

## NATO training to be put to test in Ukraine

*The Washington Post*

When Ukraine's long-awaited counteroffensive finally begins, the fight will be led by brigades armed not only with Western weapons but also Western know-how, gleaned from months of training aimed at transforming Ukraine's military into a modern force skilled in NATO's most advanced warfare tactics.

As other Ukrainian units were fighting to expel the Russian occupiers from the country's east and south, the brand-new 47th Separate Mechanized Brigade was preparing for the next phase of war from a classroom at a NATO base in Germany.

The brigade's leadership trained with computers that simulated situations they might face in real life. Deputy commander Maj. Ivan Shalamaha and others planned their assaults and then let the program show them the results — how their Russian enemies might respond, where they could make a breakthrough and where they would suffer losses.

"You understand the overall picture, how it works," Shalamaha said. "You understand where and what your shortcomings were. And we pay attention to what we failed to do during this simulation."

Now the war games are over. The 47th bri-

gade and other assault units have been armed with Western weapons, including Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, and relocated to a secret location closer to the front line. During a recent visit by Washington Post journalists, the soldiers were waiting for the order to charge ahead to retake a large swath of Ukrainian territory and tip the war back in Kyiv's favor.

The counteroffensive will be the biggest test yet of the U.S.-led strategy of giving the Ukrainians weapons and training to fight like an American army might — but on their own.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov called it the "next level" of security assistance, something he and other officials requested from their Western partners. The United Kingdom has been providing basic training to thousands of Ukrainian recruits since last summer. But more recently, whole Ukrainian units have been sent to Germany and other countries to learn "how to operate simultaneously together, like interoperability among the different units," Reznikov said.

"We need company-level, platoon-level, battalion-level training courses with techniques, with their infantry fighting vehicles, with a commander who will understand how to conduct his forces, support artillery, sup-

port reconnaissance operations," Reznikov said.

Critics of the West's new emphasis on training the Ukrainians in combined-arms warfare, in which tanks, artillery, combat vehicles and other weapons are layered to maximize the violence they inflict, have pointed out that Kyiv is still missing key elements to fully implement that attack, mainly modern fighter jets. Ukraine is expected to receive U.S.-made F-16s after Washington agreed not to stop allied nations from providing them, but they won't reach the battlefield in time for the counteroffensive.

One goal of the training is to teach Ukraine's soldiers how to go on offense. For years, the Ukrainian military focused mainly on defensive tactics — how to protect its territory from attack.

The quick, sweeping counteroffensive last fall to liberate nearly all of Ukraine's north-east Kharkiv region in less than a week was the military's first planned large-scale offensive in the country's more than 30 years of independence.

The success in Kharkiv, and last year's successful defense of Kyiv, were credited in part to previous NATO training for Ukraine's military, which began after Russia invaded Crimea.

## US aircraft aids ship surrounded by Iranian boats

**By J.P. LAWRENCE**

*Stars and Stripes*

Iranian boats swarmed a merchant vessel in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, leading to a distress call from the ship and the scrambling of a helicopter and a surveillance plane to the area, the U.S. Navy said.

The ship issued a distress call at 4:56 p.m. local time and reported that three fast-attack craft with armed gunmen were approaching and following them, a statement by the U.S. 5th Fleet said Sunday.

"The fast-attacked craft were assessed to be from the

Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy," the statement said.

The U.S. accused Iran of seizing a commercial oil tanker in late April and another one in early May, as part of a series of 15 incidents in which the U.S. says Iran interfered with ships in the Middle East.

The Iranian government says its recent seizures of oil tankers were due to ship violations or legal disputes.

Abbas Gholamshahi, an Iranian rear admiral, called the U.S. claims "baseless" and said the boats were responding

to the distress call from the ship, the semi-official Mehr News Agency and the state-run IRNA news agency said Monday.

Black and white imagery released by the U.S. 5th Fleet on Sunday night shows what appear to be three fast-moving small boats speeding near a cargo ship.

The U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul and the British Royal Navy frigate HMS Lancaster responded to the distress call, the U.S. Navy said.

The British ship launched a

helicopter, and the U.S. Navy sent a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to the scene.

After an hour, the crew of the cargo ship said the fast boat had left, the U.S. Navy statement said.

After the seizures of the tankers, the U.S. said it increased its rotation of aircraft and ships in the Strait of Hormuz, off Iran's coast. This includes Navy destroyers, Coast Guard fast response cutters, P-8 maritime patrol aircraft and unmanned systems, 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Tim Hawkins said in late May.

# DOD releases video showing 'unsafe' close call with China

Associated Press

BANGKOK — The U.S. military released video Monday of what it called an “unsafe” Chinese maneuver in the Taiwan Strait over the weekend, in which a Chinese navy ship cut sharply across the path of an American destroyer, forcing the U.S. vessel to slow to avoid a collision.

The incident occurred Saturday as the American destroyer USS Chung-Hoon and Canadian frigate HMCS Montreal were conducting a so-called “freedom of navigation” transit of the strait between Taiwan and mainland China.

