

## Suicide attempts while serving overseas probed

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Cultural isolation, family separations and lack of mental health support are among the factors that could explain why service members overseas appear more at risk to attempt suicide than their counterparts in the continental U.S., a new government report says.

Meanwhile, easier access to guns explains why troops based in the U.S. account for a higher percentage of suicide deaths, a Government Accountability Office report released Thursday said.

The GAO's review was prompted by a 2021 directive from Congress to examine factors involved in the rising number of suicides within the military, which has struggled to counter an upward trend in such deaths.

In 2020, the military recorded 384 active-duty service member suicides, a 33.5% rate increase since 2016, the GAO's analysis

found. The number dropped to 328 in 2021, according to DOD data. But to date, the Pentagon has not fully assessed suicide risk at remote overseas installations, the report said.

Service members assigned to remote overseas installations between 2016 and 2020 accounted for 8% of the active-duty population, but 8.5% of reported suicide attempts and 5.5% of reported suicide deaths during the same period, the report said.

Non-military firearms were involved in more than half of reported suicide deaths inside the continental U.S., while such firearms accounted for 21% and 26% of such deaths among active-duty service members at remote or non-remote installations outside of the continental U.S., respectively, the GAO found.

The GAO defined remote locations as those outside the contiguous United States, including those in Alaska, Hawaii and overseas that have less Morale, Welfare and Recreation funding; that

qualify as a hardship-duty pay location; or that have less than standard tour lengths.

Military officials at remote overseas installations told the GAO that they believed service members should undergo more rigorous screening prior to being assigned.

"By establishing such a process to assess risk factors for suicide and related challenges associated with assignment to remote OCONUS installations, DOD can improve its understanding of risks and challenges and better address them as needed," the GAO said.

Officials from U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska told the GAO that a long winter with seasonal periods of extended darkness and light could affect service members and contribute to mental health issues.

Meanwhile, officials from Yokosuka Naval Base in mainland Japan and Marine bases on Okinawa

said restrictions that put limits on off-base travel for some service members — especially those who are young or have limited transportation — could lead to isolation. An inability "to relax, socialize or engage with Japanese culture" has been further exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

"Navy and Marine Corps suicide prevention officials stated that risk factors including lack of access to behavioral health care, barriers to health care, cultural and religious beliefs, and social isolation caused by separation from friends and family may be more prevalent at remote OCONUS installations," GAO reported.

The GAO made a series of recommendations, including that DOD establish a process to assess suicide risk at remote overseas installations. The report also said the Defense Department should develop a strategy to address shortages in primary care behavioral health providers.

## New drone fills air support role aboard Navy destroyer

By ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. Navy tried out a new drone system recently aboard one of its older destroyers, a project that, if successful, could provide low impact, unmanned air support for the warship.

The Aerosonde Small Unmanned Aircraft System, property of defense contractor Textron Inc., successfully completed its first flight on April 4 from the deck of the guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins, according to a company news release that day. It was unclear Friday where the flight took place. The Higgins,

homeported at Yokosuka, joined the 7th Fleet in August, according to the Navy.

The Aerosonde was installed in February and is expected to remain aboard the Higgins through October, with an option for an extension, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Mark Langford told Stars and Stripes in an email April 21.

The Higgins, an Arleigh Burke Flight II variant commissioned 23 years ago, lacks the onboard hangar built into later, Flight IIA and Flight III variants to fully accommodate MH-60 Seahawk helicopters. The Navy is using the Aerosonde, which has a relatively small footprint, to fill that gap.

"The Aerosonde UAS provides an aerial component without needing to launch a manned helicopter," Langford said. "Its sensor suite is personalized for the [destroyer] and its planned missions, and [it] greatly extends visual or radar horizon sensor ranges beyond the ship's organic capabilities."

The Aerosonde has a 12-foot wingspan and weighs 80 pounds, according to Textron. It has a range of 75 nautical miles, can stay aloft 14 hours, fly at a maximum 65 knots and carry up to 20 pounds. A two-person team can launch the drone in under an hour; it's powered by the fuel that

Seahawk helicopters use, Textron spokeswoman Susan Benhoff told Stars and Stripes.

