

New Navy promotion policy in effect

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy has implemented a new policy that will allow commanding officers to recommend certain sailors for advancement to help fill empty assignments, but the sailors must reenlist, the service announced Monday.

The policy, which took effect Saturday, allows eligible sailors to advance to the paygrades of E-5 or E-6 to fill vacant billets or ones that will become open in the next 18 months.

Sailors must agree to reenlist

and fulfill the tour requirements for the billet.

The effort, known as Command Advance to Position, or CA2P, is different from the service's Meritorious Advancement Program, or MAP, which allows sailors to be promoted without agreeing to additional time in service. CA2P will replace MAP in the next two years, according to the Navy announcement.

Under the new policy, commanding officers can recommend a sailor by submitting a Manning Realignment Request,

or MRR, on the career website, MyNavy Assignment, for those more than 12 months out from their projected rotation date.

If a sailor is less than 12 months away from the projected rotation date, commands can recommend the sailor for the new billet through an email request to the appropriate placement management coordinator.

To be eligible to be promoted to an E-5, one must have passed the most recent advancement exam and must have two years of cumulative sea duty. Those who have previously undergone

the CA2P process to advance to E-5 must agree to an additional two years of service on top of the current tour length to become an E-6.

"Sailors who are assigned to overseas tours will need to meet [Defense Department] requirements to be eligible for either the overseas tour extension incentives program or the consecutive overseas tour program," the service memo said.

Nuclear-trained sailors are not eligible for the new program, according to the announcement.

US urges UN to support Gaza cease-fire resolution

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United States urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to support the three-phase plan announced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated territory.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the U.S. circulated a draft resolution to the 14 other council members to back the proposal for ending the conflict that began with Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed some 1,200 people, mostly Israeli civilians.

"Numerous leaders and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal without delay and without further conditions," she said in a statement.

The brief draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press,

would welcome the May 31 deal announced by Biden and call on Hamas "to accept it fully and implement its terms without delay and without condition." Hamas has said it views the proposal "positively."

It makes no mention of Israeli acceptance of the deal.

When Biden made the announcement he called it an Israeli offer that includes an "enduring cease-fire" and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza if Hamas releases all hostages it is holding.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his hardline governing partners Monday the proposal announced by Biden would meet Israel's goal of destroying Hamas, according to local media. The ultranationalists have threatened to bring down his government if Netanyahu agrees to a deal that doesn't eliminate Hamas.

Netanyahu told parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Monday that Biden gave an outline of the deal

but not all the details, and he said there are "gaps."

Biden said the first phase of the proposed deal would last for six weeks and include a "full and complete cease-fire," a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all populated areas of Gaza and the release of some hostages, including women, the elderly and the wounded, in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

American hostages would be released at this stage, and remains of hostages who have been killed would be returned to their families. There would be a surge in humanitarian assistance, with 600 trucks a day entering Gaza.

In the second phase, all the rest of the living hostages would be released, including soldiers, and Israeli forces would withdraw from Gaza. Biden said if Hamas lives up to its commitments, the temporary cease-fire would become a "cessation of hostilities permanently."

About 250 people, mainly Is-

raeli civilians, were abducted on Oct. 7, then more than 100 were freed in a short truce in late November and early December.

Israel says about 80 hostages are believed to still be captive, alongside the remains of about 43 others.

Israeli bombardments and ground offensives in Gaza, which Hamas has ruled, have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

The third phase of the plan announced by Biden calls for the start of a major reconstruction of Gaza, which faces decades of rebuilding from devastation caused by the war.

The draft resolution stresses the importance of Israel and Hamas adhering to the deal once it is agreed to, "with the aim of bringing about a permanent cessation of hostilities, and calls upon all member states and the United Nations to support its implementation."

NATO members may hit spending mark

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The number of NATO members meeting the military alliance's defense spending benchmark could reach 23 nations this year — an all-time high prompted by the war in Ukraine, the U.S. permanent representative to NATO said Monday.

Ambassador Julianne Smith estimated about 20 nations out of the alliance's 32 members would spend at least 2% of their gross domestic product, or total economic output, on their militaries a decade after pledging to do so.

"We think we're going to be somewhere around 20, 21, 22, possibly 23 allies hitting the 2% mark," Smith told reporters at a Defense Writers Group event. "That is leaps and bounds from where we started 10 short years ago."

NATO will release a final number in a report later this month, ahead of a July summit in Washington marking the alliance's 75th anniversary.

Only three member nations spent 2% of their GDP on defense in 2014, when the expenditure goal was set.

That number ticked up to seven allies in 2022, the year that Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Smith said burden-sharing in the mutual-defense alliance will be a top topic of discussion at the July gathering as Russia's war in Ukraine drags on for a third year, and the U.S. continues to bear much of the burden for Europe's defense.