China has claimed the democratic self-governing island of Taiwan as part of its own territory and maintains the strait is part of its exclusive economic zone, while the United States and its allies regularly sail through and fly over the passage to emphasize their contention that the waters are international.

During the Saturday transit, the Chinese guid-

ed-missile destroyer overtook the Chung-Hoon on its port side, then veered across its bow at a distance of some 150 yards, according to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

The American destroyer held its course, but reduced speed to 10 knots “to avoid a collision,” the military said.

The video released Monday shows the Chinese ship cutting across the course of the American one, then straightening out to start sailing in a parallel direction.

The Indo-Pacific Command said the actions violated maritime rules of safe passage in international water.

The Chinese ship did not attempt a similar maneuver on the Canadian frigate, which was sailing behind the American destroyer.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin defended the maneuver, saying it was undertaken “in accordance with the law.”

## Fighter jets scrambled after plane flies over DC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators trudged through rugged terrain Monday in search of wreckage from a business jet to solve the mystery of why the plane veered off course and slammed into a mountain, killing four people.

A day after the plane flew over the nation’s capital, prompting the military to scramble fighter jets, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a brief update that the pilot and three passengers were killed and that the plane was “destroyed” in the crash. Their identities weren’t released.

Attention on the crash and its cause was heightened by its unusual flight path over Washington, D.C. and a sonic boom caused by military aircraft heard across the capital, and parts of Maryland and Virginia. The North American Aerospace Defense Command said in a statement that military aircraft was authorized to travel at supersonic speeds, which caused the sonic boom. The aircraft also used flares to try to get the pilot’s attention. Police said Sunday that rescuers had reached the crash site in a rural part of the Shenandoah Valley and that no survivors were found.

The FAA said the Cessna Citation took off from Elizabethton, Tenn., on Sunday and was headed for Long Island’s MacArthur Airport. Inexplicably, the plane turned around over Long Island, N.Y., and flew a straight path down over D.C. before it crashed around 3:30 p.m.

## Work remains for NATO in Baltic despite alterations to Russia threat

BY ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

TALLINN, Estonia — NATO is ready if conflict with Russia arises, but finding ways to enhance overall readiness is critical and more work is needed, a U.S. admiral said this weekend just before an annual Baltic Sea exercise kicked off.

Lessons from the war in Ukraine have NATO better-prepared than it was a year-and-a-half ago, Vice Adm. Thomas Ishee, commander of U.S. 6th Fleet and Striking and Support Forces NATO, said Saturday, the day before the start of BALTOPS.

NATO is reshaping its force readiness plans to better adapt to threats. Those plans are not yet finalized, but as more is learned about them, exercises are being adapted to ensure that “we are rehearsing the right things,” Ishee said.

Although the Russian bear always looms large in the Baltics, Ishee and other commanders stressed that BALTOPS is not about Russia.

Rather, the exercise is intended to improve the alliance’s proficiency and build the trust needed to deter any enemy, they said.

And with the accession of Finland in April and the likely addition of Sweden pending, the alliance will boast a decisive edge in the Baltic Sea region, said Spanish Lt. Gen. Luis Lanchares, deputy commander of Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum in the Netherlands.

“As soon as Sweden becomes part of NATO, nearly the entire Baltic coast will be NATO nations,” Lanchares said.

The 52nd iteration of BALTOPS began Sunday with roughly 20 participating countries, including Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia and Turkey, the Navy said.

The two-week exercise includes 50 ships, more than 45 aircraft and 6,000 personnel, said Cmdr. Richlyn Ivey, a spokeswoman for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet. It ends June 16.

NATO has bolstered its presence in northeastern Europe in recent years.

It has established battalions in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland and sent more ships and resources to the Baltic Sea, according to the alliance.

# Vegas shooting memorial models revealed

*Associated Press*

LAS VEGAS — The white angel wings jut upright from the earth with a warm glow of light, towering above the site of modern America's deadliest mass shooting.

As the sun sets over the Las Vegas Strip, painting a purple horizon, visitors gaze up at the monument erected in the same place where 58 people were shot and killed and hundreds more were injured on the final night of a country music festival on Oct. 1, 2017. Two survivors later died from their gunshot wounds.

This scene is depicted in one of five design renderings for a permanent memorial to be built on the site of the shooting to honor victims, survivors and first responders.

Clark County was set to unveil 3D mod-

els of each design at a new exhibit in downtown Las Vegas later Monday morning, marking a major step in an arduous planning process that began more than three years ago and had been stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The exhibit at Clark County's government center will be open until early September.

"These concepts show in vivid detail the power of what this memorial effort means to so many in five unique ways," Jim Gibson, chairman of the Clark County Commission, said in a statement. Gibson's district includes the site of the shooting.

Each of the five potential designs includes a garden element, with trees along walking paths or flower beds framing the

memorial. One design showcases large horse statues. Another is centered around a cluster of light poles, each with photos of a victim.