"When you see these systems operate in collaboration with other manned and unmanned systems you begin to see their true power and potential," she said in an April 21 email. "We have already demonstrated that air, land and sea unmanned systems can team with each other, extending range beyond line of sight or allowing for operations over the horizon line."

A typical Aerosonde mission includes maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, Langford said.

# Hundreds based in Europe celebrate their graduation

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

OBERSUELZEN, Germany — A few weeks before graduating on Saturday with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a 4.0 GPA, Maurice Alsing saw something new: the faces of his classmates and professor.

Face masks recently became optional in Alsing's first in-person class this spring at the University of Maryland Global Campus Europe since the start of the pandemic.

"That was amazing," he said of being able to sit in a classroom and engage, face-to-face, with other students and his instructor after two years of Zoom and on-line classes.

Alsing, 22, was one of 165 graduates to receive a diploma at UMGC Europe's 2022 commencement — an outdoor ceremony held at a soccer field in a village east of Kaiserslautern in German wine country.

Temperatures were chilly, prompting some attendees to wrap themselves in blankets, a gift to each graduate from UMGC Europe. And umbrellas came out during a brief shower that threatened to dampen the festivities.

But the rain held off as graduates and their families celebrated a journey marked by numerous challenges, such as balancing studies with deployments and demanding military operations and pivoting to virtual classes during the pandemic.

From supporting the evacuation and temporary housing of tens of thousands of Afghan ref-

ugees last fall at U.S. bases in Europe to the current war in Ukraine, "these are trying times," Army Col. Charles Fisher, 21st Theater Sustainment Command chief of staff, told graduates.

Of the 1,193 UMGC Europe graduates this year, 51% are active duty, representing the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and for the first time, the Space Force.

For most of the last two years, UMGC Europe professors have taught students in their homes and barracks from their own homes, Cho said in an interview before the ceremony.

"We are back on site now; students are beginning to come back," he said.

But UMGC is trying something new: "tethered classes," where an instructor teaches a class in-person and students have the option of attending on site or joining via Zoom, Cho said.

That flexibility helped one student who deployed to eastern Europe recently. "He didn't want to drop his class," Cho said. "He was out in the woods, with night-vision goggles on, zooming into the class with his cell phone.

"We try to adapt and understand what they're going through," he said of UMGC's students.

This year's graduates took classes from 24 countries, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Poland, Turkey, Japan, Qatar, Iraq, the United States, Japan, Korea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia and Uganda.

# South Korea removes outdoor mask mandate

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — South Koreans may remove their pandemic masks while outdoors starting Monday as the number of new COVID-19 cases in the country continues to fall.

The mask mandate may be disappearing but the Ministry of Health and Welfare "actively advises" people to continue wearing them, according to a ministry statement Friday.

The change does not affect the country's indoor mask policy at businesses and public buildings; people are still required to wear them in these areas unless they are eating and drinking. Masks also remain mandatory in groups of 50 or more people, such as a sports arena or a rally.

The ministry also advised

that individuals at a high risk of infection, such as seniors, and those with COVID-19 symptoms ought to continue wearing masks outdoors.

U.S. Forces Korea dropped the mask mandate on its installations on April 25. USFK, responsible for roughly 28,500 troops, lifted the order as its new case numbers declined for a fourth consecutive week.

However, individual commanders and building managers may impose their own mask requirements on a case-by-case basis.

The command lowered its health protection level on April 21 and allowed its fully vaccinated population to visit adults-only businesses, bars, clubs, karaoke bars and saunas, which were previously restricted for most of the pandemic.

# Shoemaker takes reins at Navy's Sigonella base

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — Capt. Aaron Shoemaker took over Friday as commanding officer of Sicily's Naval Air Station Sigonella, relieving Capt. Kevin "Kepper" Pickard Jr., who had served in the role since 2019.