The issue is particularly fraught in an election year

that could return former President Donald Trump to the White House. Trump has said he would let Russia "do whatever the hell they want" to NATO allies that do not fulfill their military spending obligations, inflaming concerns that the U.S. could abandon the alliance it helped found after World War II.

Smith said Europeans are watching the U.S. presidential election "very carefully" and trying to imagine an array of scenarios depending on who wins. But they are also cognizant of the fact that talk on the campaign trail does not always translate to official policy, she said.

"Right now, the allies feel like the focus needs to be on Ukraine, the situation on the battlefield," Smith said.

Russia took advantage of a lull in U.S. weapon shipments to seize additional territory in northeastern Ukraine in recent months and an alarming buildup of Russian forces in the region has raised fears that a new offensive is imminent.

Ukraine is eager to secure membership in NATO for protection, though that is unlikely while Russia wages war. Article 5 of the alliance's treaty declares an attack against one member state is an attack against them all.

Smith said she does not expect allies to put a proper invitation on the table for Ukraine at the July summit.

Instead, the alliance will put forward a "package of deliverables that will serve as a bridge to their membership," including "language we use to describe Ukraine's membership aspirations," she said.

China coast guard seized, dumped Filipinos' food

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine military chief on Tuesday said the Chinese coast guard seized one of four food packs dropped by a plane for Filipino navy personnel at a territorial outpost that has been surrounded by Chinese vessels in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

Gen. Romeo Brawner said the Chinese personnel may have suspected the packages contained construction materials intended to reinforce a rusty Philippine navy ship ran aground at Second Thomas Shoal to serve as a Philippine outpost.

After discovering the package contained food, they dumped the items, which included rice and biscuits, into the

sea, Brawner said.

Chinese officials did not immediately comment on Brawner's statement but they have repeatedly said the shoal, where the Philippine military deliberately grounded the navy ship in 1999, belonged to China and have demanded the ship be towed away. Operations to resupply Filipino forces at the ship have led to skirmishes and collisions with Chinese coast guard ships that had damaged Philippine supply boats and injured several Filipino navy personnel.

The May 19 airdrops sparked a race by the Chinese coast guard and Philippine navy personnel aboard small motorboats to retrieve the four packages, Brawner told reporters in a news conference.

Austin in Cambodia in push to strengthen defense ties

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with Cambodian officials on Tuesday to discuss a possible resumption of joint military exercises, suggesting the beginning of a thaw in relations between the countries that have been strained over Cambodia's growing closeness with China.

Austin met with Defense Minister Tea Seiha, Prime Minister Hun Manet and Senate President Hun Sen, the Pentagon said. Hun Sen, the former prime minister, is Hun Manet's father.

The officials discussed ways to strengthen defense ties in support of regional peace and security, including through a resumption of military training exchanges, de-mining training,

and Cambodian participation in U.S. military education programs, Pentagon press secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said in a statement.

Hun Manet said on Telegram that he and Austin discussed ways to resume cooperation, including Cambodian access to U.S. military education programs and joint military exercises between the countries.

Cambodia, which is China's closest ally in Southeast Asia, halted joint military exercises with the U.S. in 2017.

U.S. relations with Cambodia have been frosty for years, in large part because of its close ties with China, and particularly China's military presence at a Cambodian navy base in the Gulf of Thailand that has been upgraded with Beijing's assistance.

Biden order aimed at asylum requests

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Tuesday unveiled plans to enact immediate significant restrictions on migrants seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border as the White House tries to neutralize immigration as a political liability ahead of the November elections.

The White House detailed the long-anticipated presidential proclamation signed by Biden, which would bar migrants from being granted asylum when U.S. officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed. The Democratic president has contemplated unilateral action for months, especially after the collapse of a

bipartisan border security deal in Congress that most Republican lawmakers rejected at the behest of Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee.

The order will go into effect when the number of border encounters between ports of entry hits 2,500 per day, according to senior administration officials. That means Biden's order should go into effect immediately, because that figure is higher than the daily averages now. The restrictions would be in effect until two weeks after the daily encounter numbers are at or below 1,500 per day between ports of entry, under a seven-day average. Those figures were first reported by The Asso-

ciated Press on Monday.

Once this order is in effect, migrants who arrive at the border but do not express fear of returning to their home countries will be subject to immediate removal from the United States, within a matter of days or even hours. Those migrants would face punishments that could include a five-year bar from reentering the U.S., as well as potential criminal prosecution.

Meanwhile, anyone who expresses that fear or intention to seek asylum will be screened by a U.S. asylum officer but at a higher standard than what is currently used. If they pass the screening, they can pursue more limited forms of humanitarian protection.

Biden's order was detailed by four senior administration officials who insisted on anonymity to describe the effort to reporters. The directive is coming when the number of migrants encountered at the border have been on a consistent decline since December, but senior administration officials nonetheless justified the order by arguing that the numbers are still too high and that the figures could spike in better weather, when the encounter numbers traditionally increase.

