16 games remaining against both the Rays and Yankees.

Boston hadn't faced the Blue Jays, Rays or Yankees since losing three of four in Toronto from April 25-28.

Only five of Boston's previous 50 games had been against division foes, all of them against Baltimore. The Red Sox went 2-3 in those games, while going 31-14 against other opponents.

Guerrero hit a two-run home run, his 18th of the season, Matt Chapman also hit a two-run blast and George Springer added a solo shot as Toronto improved to 6-2 against Boston.

Twins 11, Guardians 1: Sonny Gray pitched seven scoreless innings and Gary Sánchez had four RBIs to help visiting Min-

nesota stretch its lead in the AL Central.

Sánchez hit a three-run homer in the second inning off Triston McKenzie (4-6). Nick Gordon and Carlos Correa added two-run homers for Minnesota, now three games up on Cleveland. The teams will play four more times this week.

The Guardians have lost five straight.

Gray (4-1) gave up just three singles and struck out three.

Yankees 9, Athletics 5: Josh Donaldson hit a go-ahead two-run double during a six-run sixth inning as host New York beat Oakland.

The Yankees took advantage of two catcher's interference calls, a hit batter and a walk to spark their rally. Donaldson lined an 0-2 fastball from A.J. Puk (1-1) into left field for a 6-5 lead.

Rockies 4, Dodgers 0: Chad Kuhl pitched a three-hitter for his first career shutout and host Colorado beat Los Angeles.

José Iglesias hit a two-run homer and the Rockies handed Tyler Anderson (8-1) his first loss in 12 starts and two relief appearances this season. Kris Bryant went 1-for-4 in his return to the lineup after missing more than a month with a lower back strain.

Cardinals 9, Marlins 0: Juan Ypez had his first career multi-homer game, Paul Goldschmidt went 4-for-4 with a home run and two RBIs and Adam Wainwright pitched seven scoreless innings as host St. Louis beat Miami.

Wainwright (6-5) scattered seven hits through his first five innings. He retired the final seven batters he faced and struck out nine.

Angels 4, White Sox 3: Taylor Ward hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning, Noah Syndergaard snapped a four-game losing streak and host Los Angeles rallied past Chicago.

Syndergaard (5-6) allowed three runs on six hits in seven innings and struck out seven Brandon for the Angels, who have won two straight home games for the first time in nearly five weeks.

Nationals 3, Pirates 2: Maikel Franco hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning and host Washington beat Pittsburgh.

Luis García had three hits for the Nationals, who've won five of seven.

Top prospect Oneil Cruz hit his first homer of the season for Pittsburgh.

Rangers 10, Royals 4: Mitch Garver hit a two-run homer, Kole Calhoun also drove in two runs and visiting Texas beat Kansas City.

Orioles 9, Mariners 2: Tyler Wells pitched five nearly perfect innings, Adley Rutschman launched one of Baltimore's five home runs and the visiting Orioles held Seattle to three hits.

Wells (6-4) was perfect until allowing Cal Raleigh's homer with two outs in the fifth. He retired the next batter before handing off to the bullpen.

No welcome mat in Oregon for LIV Golf

Associated Press

Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf is getting a chilly reception in Oregon, its first stop in the United States.

This week, the series, which is paying enormous signing fees for players such as Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, descends on Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in tiny North Plains, nestled in the rolling hills west of Portland.

But the North Plains mayor, as well as officials from surrounding cities, have written the club's owner, Escalante Golf, with concerns. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden is speaking out against the tournament, and some members of the pricey club are also uncomfortable with the situation.

Opponents point to Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses, including the murder of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi. But in Oregon, there is also anger over the hit-and-run death of 15-year-old Fallon Smart in 2016.

Saudi student Abdulrahman Sameer Noorah was facing a trial on first-degree murder charges when he removed a tracking device and vanished. U.S. authorities believe the Saudi government helped arrange for a fake passport and provided a private jet for travel back to Saudi Arabia. The case was featured on "60 Minutes."

"It's wrong to be silent when Saudi Arabia tries to cleanse blood-stained hands, in the fight for Oregonians to get justice — Fallon Smart was killed very close to our house in Southeast Portland, and the person charged with the crime, a hit-and-run death, was based on all the evidence, whisked out of the country by the Saudis before he stood for trial," Wyden said in an interview with The Associated Press.

There is also concern the event could bring protests to North Plains, a town of just 3,400 people. Tickets to the event prohibit fans from displaying any political signs.