At Sigonella, Pickard oversaw the Navy's only forward-deployed air station in Europe through the COVID-19 pandemic, the evacuation of Afghan refugees and flooding that affected not only the base but also its family housing complex, said Rear Adm. Scott Gray, commander of Navy Region Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia.

Shoemaker will oversee a

base that has 37 tenant commands, including a Marine tilt-rotor squadron. About 2,300 sailors, 700 civilians, 800 Italians and 2,200 military family members work or live on the base.

His last Navy assignments include a stint as branch head at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations from July 2020 to August 2021 and a three-year stretch as assistant deputy director for operations for the Joint Staff in Arlington, Va., according to his LinkedIn profile.

Shoemaker, whose first deployment as a pilot was to Sigonella in 2001, said his priorities will include professionalism, readiness and families.

# Evacuations in Mariupol are underway

*Associated Press*

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine — A long-awaited effort to evacuate people from a steel plant in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol was underway Sunday, the United Nations said, while U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi revealed she visited Ukraine's president to show unflinching American support for the country's defense against Russian aggression.

U.N. humanitarian spokesman Saviano Abreu told The Associated Press that the operation to bring people out of the sprawling Azovstal steel plant was being done with the International Committee of the Red Cross and in coordination with Ukrainian and Russian officials.

As many as 100,000 people are believed to still be in blockaded Mariupol, including up to 1,000 civilians who were hunkered down with an estimated 2,000 Ukrainian fighters beneath the Soviet-era steel plant — the only part of the city not occupied by the Russians.

Like other evacuations, success of the mission in Mariupol depended on Russia and its forces, deployed along a long series of checkpoints before reaching Ukrainian ones.

Zaporizhzhia, a city about 141 miles northwest of Mariupol, was the destination of the evacuation effort, Abreu said. He said

women, children and the elderly — who have been stranded for nearly two months — will be evacuated to the city, where they will receive immediate humanitarian support, including psychological services.

Mariupol has seen some of the worst suffering of the war. A maternity hospital was hit with a lethal Russian airstrike in the opening weeks of the war, and hundreds of people were reported killed in the bombing of a theater where civilians were taking shelter.

"As the operations are still ongoing, we will not provide further details at this point, to guarantee the safety of the civilians and humanitarians in the convoy," Abreu said of the evacuation.

"The U.N. will also continue to push for the safe passage out of Mariupol city for all those civilians who wish to leave," he said.

The U.N. said the convoy to evacuate civilians started on Friday, traveling some 140 miles before reaching the plant in Mariupol on Saturday morning.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a tweet Sunday afternoon that the first group of about 100 people was headed to Ukrainian-controlled territory.

"Tomorrow we'll meet them in Zaporizhzhia. Grateful to our team! Now they, together with #UN, are working on the evacuation of other civilians from the plant," he

tweeted.

A team with Doctors Without Borders was at a reception center for displaced people in Zaporizhzhia on Sunday, in preparation for the U.N. convoy's arrival, if successful. Stress, exhaustion and low supplies of food have likely weakened the health of civilians who have been trapped underground at the steel plant.

People fleeing Russian-occupied areas have described their vehicles being fired on, and Ukrainian officials have repeatedly accused Russian forces of shelling evacuation routes on which the two sides had agreed.

Russia's high-stakes offensive in coastal southern Ukraine and the country's eastern industrial heartland has Ukrainian forces fighting village-by-village and more civilians fleeing airstrikes and artillery shelling.

Pelosi, a California Democrat who is second in line to succeed the president, is the most senior American lawmaker to travel to Ukraine since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Her Saturday visit came just days after Russia launched rockets at the capital during a visit by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres.

Limited evacuations from the city took place on Saturday, but the details had been unclear.

## Ukrainians in Romania help other refugees escaping

*Associated Press*

BUCHAREST, Romania — Elena Trofimchuk fled Ukraine to Romania more than a month ago. She now sees Bucharest's North Railway Station as a second home.

She doesn't live there, but it's where she spends most of her day welcoming fellow Ukrainian refugees escaping from Russia's war and helping them sort out tickets, accommodation and onward destinations.