Senior officials also acknowledged that the administration's goal of deporting migrants quickly is complicated by insufficient funding from Congress to do so.

Prosecutors: Hunter Biden knowingly lied on gun form

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Federal prosecutors on Tuesday painted President Joe Biden's son Hunter as a "drug addict" whose dark habits ensnared loved ones and who knew what he was doing when he lied on federal forms to purchase a gun in 2018 by saying he wasn't in the throes of addiction.

Meanwhile, Hunter Biden's attorney said he would call the president's brother James Biden as a witness. James and Hunter are close, and the uncle helped his nephew through rehab stints in the past.

"You will see that he is not guilty," attorney Abbe Lowell said.

Hunter Biden has been charged with three felonies stemming from the purchase when he was, according to his memoir, addicted to crack. He has been accused of lying to a federally licensed gun dealer, making a false claim on the application by saying he was not a

drug user and illegally having the gun for 11 days.

Prosecutors told the jury in their opening statement that Hunter Biden was trying to score drugs just days after he lied on the form, telling his brother's widow in a message that he was waiting for a drug dealer. They also played for jurors an audio excerpt of his 2021 memoir "Beautiful Things" in which he talked about going back to Delaware around the time of the gun purchase.

"No one is allowed to lie on a federal form like that, even Hunter Biden," federal prosecutor Derek Hines said. "He crossed the line when he chose to buy a gun and lied about a federal background check ... the defendant's choice to buy a gun is why we are here."

"When the defendant filled out that form, he knew he was a drug addict," and prosecutors don't have to prove he was using that day, Hines said.

Pro-Palestinian encampment at LA City Hall cleared fast

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An attempt by pro-Palestinian protesters to establish an encampment in front of Los Angeles City Hall was short-lived.

Protesters set up about 20 tents on sidewalks outside the downtown building Monday afternoon and the police department posted on social media site X that it was monitoring a "non-permitted demonstration."

Officers moved in early Tuesday and cleared away the encampment without making any arrests, KABC-TV reported. The area was quiet during the morning rush hour.

In Pennsylvania, pro-Palestinian protesters left the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning early Tuesday after several demonstrators clashed with police. Some protesters wrestled officers over control of metal barriers and taunted them with derisive chants, and officers were seen throwing some protesters to the ground.

The conflict marked the second straight night of demonstrations. Most protesters had left the area by 2 a.m. Tuesday, after Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey and his representatives met with encampment members. No arrests were made during Monday night's confrontations.

More than 3,000 people had been arrested on U.S. campuses before summer break began last month, including protesters at the University of California's Los Angeles, San Diego and Irvine campuses.

The latest Israel-Hamas war began when Hamas and other militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and taking an additional 250 hostage.

Palestinian militants still hold about 100 captives while Israeli bombardments and ground operations in Gaza have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Biden lays into Trump over NY verdict

Associated Press

GREENWICH, Conn. — President Joe Biden laid into his predecessor and likely opponent in November's election, Donald Trump, for being convicted by a Manhattan jury on 34 felony counts related to hush money payments, saying Monday night that "this campaign has entered uncharted territory."

Speaking at a fundraiser in Greenwich, Conn., Biden said the former president "wants you to believe it's all rigged. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Echoing comments he made in reaction to the verdict at the White House last week, Biden said, "It's reckless and dangerous and downright irresponsible for anyone to say that it's rigged just because you don't

like the verdict."

He added that the justice system was a core of American democracy and "we should never allow anyone to tear it down."

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, was convicted on all counts related to a scheme during his 2016 presidential campaign to pay off porn actor Stormy Daniels, who said the two had sex. The former president slammed the verdict as politically motivated, and has blamed it on Biden — while seeking to make himself a political martyr in the eyes of supporters, suggesting that if this could happen to him, similar things might befall them.

As he did last week, Biden noted that Trump's was a state case rather than a federal one, was heard by a jury chosen the

same way all juries nationwide are chosen, and featured five weeks of evidence. He said the verdict was unanimous and Trump can appeal.

But Biden went farther Monday, accusing Trump of equating the justice system and elections. He said the former president was "attacking both the judiciary and elections system as rigged."

"Nothing could be more dangerous for the country, more dangerous for American democracy," Biden said.

The president made no mention of the federal gun case against his son, Hunter, which began Monday in Delaware. Jason Miller, a senior adviser for the Trump campaign, seized on that, responding to Biden's comments by asserting that the president "will do any-

thing to distract from Hunter's trial."

Both Trump's convictions and his son's case aside, Biden added, "Here's what is becoming clearer and clearer every day: The threat Trump poses in his second term would be greater than it was in his first."

"Something snapped in this guy — for real — when he lost in 2020," Biden said, suggesting the former president was "unhinged" and was the driving force behind a mob of his supporters overrunning the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

"He can't accept the fact that he lost, it's literally driving him crazy," Biden said. He added that the former president "wants to terminate the Constitution" and "says if he loses there will be a bloodbath in America."