"We oppose this event because it is being sponsored by a repressive government whose human rights abuses are documented. We refuse to support these abuses by complicitly allowing the Saudi-backed organization to play in our backyard," said a letter signed by North Plains Mayor Teri Lenahan and 10 other mayors from surrounding cities.

Wyden has accused the Saudi government of sportswashing.

"It's just a page out of the autocrats' playbook covering up injustices by misusing athletics in hopes of normalizing their abuses," the senator said.

The event also has put Pumpkin Ridge members in a difficult spot. Some decided

to leave the club over the tournament, but it's unclear how many departed.

"A lot of members are like stuck between a rock and a hard place right now where politically they don't agree with it at all," said member Kevin Palmer of Beaverton. "But I also joined last year and put down like \$12,000, and if I leave I don't get any of that money back."

Greg Norman is CEO of LIV Golf Investments and the face of a circuit that aims to rival the PGA Tour. The 48-man field in Portland will compete for \$20 million in prize money for individual play, and \$5 million in team play, with 12 teams. Teams will be announced Tuesday after a draft.

The series added three more players to its roster this week, a group that includes 23-year-old Matthew Wolff and Oklahoma State's Eugenio Chacarra of Spain. Carlos Ortiz of Mexico is also joining, one week after Abraham Ancer of Mexico signed on.

Johnson, who had been No. 1 in the world longer than any player since Tiger Woods, and six-time major champion Mickelson were among the first big names to join. The Portland field since has added Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka and Patrick Reed, all major champions, though none among the current top 20 players in the world ranking.

Cup finalists Avs, Bolts show NHL value of trading

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — In a copycat league known for following the Stanley Cup champions, Colorado Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog paused when asked what other teams could do to emulate their success.

With a grin, Landeskog replied: "Find a Cale Makar somewhere."

Playoff MVP Cale Makar was a big part of Colorado's title run from the blue line, but more than anything else, the Avalanche showed the value of speed and skill in the NHL as hockey moves dramatically to prioritize those elements in the name of scoring. The Avalanche and the two-time defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning, who fell two wins short of a three-peat, provided evidence that it's worth taking risks at the trade deadline for the right fits.

Colorado traded its top two prospects and a couple of second-round picks to acquire forward Artturi Lehkonen and defenseman Josh Manson, along with trades for Andrew

Cogliano and Nico Sturm that helped the Avalanche win their first championship since 2001. Landeskog had plenty of praise for GM Joe Sakic and assistant Chris MacFarland in the moments after winning the Cup.

Perhaps the best lesson from this postseason is what a team that's hard to play against looks like.

The fast-moving Avs roared through the Western Conference playoffs that for years was known for big, heavy teams that pushed each other around. They needed the bulk and grit provided by Manson, center Nazem Kadri and others to endure the Lightning.

Thanks to sixth-year coach Jared Bednar, who instilled a focus in his team after several playoff disappointments, Colorado was also mentally ready for Tampa Bay's push — and much like the Lightning proved patience can pay off for organizations willing to stand behind their most important people even amid trying times.

This Stanley Cup Final finished that point, after the Lightning staved off elimination to send the series back to Tampa. Even after falling behind in Game 6, the Avs bounced back to be champions.

The Lightning may do this to more teams next year. While the Avalanche are facing a cap crunch with Manson, Kadri and goaltender Darcy Kuemper up for free agency, Tampa Bay has room to maneuver without breaking up its core.

Goal-scoring winger Ondrej Palat and defenseman Jan Rutta are free agents, along with trade deadline acquisition Nick Paul, but Lightning GM Julien BriseBois has worked magic before to get under the cap, and with it going up \$1 million next season, there's some breathing room.

Don't bet against the Lightning reaching a fourth straight Final and going for a third title in four years. They are 10-1 favorites, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, right behind Colorado (5-1) and Toronto (9-1).

Swiatek wins Wimbledon opener; streak at 36

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — From the red clay of the French Open to the green grass of Wimbledon, the wins keep coming for Iga Swiatek.

The top-seeded Pole won her opening match on Centre Court on Tuesday, beating Croatian qualifier Jana Fett 6-0, 6-3.

The victory was Swiatek's 36th in row and includes all seven matches she played at this year's French Open in winning her second title at Roland Garros. It's the longest winning streak on the women's tour since 1997, when Martina Hingis won 37.

"It's my first match on grass this season, so I knew it's going to be tricky," Swiatek said on court. "I'm just figuring out how to play here and trying to implement all the stuff that we were practicing on."