The 26-year-old said that keeping herself busy and useful keeps her from dwelling on Russia's shelling of her hometown, Odesa, where many of her friends remain.

"If you sit and do nothing, you can just become crazy because

you're always searching for news. It's very hard. So here I can help people buy tickets and find accommodations. I even help Romanians in the kitchen," Trofimchuk said.

Before the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, she worked as a photographer.

Trofimchuk is just one of many orange-vested Ukrainian volunteers working at the station.

Ukrainian volunteer Vitalii Ivanchuk flew all the way from Sri Lanka where he lived with his Ukrainian girlfriend to help refugees coming into Romania.

The 29-year-old IT developer said that many Ukrainians have a tough time communicating with Romanians, and volun-

teers who can speak both Ukrainian and English are in high demand.

His girlfriend, Anastasiia Haiduk, quit her investment job shortly after the war started and decided to volunteer at the station until the war ends and she can be reunited with her family in Ukraine.

The Romanian government is currently giving away free train tickets to Ukrainian refugees arriving in Romania that they can use to travel on to Hungary, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

Trofimchuk said she was moved by the warm welcome and the Romanians' show of solidarity with Ukraine.

"Every Romanian person

wants to help. They're very friendly. And I was shocked about this. I'm so happy that everyone wants to help," Trofimchuk said.

For some Ukrainian volunteers, their Saturday evening ritual is to join a weekly demonstration at the Russian Embassy in Bucharest along with Ukrainian residents and Romanians.

Station volunteers in Bucharest say they are now seeing an increasing number of arrivals from Odesa. Trofimchuk skipped a recent protest, saying she expected people to arrive from her hometown.

"I will stay at the station as late as I can, because there might be people who need my help," she said.

# Aid to Trump election schemes detailed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rioters who smashed their way into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, succeeded — at least temporarily — in delaying the certification of Joe Biden's election to the White House.

Hours before, Rep. Jim Jordan had been trying to achieve the same thing.

Texting with then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, a close ally and friend, at nearly midnight on Jan. 5, Jordan offered a legal rationale for what President Donald Trump was publicly demanding — that Vice President Mike Pence, in his ceremonial role presiding over the electoral count, somehow assert the authority to reject electors from Biden-won states.

Pence “should call out all electoral votes that he believes are unconstitutional as no electoral votes at all,” Jordan wrote.

“I have pushed for this,” Meadows replied. “Not sure it is going to happen.”

The text exchange, in an April 22 court filing from the congressional panel investi-

gating the Jan. 6 riot, is in a batch of startling evidence that shows the deep involvement of some House Republicans in Trump's desperate attempt to stay in power. A review of the evidence finds new details about how, long before the attack on the Capitol unfolded, several GOP lawmakers were participating directly in Trump's campaign to reverse the results of a free and fair election.

It's a connection that members of the House Jan. 6 committee are making explicit as they prepare to launch public hearings in June. The Republicans plotting with Trump and the rioters who attacked the Capitol were aligned in their goals, if not the mob's violent tactics, creating a convergence that nearly upended the nation's peaceful transfer of power.

“It appears that a significant number of House members and a few senators had more than just a passing role in what went on,” Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman of the Jan. 6 committee,

told The Associated Press last week.

Since launching its investigation last summer, the Jan. 6 panel has been slowly gaining new details about what lawmakers said and did in the weeks before the insurrection. Members have asked three GOP lawmakers — Jordan, of Ohio, Rep. Scott Perry, of Pennsylvania, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, of California — to testify voluntarily. All have refused. Other lawmakers could be called in the coming days.

So far, the Jan. 6 committee has refrained from issuing subpoenas to lawmakers, fearing the repercussions of such an extraordinary step. But the lack of cooperation from lawmakers hasn't prevented the panel from obtaining new information about their actions.

The latest court document, submitted in response to a lawsuit from Meadows, contained excerpts from just a handful of the more than 930 interviews the Jan. 6 panel has conducted.