Southwest states to get 1st heat wave of season

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Parts of California, Nevada and Arizona are expected to bake this week as the first heat wave of the season arrives with triple-digit temperatures forecast for areas including Phoenix, which last summer saw a record 31 straight days of at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

By Wednesday, most of an area stretching from southeast California to central Arizona will see "easily their hottest" weather since September, and record daily highs will be in jeopardy from Las Vegas to Phoenix, the National Weather Service said late Monday. Excessive heat warnings have been issued from 10 a.m. Wednesday to 8 p.m. Friday due to the "dangerously hot conditions," the weather service said.

Fire crews will be on high alert especially in Arizona, where fire restrictions went into effect before Memorial Day in some areas

and will be ordered by Thursday across most of the western and south-central parts of the state, authorities said.

Fire forecasters at the Southwest Coordination Center in Albuquerque, N.M., said weather in the region doesn't typically become so hot until mid- or late June.

"It does seem like Mother Nature is turning up the heat on us a little sooner than usual," Tiffany Davila, spokesperson for the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, said Monday.

"We can't back down from a fire just because it's pushing 113 degrees outside. But we do keep a close eye on everybody in the field. Make sure they are keeping hydrated and taking more breaks than they normally would."

Highs on Monday reached 110 F at Death Valley National Park in California, 103 F in Phoenix and 105 F in Needles, Calif.

Poll finds many Americans still shying away from EVs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many Americans still aren't sold on going electric for their next car purchase. High prices and a lack of easy-to-find charging stations are major sticking points, a new poll shows.

About 4 in 10 U.S. adults say they would be at least somewhat likely to buy an EV the next time they buy a car, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago, while 46% say they are not too likely or not at all likely to purchase one.

The poll results, which echo an AP-NORC poll from last year, show that President Joe Biden's election-year plan to dramatically raise EV sales is running into resistance from American drivers. Only 13% of U.S. adults say they or someone in their house-

hold owns or leases a gas-hybrid car, and just 9% own or lease an electric vehicle.

A new rule from the Environmental Protection Agency requires that about 56% of all new vehicle sales be electric by 2032, along with at least 13% plug-in hybrids or other partially electric cars. Auto companies are investing billions in factories and battery technology in an effort to speed up the switch to EVs to cut pollution, fight climate change — and meet the deadline.

Range anxiety — the idea that EVs cannot go far enough on a single charge and may leave a driver stranded — continues to be a major reason why many Americans do not purchase electric vehicles.

About half of those who say they live in rural areas cite lack of charging infrastructure as a major factor in not buying an EV, compared with 4 in 10 of those in urban areas.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Monster truck clips a power line during a show

ME TOPSHAM — A lobster-themed monster truck performing for spectators in Maine clipped an aerial power line, toppling several utility poles and sending two people to hospitals, police said. Others suffered minor injuries.

The Topsham Fairgrounds was hosting the monster truck event when a vehicle dubbed the Crushstation bounced up a ramp, went airborne and hit the power line. Video showed people scrambling as the snagged line triggered a cascade of events with several utility poles and a transformer falling near the grandstands, with live wires on the ground.

Two people were transported to hospitals and others suffered minor injuries, Topsham police reported. The driver of the truck was not injured.

The Maine-based monster truck was shaped to look like a lobster and named as a play on the word crustacean.

Firefighters find body while extinguishing blaze

FL OSTEEN — Firefighters found a charred body after dousing a brush fire in south Florida on Sunday, while fire crews elsewhere in the drought-stricken state battled wildfires that temporarily closed a highway and forced some residents to be evacuated from their homes.

Pompano Beach Fire Rescue crews were extinguishing a blaze when they discovered the body, and officials said they couldn't determine whether the person was male or female,

WTVJ-TV reported. Firefighters said some people had been living in camps in the wooded area, but weren't sure if the victim had been living there.

Drag queen story time touts world-record crowd

PA PHILADELPHIA — Organizers of a drag queen story time reading at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia say several hundred people helped establish a world record for attendance at such an event to kick off Pride Month celebrations in the birthplace of America.

The event Saturday, hosted by the Philadelphia Gay News and sponsored by Visit Philadelphia, saw Philadelphia drag performers reading children's stories to 263 people, which organizers said was a first-ever Guinness World Record in the category.

Performers read to an audience of adults and children from "Hello, Philadelphia!" by Martha Day Zschock, "Twas the Night Before Pride" by Joanna McClintick, "Elmer" by David McKee, "The Family Book" by Todd Parr and "Kevin the Unicorn: It's Not All Rainbows" by Jessika von Innerebner, organizers said.