Later this month, a committee tasked with planning the memorial will collect public input on the design proposals that they say will help them craft their final plan for a memorial. The committee is set to submit its plan to the county commission for approval ahead of the massacre's sixth anniversary.

"No matter which design concept gets recommended, we can be proud of the process our committee put into place and amazing ideas inspired by it," Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick said in a statement.

## Directors land a tentative deal while writers strike

*The Washington Post*

A major union representing film and television directors announced late Saturday that it had reached a tentative deal with Hollywood producers, addressing industry fears that artificial intelligence may wipe out creative workers' jobs and instituting an on-set ban of live ammunition after a cinematographer was killed in 2021.

The Directors Guild of America said its "historic" three-year contract with studios and streaming services recognizes that AI cannot replace members' work.

While the DGA had previously been quiet on the issue, it was a flashpoint in negotiations between screenwriters and producers before their negotiations collapsed,

leading to the Writers Guild of America strike that began a month ago.

Some economists have warned that AI could eventually replace hundreds of millions of jobs across industries.

The live ammunition ban, meanwhile, comes about a year and a half after cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed on the set of "Rust." Criminal charges against actor Alec Baldwin, who was handling a prop gun when it discharged, were filed, then dropped.

The directors' deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers would also: provide a 5% wage increase in the first year, with raises of 4% and 3.5% in the two subsequent years; reduce the

length of assistant directors' workdays by an hour; and expand other safety programs.

"This deal recognizes the future of our industry is global and respects the unique and essential role of directors and their teams as we move into that future," DGA President Lesli Linka Glatter said in a statement. "As each new technology brings about major change, this deal ensures that each of the DGA's 19,000 members can share in the success we all create together."

The directors union, which began negotiations with producers May 10, said the guild's national board will consider approving the tentative agreement Tuesday. The deadline for a new DGA deal is June 30.

## Apple expected to unveil a sleek, pricey VR headset

*Associated Press*

Apple appeared poised to unveil a long-rumored headset that would place its users between the virtual and real world, while also testing the technology trendsetter's ability to popularize new-fangled devices after others failed to capture the public's imagination.

After years of speculation, the stage was set for the widely anticipated announcement to be made Monday at Apple's annual developers conference in a Cupertino, Calif., theater named after the company's late co-founder Steve Jobs. Apple was also likely to use the event to show off its latest Mac

computer, preview the next operating system for the iPhone and discuss its strategy for artificial intelligence.

But the star of the show was expected to be a pair of goggles — perhaps called "Reality Pro," according to media leaks — that could become another milestone in Apple's lore of releasing game-changing technology, even though the company hasn't always been the first to try its hand at making a particular device.

Apple's lineage of breakthroughs date back to a bow-tied Jobs peddling the first Mac in 1984 — a tradition that continued with the iPod in 2001, the iPhone in 2007, the

iPad in 2010, the Apple Watch in 2014 and its AirPods in 2016.

But with a hefty price tag that could be in the \$3,000 range, Apple's new headset may also be greeted with a lukewarm reception from all but affluent technophiles.

If the new device turns out to be a niche product, it would leave Apple in the same bind as other major tech companies and startups that have tried selling headsets or glasses equipped with technology that either thrusts people into artificial worlds or projects digital images with scenery and things that are actually in front of them — a format known as "augmented reality."

# Vets return to Utah Beach to mark D-Day

*Associated Press*

ON UTAH BEACH, France — Looking at the vastness of Utah Beach, its sand blowing in strong wind and bright sunshine, made Robert Gibson's memory of D-Day even more vivid.

"It was tough," the 99-year-old veteran said of the moment when he landed there on June 6, 1944, alongside more than 150,000 other Allied troops.

Gibson was among dozens of World War II veterans, mostly Americans and British, who traveled to Normandy this week to mark the 79th anniversary of D-Day, commemorating the decisive assault that led to the liberation of France and Western Europe from Nazi control.

He remembered "lots of casualties. We had almost run over bodies to get in the beach. Never

forget we were only 18, 19 years old. ... I'm glad I made it."

Gibson landed on Utah Beach on D-Day in the second wave, after the assault troops. He survived to continue fighting in Normandy and eventually into Germany.

The first job of his battalion, he said, was "to guard an ammunition dump and the first night it got struck. You didn't know where you were to go. Bullets were going all over the place. But we ducked it."

Andrew Negra also landed on Utah Beach. That was on July 18, 1944. He returned for the first time this year and was "amazed" by the warm welcome from local French people.

"Every place we went, people are cheering, clapping, and they've been doing this for I

don't know how many years," he said.

At age 99, Negra is the only member of his battalion who is still alive. Braving the wind to walk on the beach for a few minutes, he said, "So many we lost. And here I am."

Negra participated in combat operations until his division reached eastern Germany in April 1945.

On Sunday, over 40 American veterans of World War II formed a parade, using wheelchairs, along the streets of the small town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise, where thousands of paratroopers jumped not long after midnight on June 6, 1944.