Even with seven-time champion Serena Williams in the draw at the All England Club, Swiatek is the woman to beat. She won five tournaments before heading to Paris in May, earning consecutive titles in Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart and Rome.

Swiatek, again wearing a pin with the colors of Ukraine on her hat, started out like she left off in her last match at the French Open. But she went down 3-1 in the second set before recovering.

"The second set, at the beginning I lost my focus a little bit and she used that pretty well," Swiatek said.

Coco Gauff, who lost to Swiatek in this year's French Open final, also won her opening match. The 11th-seeded American beat Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Gauff got the go-ahead break in the third set at 5-5 on her sixth break point of the game when Ruse double-faulted.

In her two previous appearances at the All England Club, Gauff reached the fourth round.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova advanced to the second round.

The 25th-seeded Czech, who came into the tournament after winning the grass-court tuneup event at Eastbourne, beat Jasmine Paolini of Italy 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Barbora Krejčíková, who won the French Open in 2021 to split Swiatek's two titles there, also advanced to the second round. The 13th-seeded Czech defeated Maryna Zanevska of Belgium 7-6 (4), 6-3.

No. 4 Paula Badosa, No. 5 Maria Sakkari, No. 12 Jelena Ostapenko and No. 33 Shuai Zhang of China also advanced.

Among the seeded players to lose was Olympic champion Belinda Bencic. The 14th-seeded Swiss player lost to Qiang Wang of China 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

No. 18 Jil Teichmann of Switzerland and No. 20 Amanda Anisimova of the United States also lost.

In the men's draw, No. 18 Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria retired from his match with an apparent injury. He was leading Steve Johnson of the United States 6-4, 2-5 when he stopped.

No. 15 Reilly Opelka of the United States, No. 19 Alex De Minaur of Australia, No. 29 Jenson Brooksby of the United States, No. 31 Sebastian Baez of Argentina and unseeded Nick Kyrgios of Australia also won.

Lawsuit alleges Texans enabled Watson's actions

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans had been told that their former quarterback Deshaun Watson was sexually assaulting and harassing women during massage sessions, but instead of trying to stop him, the team provided him with resources to enable his actions and "turned a blind eye" to his behavior, according to a lawsuit filed Monday.

The lawsuit against the team was filed in Houston by one of the 24 women who had previously sued Watson over allegations of sexual misconduct when he played for the Texans. Last week, the women's attorney, Tony Buzbee, announced 20 of the 24 lawsuits have been settled.

Watson, who was later traded to the Cleveland Browns, has denied any wrongdoing and vowed to clear his name. Watson is facing discipline from the NFL over the allegations. He is set to have a hearing this week with NFL disciplinary officer Sue L. Robinson, who will decide if the 26-year-old violated the league's personal conduct policy. Robinson is expected to rule before the Browns open training camp late next month.

In their lawsuits, the women accused Watson of exposing himself, touching them

with his penis or kissing them against their will during massage appointments. One woman alleged Watson forced her to perform oral sex.

The lawsuit against the Texans accuses the team and some of its employees of having been told or being aware of Watson's troubling behavior. Joni Honn, the owner of a massage company that was contracted with the Texans, told police investigators that her therapists were aware of Watson's "known tendency to push boundaries during massage sessions," according to the lawsuit.

Honn told the Texans, including the team's head trainer, that Watson was reaching out to random women on Instagram for massages in early 2020, according to the lawsuit.

Magen Weisheit, another massage therapist who worked with the Texans, told Houston police investigators she and others were well aware of Watson's conduct during massage sessions. When Weisheit learned of the allegations made against Watson by a woman who filed the first lawsuit against him, she wrote in a text to the woman's former co-worker that she could reach out to the team's player personnel person but "they don't do much about the

situation though," according to the lawsuit.

"Despite being actually aware of what can only be described as troubling behavior, the Houston Texans turned a blind eye. Worse, the Houston Texans organization enabled Watson's egregious behavior. The Texans also protected and shielded Watson — for Watson's own protection and the protection of the organization itself," according to the lawsuit.

The woman's lawsuit alleges the Texans provided Watson with various resources, including rooms at a Houston hotel, massage tables and a non-disclosure agreement the women were told to sign, that allowed the quarterback "to further his misconduct with women by turning the massage sessions into something sexual."

The Texans are also accused of having their head of security remove from the internet an Instagram video from November 2020 in which a woman had detailed alleged misconduct by Watson during massage sessions with her.

In a statement, the Houston Texans did not specifically address the various allegations made against the team.

The four lawsuits still pending against Watson could still go to trial, but that wouldn't happen until 2023 at the earliest.