Murdoch ties the knot for the 5th time in ceremony

NY NEW YORK — Media magnate Rupert Murdoch, 93, has married for the fifth time, his corporation, News Corp, confirmed Sunday.

Murdoch and Elena Zhukova, a 67-year-old Russian-born retired molecular biologist, wed Saturday in a ceremony at his vineyard estate in Bel Air, Calif.

Photographs of the newly married couple were released by News Corp. The couple announced their engagement in March.

Murdoch was most recently married to model and actor Jerry Hall. They were wed in 2016 and divorced in 2022.

Swimmer injured by shark attack; beaches close

CA SAN DIEGO — A swimmer was seriously injured in a shark attack on the Southern California coast Sunday, prompting temporary beach closures, authorities said.

The attack happened Sunday morning at Del Mar City Beach in Del Mar, about 20 miles north of San Diego, local officials said.

The 46-year-old man, an ocean swimmer who regularly trains at the beach, suffered significant but not life-threatening injuries. He was taken to a hospital for treatment, city officials said. The attack happened about 100 yards from a beach lifeguard station. The swimmer was bitten in the torso, left arm and hand.

Authorities said the beach was to remain closed for surfers and swimmers until Tuesday.

The man was attacked when he was swimming with roughly a dozen other people, said Chief Lifeguard and Community Services Director Jonathan Edelbrock. Lifeguards were setting up on the beach for the day when they were alerted of the situation.

Tribe temporarily bans dances after shooting

AZ SANTAN — The Gila River Indian Community has issued a temporary ban on dances after a tribal po-

lice officer was fatally shot and another wounded while responding to a reported disturbance at a Santan home, tribal officials said Sunday.

Stephen Roe Lewis, governor of the tribe south of Phoenix, said a special meeting of community council's leaders was held Saturday night.

The council approved a temporary moratorium on all permitted and non-permitted dances in the community, along with enhanced penalties for trespassing and disorderly conduct, he said.

The Phoenix FBI is investigating the fatal shooting, but it has not released many details.

The Arizona Republic reported that the shooting occurred at a teenager's birthday party in Santan, located in one of the tribal community's seven districts.

State officials close coast to mussel harvesting

OR SALEM — Oregon authorities have closed the state's entire coastline to mussel harvesting due to an "unprecedented" outbreak of shellfish poisoning that has sickened at least 20 people.

They've also closed parts of the Oregon coast to harvesting razor clams, bay clams and oysters.

"We've had a paralytic shellfish poisoning event in Oregon that we have never seen in the state," said Matthew Hunter, shellfish program manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The outbreak's unprecedented nature was due both to the number of species impacted and the number of people falling ill, he said.

— From wire reports

STARS  STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Swiatek, Gauff advance to semifinals

Associated Press

PARIS — Coco Gauff and defending champion Iga Swiatek will meet in the French Open semifinals after victories Tuesday.

No. 3 seed Gauff came back to defeat Ons Jabeur 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to reach the final four at a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament. No. 1 Swiatek followed in Court Philippe Chatrier with a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova to stretch her Roland Garros winning streak to 19 matches as she seeks a third trophy in a row in Paris and a fourth in five years.

Gauff won her first major title at the U.S. Open in September, then made it to the semifinals at the Australian Open in January. The 20-year-old American was the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open in 2022.

"It's good to just keep going

and not think about this match as something huge — just another match — to not put too much baggage on your shoulders," Swiatek said. "But I guess Coco is not easy. She really likes playing on clay, especially here. I'll just focus on myself and I'll prepare tactically and we'll see."

Overall, Swiatek has won 10 of 11 meetings against Gauff, including a 6-4, 6-3 semifinal win on clay last month en route to the Italian Open title.

Other than a tough three-set triumph over four-time major champion Naomi Osaka in the second round last week, Swiatek has been at her dominant best in this French Open, showing why she has led the WTA rankings nearly every week since April 2022 and is a popular pick to leave with another title.

Take away the 17 games Osa-

ka managed, and Swiatek has dropped a total of only 11 games in her other four matches so far.

Swiatek followed up her 6-0, 6-0 shutout of Anastasia Potapova in the fourth round by grabbing the initial seven games against Vondrousova.

"I felt," Swiatek said, "like I was in the zone."

And make no mistake: Vondrousova is no slouch. In addition to being a Grand Slam champion, she was a finalist at Roland Garros in 2019, won a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics and is currently ranked No. 6.

But she never stood a chance against Swiatek, who compiled 25 winners to just 10 unforced errors. Swiatek, a 23-year-old from Poland, faced just one break point — and, naturally, she saved it.

"Everything worked. I feel like I've been serving better

than in previous rounds, so that gave me an extra boost of confidence," Swiatek said. "I could just play my game and really go with my tactics and not really overthink anything."

Jabeur's mix of speeds and spins gave Gauff fits at times. And as well-known as Gauff is for her ability to cover the court and play defense, Jabeur managed to keep coming up with winners, finishing with 30 in all.