Cheerful crowds applauded, calling out "Merci" and "Thank you." Children waved, and many families asked for a photo with

the men.

Donnie Edwards, president of the Best Defense Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps World War II veterans visit former battlefields, said, "For us, every year is a big one."

Given the ages of the soldiers who fought more than seven decades ago, Edwards observed, "Nothing is guaranteed. So we want to make sure that we do everything we can to get them an incredible and enjoyable experience."

The veterans then headed to Sainte-Marie-du-Mont for a brief ceremony at a monument honoring the U.S. Navy that overlooks Utah Beach.

"The fallen will never be forgotten. The veteran will ever be honored," an inscription in the stone reads.

## Survivor recounts trauma of deadly India train crash

*Associated Press*

BALASORE, India — Gura Pallay was watching another train pass by the one he was sitting in when he heard sudden, loud screeching. Before he could make sense of what was happening, he was thrown out of the train.

Pallay, 24, landed next to the tracks along with metal wreckage of the train he'd been riding in, and instantly lost consciousness. The first thing he saw when he opened his eyes was the twisted remains of a train on the tracks.

His train had derailed after colliding with a stopped freight train shortly after leaving Balasore, a coastal city about 125 miles north of the state capital. Another passenger train, the one he had seen pass by moments earlier, then hit the derailed carriages.

"I saw it with my own eyes, but I still can't describe what I saw. I am haunted by it," he said Sunday at a hospital, where he lay on

a stretcher with a broken leg and dark wounds on his face and arms.

Pallay is a laborer, like most of the people onboard the two passenger trains that crashed Friday in the eastern state of Odisha, killing 275 people and injuring hundreds. He was traveling to Chennai city in southern India to take up a job in a paper mill factory when the Coromandel Express crashed with a goods freight train, knocking it off track, and was then hit by a second train coming from the opposite direction on a parallel track.

"I never imagined something like this could happen, but I guess it was our fate," he said.

Investigators said Sunday that a signaling failure might have caused the three-train crash, one of the worst rail disasters in the country's history. Authorities recommended that India's Central Bureau of Investigations, open an investigation into the crash.

## Australian mom pardoned due to doubt she killed kids

*Associated Press*

CANBERRA, Australia — An Australian woman who spent 20 years in prison was pardoned and released Monday based on new scientific evidence that her four children died by natural causes as she had insisted.

The pardon was seen as the quickest way of getting Kathleen Folbigg out of prison, and a final report from the second inquiry into her guilt could recommend the state Court of Appeals quash her convictions. Folbigg, now 55, was released from a prison in Grafton, New South Wales state, following an unconditional pardon by Gov. Margaret Beazley.

Australian state governors are figureheads who act on instructions of governments. New South Wales Attorney-General Michael Daley said former justice Tom Bathurst had advised him last week there was reasonable doubt about Folbigg's guilt based on new scientific evidence that the deaths could have been from

natural causes.

"There is a reasonable doubt as to Ms. Folbigg's guilt of the manslaughter of her child Caleb, the infliction of grievous bodily harm on her child Patrick and the murder of her children Patrick, Sarah and Laura," Daley told reporters.

"I have reached a view that there is reasonable doubt as to the guilt of Ms. Folbigg of those offenses," Daley added.

Bathurst has conducted the second inquiry into Folbigg's guilt, initiated by a petition that said it was "based on significant positive evidence of natural causes of death" and signed by 90 scientists, medical practitioners and related professionals.

Prosecutors acknowledged to his inquiry in April that there was reasonable doubt about her guilt.

Folbigg was serving a 30-year sentence that was to expire in 2033. The children died separately over a decade, at between 19 days and 19 months old.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Students bring zoo to school for senior prank

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — The students at Germantown Friends School bought a zoo. No, really.

Organized by seniors Oscar Schwartz and Hugh Rigdon, the graduating class at the private Quaker school brought a petting zoo to campus as part of an end-of-year prank.

The pop-up zoo included turtles, rabbits, goats of all ages, a lizard, chickens, and the show-stopping Percy the camel — about a dozen animals total — from Bucks County's Peaceable Kingdom.

Seniors spent the morning taking photos, holding baby goats, and feeding grass to Percy, according to Schwartz, who said the organized chaos ended up disrupting classes for the day as teachers walked younger kids through the petting zoo.

## Police arrest man, look for 2 others in shooting

**FL** HOLLYWOOD — Police in Florida arrested one man Saturday and announced arrest warrants for two others believed to be the gunmen who opened fire along a crowded beachside promenade on Memorial Day, wounding nine people.

The Hollywood Police Department said authorities arrested Jordan Burton and are searching for Ariel Cardahn Paul and Lionel JeanCharles Jr.

The suspects will be charged with one count of attempted murder in the first degree, eight counts of attempted murder in the second degree and one count of carrying a concealed firearm,

police said in a news release.

Two other men who police said were involved in the altercation that led to the shooting have already been arrested on firearms charges.

## Condo evacuated over concerns of stability

**MN** ROCHESTER — Less than a week after an apartment building partially collapsed in Iowa, more than 140 people were evacuated from a condominium in Minnesota after a structural engineer expressed concerns about its stability.

Officials in Rochester, Minn., ordered residents of the 15-story, 94-unit Rochester Towers Condominium to evacuate Friday afternoon, police said.

Residents were advised to find temporary housing elsewhere while short-term shoring work is done to the building structure, The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported.

They will not be allowed back into the building until Monday at the earliest, city spokeswoman Jenna Bowman said.

## Park reopens nearly 2 years after Hurricane Ida

**LA** GRAND ISLE — Grand Isle State Park has reopened, nearly two years after Hurricane Ida raked the barrier island and destroyed much of its infrastructure.

The park's beach, recreational vehicle pads and tent campsites reopened Thursday. The Gulf fishing pier and one of the two bathhouses, however, remain closed for repairs, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported.

Ida, a Category 4 storm that ranks sixth among the most destructive hurricanes in U.S. history, came ashore west of Grand Isle on Aug. 29, 2021, with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph. Almost all of Grand Isle's 2,500 structures were damaged, and 700 homes were destroyed.

The main reason it took 21 months to reopen the park for recreation is that it was used for emergency housing for Ida victims, said Brandon Burris, assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Tourism and Recreation. Some Grand Isle residents whose homes were damaged camped there or lived in Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers parked there.

## Mental health services grow for armed forces

**VA** VIRGINIA BEACH — Trails of Purpose, a Chesapeake-based nonprofit that uses horses to support military members, is preparing to expand its services to a new facility to accommodate a growing need for mental health resources.

Roughly 30 volunteers gathered recently at One Red Maple Farm to help clean the property. Trails of Purpose began leasing parts of the 38-acre Pungo farm in early May and is going through the city's conditional use permit process to open the property to military members and their families seeking mental health counseling.

Located in the heart of one of the nation's most densely populated military communities, co-founder Kayla Arestivo said expanding services was necessary.

"Just look at the news," said

Arestivo, a licensed mental health counselor and military spouse. "Military mental health — Department of Defense mental health — is overrun right now. It is not well supported or billeted."

Trails of Purpose provides therapeutic care for service members suffering mental hardships, using horses for assisted psychotherapy and mental health education. The various services, which mostly involve handling the horses on foot, are meant to help current and former military members and their families overcome the trauma, transition and trials from military service.

## 2 killed in small-plane crash just after takeoff

**MS** TUPELO — A small twin-engine aircraft crashed Saturday near hangars at Tupelo Regional Airport in northeastern Mississippi, killing two people, authorities said.

The plane banked sharply after takeoff, witnesses told WCBI-TV, and came down beside the airport's Army Aviation Support Facility.

Video posted on the news outlet's Facebook page showed flames and black smoke rising from wreckage in a grassy field between the Army hangar and a fence surrounding the airport. The siren of a firefighting vehicle could be heard.

The crash happened at around 8 a.m., and the two casualties were later confirmed by Tupelo Police Chief John Quaka. Authorities have not released the names of the dead or a possible cause for the crash.

— From wire reports

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# Miami takes Game 2 of NBA Finals

*Associated Press*

DENVER — Staring down a 2-0 deficit in the NBA Finals, as the visitors in a hostile arena where no road team had prevailed in more than two months, the Miami Heat decided to do what they've done throughout the postseason.

They found a way. Against all odds. Again.

The Heat tied the NBA Finals and had to overcome a monster 41-point effort from Nikola Jokic to do it. Gabe Vincent scored 23 points, Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo each had 21 and the Heat beat the Denver Nuggets 111-108 in Game 2 on Sunday night.

"Our guys are competitors," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They love these kind of moments."

Evidently.

They were down by as many as 15 points, down eight going into the fourth, and those numbers signified they were going

to lose. Denver was 11-0 in these playoffs when leading by double digits at any point in a game, and 37-1 this season overall when leading by at least eight going into the fourth.

The Heat didn't care. They outscored Denver 17-5 in the first 3:17 of the fourth to take the lead for good, eventually went up by 12, then frittered most of it away and had to survive a three-point try by Jamal Murray as time expired.

"This is the Finals," Adebayo said. "We gutted one out."

Game 3 is Wednesday in Miami.

Max Strus scored 14 and Duncan Robinson had 10 — all of them in the fourth — for the Heat, who had a big early lead, then got down by as many as 15. They had no answers for Jokic, who was 16-for-28 from the floor, the last of those shots a 4-footer with 36 seconds left to get the Nuggets within three.

Denver elected not to foul on

the ensuing Miami possession and it paid off. Butler missed a three, and with a chance to tie, Murray missed a three-pointer at the buzzer.

"I just contested it," Butler said. "Pretty glad that he missed it."

Denver lost at home for the first time since March 30, and for the first time in 10 home playoff games this year. And just as he did after a Game 1 win, Nuggets coach Michael Malone sounded the alarm after a Game 2 loss.