"She was playing really well the whole match. She was hitting a lot of winners on me, which is something I'm not used to against anybody," Gauff said. "So today I was just trying to just be aggressive toward the end."

Gauff pulled away to a 5-2 lead in the last set, then needed a trio of match points to close things out, acknowledging afterward that maybe she grew a little tight down the stretch.

Hall of Fame offensive lineman Allen dies at 52

Associated Press

DALLAS — Larry Allen, one of the most dominant offensive linemen in the NFL during a 12-year career spent mostly with the Dallas Cowboys, has died. He was 52.

Allen died suddenly Sunday while on vacation with his family in Mexico, the Cowboys said.

A six-time All-Pro who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2013, Allen said few words but let his blocking do the talking.

"Larry, known for his great athleticism and incredible strength, was one of the most respected, accomplished offensive linemen to ever play in the NFL," the Cowboys said Monday. "His versatility and dependability were also signature parts of his career. Through that, he continued to serve as inspiration for many other players, defining what it meant to be a great teammate, competitor and winner."

The former Sonoma State lineman drafted in the second round by the Cowboys in 1994 — the year before the last of the franchise's five Super Bowl titles — Allen once bench-pressed 700 pounds while dumb-founded teammates watched, then

mobbed him.

Allen was feared enough among his peers that notorious trash-talker John Randle of the Minnesota Vikings decided to keep to himself when he faced the Cowboys, so as to avoid making Allen mad.

"He never said nothin'," Nate Newton, one of Allen's mentors on Dallas' offensive line, told The Associated Press for its Hall of Fame story on Allen 11 years ago. "Every now and then you'd hear him utter a cuss word or hear him laugh that old funny laugh he had."

Allen entered the Hall of Fame as a first-ballot selection about a year after his mother died, knowing her presence would have helped him get through a speech after a career spent trying to avoid the spotlight.

"I miss her," Allen said before going into the Hall. "Whenever I'd get nervous or had a big game and got nervous, I'd give her a call, and she'd start making me laugh."

Jefferson gets 4-year extension

MINNEAPOLIS — Justin Jefferson became the latest player to cash in on the league-wide push for elite pass catchers.

Matching the historic start to his career, Jefferson will be paid — for now — like no one else at his position.

The Minnesota Vikings and their superstar wide receiver agreed Monday to a four-year extension, the richest contract in NFL history for a non-quarterback.

Jefferson will get \$110 million guaranteed in the deal that's worth as much as \$140 million, with more than \$88 million due at signing.

"We ain't stopping here," Jefferson posted on Instagram along with a video package of highlights and shout-outs in honor of the contract. "There's more to be done."

Jefferson, who has the most receiving yards in league history through a player's first four seasons, had entered the final year of his rookie deal. The two sides came "unbelievably close" to an extension last summer, general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah said earlier this spring.

Jefferson missed seven games last season with a hamstring injury and still reached 1,074 receiving yards. The 2022 AP NFL Offensive Player of the year was the 22nd overall pick in the 2020 draft out of LSU.

Kavan leads Texas to championship series

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Teagan Kavan has earned a new nickname.

"I now call her Ice Kavan," Texas coach Mike White said.

The freshman acquired the moniker by throwing back-to-back one-hitters against Stanford in the Women's College World Series. Texas beat the Cardinal 1-0 on Monday night to advance to the best-of-three championship series.

The top-seeded Longhorns (55-8) are two wins away from their first national title. They will play the winner of Tuesday's semifinal matchup between No. 2 Oklahoma and No. 4 Florida on Wednesday.

Kavan said she was even more comfortable playing at 13,000-seat Devon Park than she was when she shut down Stanford on the opening day of the World Series.

"Honestly, I was real calm today," she said. "I was more in control of my breathing. Felt more in control of the game. Had no doubt we were going to pull through. I was real calm today and ready to get after it."

Texas has won three games at Oklahoma City, all of them one-hit shutouts. Kavan blanked eighth-seeded Stanford on Thursday, throwing 124 pitches in a 4-0 win, and the Longhorns beat Florida 10-0 on Saturday, with Mac Morgan working five one-hit innings in a game shortened by the mercy rule.

Alyssa Washington scored the lone run for the Longhorns in the seventh inning Monday, beating the tag at the plate on a rundown attempt after a bunt by Ashton Maloney.

That was enough for Kavan, who retired the side in order in the bottom half. She struck out seven and walked one.

Florida 9, Oklahoma 3: The Gators have backed the three-time defending national champion Sooners into a rare must-win situation.

Skylar Wallace hit two home runs to lead Florida past Oklahoma in the semifinals, but the Sooners still can win a record fourth straight national title.

Because Oklahoma entered the game un-

defeated in bracket play and the Gators had a loss in the double-elimination format, the Sooners remain alive. Monday's game started three hours late because of rain and lightning, and the delay led the NCAA to move the winner-take-all rematch to Tuesday.