"Let's talk about effort," Malone said. "I mean, this is the NBA Finals and we're talking about effort. That's a huge concern of mine. You guys probably thought I was just making up some storyline after Game 1 when I said we didn't play well. We didn't play well. ... This is not the preseason. This is the NBA Finals."

Murray had 18 points and 10

assists for Denver, while Aaron Gordon had 12 points and Bruce Brown scored 11.

"They just played hard, and like I said, it was more discipline," Murray said. "It's defeating when you're giving up mistake after mistake, and it's not them beating you, you're giving them open dunks or open shots. That's tough to come back from."

Strus, who was 0-for-10 in Game 1, had four three-pointers in the first quarter of Game 2. Butler made a jumper with 4:56 left in the opening quarter to put Miami up 21-10, tying the second-biggest lead any opponent had built in Denver so far in these playoffs.

In a flash, it was gone — and then some.

The Nuggets outscored Miami 32-11 over the next 9 minutes, turning the double-digit deficit into a double-digit lead thanks to an absolute three-point barrage.

## Gauff reaches French Open quarters for 3rd straight year

*Associated Press*

PARIS — Coco Gauff put aside a skinned knee and a bad stretch in the first set to reach the French Open quarterfinals for the third consecutive year with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Anna Karolina Schmiedlova on Monday.

Next for Gauff could be a rematch against No. 1 Iga Swiatek, who beat the 19-year-old American in last year's final at Roland Garros. Swiatek was scheduled to face Lesia Tsurenko in the fourth round later Monday.

Gauff grabbed a 5-2 lead against Schmiedlova, but then things got more interesting. Gauff got broken while serving for the set at 5-2 and again at 5-4.

She helped the 100th-ranked Schmiedlova — who had never been past the third round at a

major tournament — with a double-fault, then dumped a forehand into the net to end a 21-stroke exchange, making it 5-all. In the next game, Gauff stumbled on the slippery clay in sun-splashed but windy Court Philippe Chatrier, scraping her right knee.

After she gathered herself to claim that set, Gauff was visited by a trainer, who placed a white bandage just below her knee. The edges of that patch began to curl up as Gauff played, and she removed it soon after.

The other women's quarterfinal on the top half of the draw Wednesday will be No. 7 Ons Jabeur of Tunisia vs. No. 14 Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil.

Tuesday's quarterfinals are Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka vs. Elina Svitolina, and 2021 French Open final-

ist Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova vs. Karolina Muchova. The only seeded player in the bunch is No. 2 Sabalenka.

Jabeur was the runner-up at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last season, but she exited the French Open in the first round and it was the only major at which she hadn't been to the quarterfinals until now. She got there by beating Bernarda Pera, an American ranked 36th, 6-3, 6-1.

Jabeur managed to win all eight of Pera's service games, helped by taking 15 of 16 second-serve points. Pera didn't help herself, either, by making 33 unforced errors to just 13 winners.

"I was expecting her to play better," Jabeur said.

Haddad Maia reached her first Slam quarterfinal by out-

lasting 132nd-ranked Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-5 in a fourth-rounder that lasted 3 hours, 51 minutes.

Before this trip to Paris, Haddad Maia never had been past the second round at Roland Garros or any other Grand Slam tournament.

Like Jabeur, Casper Ruud made his way to two Grand Slam championship matches last season. And like Jabeur, he came up short each time.

The No. 4-seeded Ruud, the 2022 runner-up to Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros and to Carlos Alcaraz at the U.S. Open, returned to the quarterfinals in Paris by defeating Nicolas Jarry 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-5.

Ruud's quarterfinal opponent will be No. 6 Holger Rune, who beat No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7).

# White Sox sweep Tigers with walk-off slam

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jake Burger's game-ending grand slam handed Liam Hendriks his first win since returning from cancer, and the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-2 on Sunday for a three-game series sweep.

Hendriks (1-0) worked a 1-2-3 ninth, striking out two. It was the third big league appearance for the All-Star closer since he missed the start of the season after he was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Hendriks' win coincided with National Cancer Survivors Day in the United States.

"Hopefully I can continue moving forward and continue somewhat of at least doing the right thing on the field, and give people some hope to continue fighting," Hendriks said.

Yoán Moncada and Tim Anderson walked with one out to load the bases for Burger, who hit a drive to left-center off Alex Lange (3-1) for his 12th homer of the season. It was his first career slam and game-ending homer.

Spencer Torkelson hit a two-run homer for Detroit, which has dropped five of six. Matthew Boyd struck out nine while pitching five innings of

one-run ball.

**Yankees 4, Dodgers 1:** Anthony Rizzo scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on a grounder and visiting New York edged Los Angeles.

Anthony Volpe provided some insurance with a two-run homer in the ninth for the Yankees, who were without AL MVP Aaron Judge after he injured his right foot after crashing into the right-field bullpen door while making a running catch on Saturday.

J.D. Martinez homered for the Dodgers, who dropped the final two games in the series.

**Rangers 12, Mariners 3:** Marcus Semien extended MLB's longest hitting streak this season to 23 games, Jonah Heim homered and drove in five runs, and host Texas' offense kept rolling.

The AL West leaders scored at least 10 runs for a major league-leading 16th time.

**Rays 6, Red Sox 2:** Yandy Díaz's sixth-inning RBI single turned into a two-run Little League homer, and major league-best Tampa Bay beat sloppy Boston.

Josh Lowe, Luke Raley and Díaz each had two hits for the visiting Rays (42-19), who are 6-1 against AL East rival Boston this season.

**Braves 8, Diamondbacks 5:**

Eddie Rosario hit a grand slam off Miguel Castro with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting visiting Atlanta to the victory.

Arizona led 5-4 heading into the ninth after Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer and rookie Corbin Carroll connected for a solo shot.

**Angels 2, Astros 1:** Shohei Ohtani hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning, and visiting Los Angeles avoided a four-game series sweep.

Ohtani was hitless before clubbing a pitch from Phil Maton (0-1) off the wall in right field, driving in Gio Urshela for a 2-1 lead.

**Guardians 2, Twins 1:** Triston McKenzie tossed five scoreless innings in his injury-delayed season debut, and visiting Cleveland's Josh Naylor delivered a breakthrough RBI double in the seventh.

McKenzie had 10 strikeouts and only one baserunner, a two-out single by Michael Taylor in the third.

**Blue Jays 6, Mets 4:** Brandon Belt broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-run homer, and visiting Toronto finished a three-game sweep.

**Orioles 8, Giants 3:** Josh

Lester drove in two runs for visiting Baltimore with his first major league hit, and Tyler Wells won for the first time in his last four starts.

**Cubs 7, Padres 1:** Marcus Stroman pitched six sharp innings and Miguel Amaya hit his first big league homer, leading visiting Chicago to the victory.

**Pirates 2, Cardinals 1:** Rich Hill pitched four-hit ball into the seventh inning, and host Pittsburgh beat St. Louis for a three-game series sweep.

**Brewers 5, Reds 1:** Adrian Houser pitched seven sparkling innings and Andruw Monasterio hit his first career homer, leading visiting Milwaukee to the victory.

**Phillies 11, Nationals 3:** Kyle Schwarber hit two three-run homers, and visiting Philadelphia beat Washington in the rubber game of their weekend set.

**Marlins 7, Athletics 5:** Luis Arraez hit a tiebreaking infield single in the eighth inning, and host Miami beat Oakland to complete a three-game series sweep.

**Royals 2, Rockies 0:** Brady Singer pitched five-hit ball into the sixth inning, leading last-place Kansas City to the victory over visiting Colorado.

## Wake Forest among 9 reaching college baseball super regionals

Associated Press

No. 1 national seed Wake Forest completed one of the most dominant runs through an NCAA Tournament regional Sunday and joined Oral Roberts of the Summit League and seven others advancing to super regionals.

The Demon Deacons beat George Mason 15-1 in the final in Winston-Salem, N.C., and outscored their three opponents by a combined 48-7.

Oral Roberts extended its winning streak to 21 games and became the eighth No. 4 regional seed since 2006 to make a super regional when it held off Dallas Baptist 6-5 in Stillwater, Okla.

No. 7 Virginia, No. 14 Indiana State, No.

15 South Carolina, No. 16 Alabama, Tennessee, Texas and Oregon also wrapped up regionals.

Virginia defeated East Carolina 8-3 in Charlottesville to make a super regional for the second time in three years. Indiana State, hosting a regional for the first time, won 11-8 over Iowa to make its first super regional. South Carolina, which entered the tournament with losses in 11 of its last 14 games, beat Campbell 16-7 and is back in supers for the first time since 2018.

Alabama beat Boston College 8-0 for its first regional title since 2010. The Crimson Tide have won 13 of 17 games under interim coach Jason Jackson, who took

over after Brad Bohannon was fired for allegedly violating NCAA rules against sports wagering.

Tennessee and Texas are in supers for the third straight year. The Volunteers beat Charlotte 9-2 to finish a sweep through the Clemson Regional, and the Longhorns won 10-6 at No. 9 Miami for the second victory in two days over the Hurricanes. Oregon beat Xavier 11-2 to return to supers for the first time since 2012.

Wake Forest (50-10) will host Alabama (43-19) starting Friday or Saturday with a chance to advance to the College World Series for the first time since winning the 1955 national title.

# Busch holds on for NASCAR Cup Series win

Associated Press

MADISON, Ill. — Kyle Busch had been in and out of his car through a lengthy weather delay. He had idled on the track through two red flags. He had kept his poise through 11 cautions, including five down the stretch as he tried to protect his lead.

It must have seemed like Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series Race at World Wide Technology Raceway would never end.

It finally did in the twilight, though, some six hours after the green flag initially dropped. Busch got a big push from Denny Hamlin on the last restart and then held him off in a green-white-checkered finish for his third victory of the year.