Oklahoma hasn't faced an elimination game in the NCAA Tournament since the 2022 World Series semifinals against UCLA. The Sooners beat the Bruins 15-0 to start an NCAA-record 20-game tournament winning streak.

Oklahoma coach Patty Gasso hopes for a similar response this time.

"This is really going to be a call-out," she said. "They know it. They know what's going on. They know what's at stake. Who are we? What are we made of?"

Reagan Walsh had three hits, including a three-run homer, for the fourth-seeded Gators (54-14). Florida pounded out 10 hits.

"I mean, this offense is unreal," Wallace said. "We take a lot of pride in our swings, all of our work. So we're never doubting who we are as hitters."

Evansville wins first regional, advances with others

Associated Press

Those pesky Purple Aces of Evansville earned their first NCAA regional title Monday, and their reward is a weekend trip to No. 1 national seed Tennessee for the next round.

They weren't concerned about what's next. They were too busy celebrating the biggest win in the program's 100-year history.

Evansville became the ninth No. 4 regional seed since 1999 to reach a super regional when it bounced back from a 13-run loss to East Carolina on Sunday to beat the No. 16 Pirates 6-5 on their home field in Greenville, N.C.

Also locking up regionals on Monday were North Carolina, UConn, Florida and Oregon State.

The best-of-three super regionals open Friday and Saturday. The NCAA announced the schedule and hosts Tuesday, though the higher-seeded team typically plays on its home field.

The eight winners advance to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., beginning June 14.

The matchups, with national seeds: Evansville (38-24) vs. No. 1 Tennessee (53-11); UConn (35-24) vs. No. 8 Florida State (45-15); Kansas State (35-24) vs. No. 12 Virginia (44-15); West Virginia (36-22) vs. No. 4 North Carolina (45-14); No. 15 Oregon State (45-14) vs. No. 2 Kentucky (43-14); No. 10 North Carolina State (36-20) vs. No. 7 Georgia (42-15); Florida (32-28) vs. No. 6 Clemson (44-14); Oregon (40-18) vs. No. 3 Texas A&M (47-13).

Mark Shallenberger's three-run homer in the sixth inning gave Evansville the lead against East Carolina, and relievers Max Hansmann and Shane Harris combined to hold the Pirates to one hit and one walk the rest of the way.

Coach Wes Carroll said the program's milestone victory was achieved through recent facilities upgrades, recruiting and

strong administrative support. It was especially emotional for Carroll, who grew up 15 minutes from campus, played for the Aces from 1998-2001 and became head coach in 2009.

"John Stanley hired me, taking a chance on a 28-year-old who just bled purple and believed in this place," Carroll said, referring to the former athletic director. "Sixteen years in, it's been a journey, one that has been so joyful just because of the people I've been able to be around and work with."

North Carolina knocked out defending national champion LSU with a 4-3 win in 10 innings.

The Tar Heels' Colby Wilkerson singled in the tying run in the ninth, and Alex Madera's two-out base hit brought in the go-ahead run in the 10th after right fielder Jake Brown misplayed a fly ball to keep the inning alive. Dalton Pence pitched a perfect bottom half against the top of the LSU order to send the Tar Heels to their

second super regional in three years.

UConn left-hander Gabe Van Emon, a graduate transfer from Division III Endicott College in Massachusetts, limited Oklahoma to five singles and two walks over 7½ shutout innings in a 7-1 victory on the Sooners' home field. The Big East regular-season champion Huskies will be in their second super regional in three years.

Florida beat No. 11 Oklahoma State 4-2 for its second win over the Cowboys in two days. The Gators continued their improbable late-season run while Oklahoma State failed for a third straight year to advance as a regional host.

Oregon State beat UC Irvine 11-6 in a game that resumed Monday after it was suspended because of rain in the fourth inning Sunday night. Elijah Hainline homered and drove in three runs for the Beavers, who advanced for the second time in three years.

Marcano gets lifetime MLB ban for betting

Associated Press

NEW YORK — San Diego Padres infielder Túcupita Marcano was banned from baseball for life for betting on the sport and four others were suspended for one year by Major League Baseball on Tuesday in the game's biggest gambling scandal in decades.

MLB said Marcano placed 387 baseball bets totaling more than \$150,000 in October 2022 and from last July through November with a legal sportsbook. He became the first active player in a century banned for life because of gambling.

Oakland Athletics pitcher Michael Kelly was suspended for one year for betting on baseball while in the minor leagues and three minor leaguers also were banned for one year for betting on big league games: pitchers

Jay Groome of San Diego and Andrew Saalfrank of Arizona, and infielder José Rodríguez of Philadelphia. Each of those four players wagered under \$1,000.