"That was pretty awesome, man, to sit on the pole, lead a lot of laps and have my guys do such a great job today. It was pretty phenomenal for us," Busch said. "We're going to have a great time with this one. This one is pretty cool."

Bubba Wallace brought out the 11th and final yellow when

he was fighting for a top-10 finish and his brake rotor let go with five laps remaining, the last in a series of broken rotors that ended the race for at least three other drivers.

Busch, who had held off Kyle Larson on each previous restart, had one last phenomenal jump in him. He was well ahead of the rest of the field by the backstretch with just over a lap left and was never seriously challenged by Hamlin after he took the white flag, giving Richard Childress Racing another victory after triumphs at Talladega and Auto Club Speedway.

"Any time we give him a car capable of winning, he's going to win it," Childress said. "Those last three or four or however many restarts, I thought that was pretty tough, but I knew he would do his job."

The win was especially gratifying for Busch's crew chief, Randall Burnett, who not only produced a car fast enough to win the pole in his hometown but also made all the right calls

on Sunday. Burnett hails from nearby Fenton, Mo., and had plenty of friends and family in a sellout crowd of about 60,000 on a brutally hot late spring day.

"It means a lot to me coming home," Burnett said.

Hamlin finished second while Joey Logano, the winner a year ago in the Cup Series debut at the track, got around Larson on the final lap for third. Martin Truex Jr. rounded out the top five ahead of Ryan Blaney, last week's winner at Charlotte.

"Long day for sure," Logano said after climbing out of his car. "There were four or five cars that were just better than us. We made some good adjustments at the end and we were in the hunt."

It was a long day for Corey LaJoie, who filled in for Chase Elliott in the No. 9 car for Hendrick Motorsports and spent most of the day near the back before finishing 21st. Elliott was suspended for the race for intentionally wrecking Hamlin

last week.

It also was a long day for everyone on pit stands. There were some technical issues that not only prevented them from having communication with teams back at their shops, but also limited the amount of data they were able to see.

"It was interesting for sure," Truex said. "It was just an uphill climb."

Carson Hocevar made his Cup Series debut in place of LaJoie in the No. 7 for Spire Motorsports. But the car still carried LaJoie's name, so the 20-year-old Hocevar walked through the fan area several hours before the green flag handing out drinks to make sure everyone knew he was in it. Hocevar was on the move Sunday when his brake rotor broke during Stage 2.

"I was running 16th and it was so surreal. I thought we were going to have a good day and be in a good spot," Hocevar said. "Hopefully that call for a Cup ride isn't the only one I get in my life."

## Palou takes Detroit Grand Prix with IndyCar back downtown

Associated Press

DETROIT — Alex Palou went from critic to champion in a day.

He started and finished first in the Detroit Grand Prix on Sunday, roughly 24 hours after the IndyCar points leader said the street course was too tight and short for the series.

"It was a lot better than I expected," said Palou, who won his second race in less than a month and the sixth of his career.

The Spaniard, who won the Indianapolis Grand Prix, led 74 of 100 laps on Detroit's new street circuit and went ahead for the last time on lap 77. He stayed in front after Will Power made a move that didn't pan out as he made contact with Scott Dixon on lap 91.

"I couldn't get him," said Dixon, a Team Penske driver. "I tried everything. My one chance was when Dixon got into me."

After a seventh yellow flag, Palou pulled away in his Honda with five laps left and beat Power's Chevrolet by 1.1843 seconds. Flex Rosenqvist finished third, followed by Scott Dixon and Alexander Rossi.

Indianapolis 500 champion Josef Newgarden finished 10th in the 27-car field.

The race got off to a rough start.

It was waved off because there wasn't enough space between cars. When the race resumed on the second lap going into Turn 3, Callum Ilott damaged Kyle Kirkwood's wing by running into him in the middle

of the pack.

Palou said his plan was to stay in front with clean air ahead of the chaos as much as possible.

It worked out well.

The Chip Ganassi Racing driver led the race from the start until pitting on lap 29 and allowing Power to pull into the lead.

When Power pulled into the split pit five laps later, Pato O'Ward had a lead that didn't last long. Just after leaving a pit stop, his Honda stalled due to a mechanical issue and his Chip Ganassi Racing crew had to push him back to address the problem.

Trying to make up ground, O'Ward made an aggressive move to get inside Santino Ferrucci and ran into a barrier wall ending his day 41 laps into the

100-lap race.

Palou, meanwhile, was fast and steady enough to lead the race for most of the afternoon.

While he complained about the short, tight and bumpy circuit, fans seemed to enjoy the day above the fray and some watched for free. More than half of the race track was accessible without an admission charge and some had a view from boats and jet skis on the Detroit River that separates the United States from Canada.

The Detroit Grand Prix returned downtown for the first time since 1991, when it was held on a 2.5-mile course in the same area, after running up the river at Belle Isle.

"Detroit did a tremendous job," Palou said. "The fans were amazing."