"The strict enforcement of Major League Baseball's rules and policies governing gambling conduct is a critical component of upholding our most important priority: protecting the integrity of our games for the fans," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "The longstanding prohibition against betting on Major League Baseball games by those in the sport has been a bedrock principle for over a century. We have been clear that the privilege of playing in baseball comes with a responsibility to refrain from engaging in certain types of behavior that are legal for other people."

Marcano was the first active major leaguer banned for life under the sport's gambling provision since New York Giants outfielder Jimmy O'Connell in 1924. Pete Rose, baseball's career hits leader, agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation concluded he bet on Cincinnati Reds games while managing the team.

Major League Rule 21, posted in every clubhouse, states betting on any baseball game in which a player, umpire, league official or team employee has no duty to perform results in a one-year suspension. Betting on a game in which the person has a duty to perform results in a lifetime ban.

MLB said it was tipped off about the betting activity by a legal sports betting operator. None of the players punished played in any games on which they wa-

gered, and all players denied to MLB they had inside information relevant to their bets or the games they gambled on — testimonies that MLB says align with the data received from the sportsbook.

Marcano's 387 baseball bets included 231 MLB-related wagers for \$87,319 between Oct. 16, 2022, and last Nov. 1. Twenty-five of those bets included wagers on Pirates games while he was on the team's major league roster. Now 24, Marcano, has not played since tearing his right ACL last July 24 and was receiving medical treatment at PNC Park last year.

Marcano bet almost exclusively on the outcomes of games and lost all of his parlay bets involving the Pirates, winning just 4.3% of all of his MLB-related bets.

Phillies top Brewers in Hoskins' return to Philadelphia

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Rhys Hoskins homered for the Milwaukee Brewers in his return to Citizens Bank Park, but David Dahl went deep in his Philadelphia debut to back Zack Wheeler and the Phillies in a 3-1 victory Monday night.

In the opener of a three-game series between National League division leaders, Edmundo Sosa and Johan Rojas hit consecutive RBI singles in the second inning at the bottom of Philadelphia's batting order.

Wheeler (7-3) pitched seven innings, allowing five hits and three walks with six strikeouts. José Alvarado worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his 10th save.

The only run Wheeler gave up was a homer in the seventh by Hoskins, who spent the first seven years of his career with the Phillies. He was sidelined throughout his final season while recovering from a knee injury, then signed with the Brewers as a free agent in January.

In an emotional return, the popular Hoskins was greeted with a standing ovation from the sellout crowd as well as his former Phillies teammates and coaches. He replied by tipping his cap in acknowledgment.

"There definitely were (tears)," Hoskins said. "I have to say that's a first for me. ... I've

seen it a bunch here. It's what this fanbase does and will do. I was just overwhelmed with emotion there. I'll get to tell this story. It was really memorable, for sure."

Orioles 7, Blue Jays 2: Austin Hays hit two home runs and Grayson Rodriguez (6-2) pitched two-run ball into the seventh inning, helping visiting Baltimore beat Toronto.

Anthony Santander and Ramón Urías also went deep as Baltimore won for the ninth time in 11 games. The Orioles are 31-11 when they hit more than one home run.

Mets 8, Nationals 7: Jose Iglesias had three hits, including a go-ahead single in the fifth inning, and Mark Vientos homered as visiting New York held off Washington.

New York's beleaguered bullpen nearly coughed up another late lead. Washington scored two runs in the ninth charged to Adam Ottavino, but Jake Diekmann threw a called third strike past Drew Millas with runners at the corners for his second save.

Tigers 2, Rangers 1: Jake Rogers homered twice, including a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning, and visiting Detroit beat Texas to get back to .500.

A West Texas native who lives in the Dallas suburb of Frisco, Rogers hit a two-out homer in the third against Nathan Eovaldi and a 1-1 cut fastball from José Leclerc (3-4)

just inside the left field foul pole with two outs in the eighth. The 29-year-old Rogers had the third two-homer game of his big league career and doubled his season home run total.

Reds 13, Rockies 3: Will Benson drove in three runs, Jeimer Candelario and Tyler Stephenson each hit a two-run home run, and visiting Cincinnati blew past Colorado.

The 13 runs were a season-high for the Reds, who have won seven of their past 10 games after starting the season 20-30.

Angels 2, Padres 1: Jo Adell doubled and scored the tiebreaking run on two flyouts in the eighth inning, sending host Los Angeles to a victory over San Diego.

Tyler Anderson pitched into the seventh and Willie Calhoun had an early RBI single for the Angels, who snapped their five-game losing streak. Calhoun had two of the Halos' four hits as they improved the worst home record in the majors to 8-21 in the opener of a six-game homestand.

Diamondbacks 4, Giants 2: Pinch-hitter Pavin Smith connected for a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift host Arizona over San Francisco.

Astros 7, Cardinals 4: Alex Bregman and Yainer Diaz homered in the eighth inning, helping host Houston top St. Louis.