## Vegas water intake now visible at drought-stricken Lake Mead

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A massive drought-starved reservoir on the Colorado River has become so depleted that Las Vegas now is pumping water from deeper within Lake Mead where other states downstream don't have access.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority announced last week that its Low Lake Level Pumping Station is operational, and released photos of the uppermost intake visible at 1,050 feet above sea level at the lake behind Hoover Dam.

“While this emphasizes the seriousness of the drought conditions, we have been preparing for this for more than a decade,” said Bronson Mack, water authority spokesman. The low-level intake allows Las Vegas “to maintain access to its primary water supply in Lake Mead, even if water levels continue to decline due to ongoing drought and climate change conditions,” he said.

The move to begin using what had been seen as an in-case-we-need-it hedge against taps running dry comes as water managers in several states that rely on the Colorado River take new steps to conserve water amid what has become a perpetual drought.

“We don't have enough water supplies

right now to meet normal demand. The water is not there,” Metropolitan Water District of Southern California spokesperson Rebecca Kimitch said last week. The agency told some 6 million people in sprawling Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties to cut their outdoor watering to one day a week, effective June 1, or face fines.

At Lake Mead, the new pumps are fed by an intake drilled nearer to the bottom of the lake to ensure the ability to continue to draw water for Las Vegas.

The “third straw” draws drinking water at 895 feet above sea level — below a point at which water would not be released downstream from Hoover Dam.

Together, the pipeline and pump projects cost more than \$1.3 billion. Drilling began in 2014, amid projections that the lake level would continue to fall due to drought. Increasingly dry conditions in the region are now attributed to long-term climate change.

The authority maintains that the Las Vegas water supply is not immediately threatened. It points to water conservation efforts that it says since 2002 have cut regional consumption of Colorado River water by 26% while the area population has increased 49%.

## Grammy-winning star Naomi Judd dies at age 76

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Naomi Judd, whose family harmonies with daughter Wynonna turned them into the Grammy-winning country stars The Judds, has died. She was 76.

Her daughters, Wynonna and Ashley, announced her death on Saturday in a statement provided to The Associated Press.

“Today we sisters experienced a tragedy. We lost our beautiful mother to the disease of mental illness,” the statement said. “We are shattered. We are navigating profound grief and know that as we loved her, she was loved by her public. We are in unknown territory.”

Naomi Judd died near Nashville, Tenn., said a statement on behalf of her husband and fellow singer, Larry Strickland. It said no further details about her death would be released and asked for privacy as the family grieves.

The Country Music Hall of Fame will continue with a planned induction ceremony for The Judds on Sunday.

The mother-daughter performers scored 14 No. 1 songs in a career that spanned nearly three decades.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Funeral home director charged in remains cases

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles funeral home owner illegally left the remains of 11 people, including infants, in stages of decay and mummification and faces more than a decade in jail, prosecutors said.

Authorities opened an investigation into the Mark B. Allen Mortuary and Cremations Services Inc., after receiving complaints from families.

Allen faces 22 misdemeanor charges — two for each person — from the state’s Health and Safety Code. The maximum penalty is \$110,000 and 11 years in jail.

City Attorney Mike Feuer, whose office can only file misdemeanor offenses, announced the charges, calling it an “incredibly sad and shocking situation.”

### Mensa members asked to test new board games

**ME** SOUTH PORTLAND — Makers of board games are seeking the smarty seal of approval at a round-the-clock event.

The 2022 American Mensa Mind Games are underway at a hotel in South Portland, Maine, where hundreds of intellectually gifted individuals are getting a crack at new board games during a three-day event.

Out of 65 games submitted for evaluation, five will be chosen for the “Mensa Select” seal of approval, the Bangor Daily News reported. Past winners include Scattergories, Trivial Pursuit and Taboo.

“I’ve been looking forward to this for three years,” Kimberly Kohler, of Illinois, told the Daily

News. “My goal is to absolutely forget about the rest of the world for a few days and just play board games.”

### City files lawsuit over collapsed arches

**NC** HICKORY — A North Carolina city is suing three companies over the collapse of decorative, 40-ton wooden arches along a pedestrian walkway in February.

The lawsuit was filed by the city of Hickory in Catawba County Superior Court, the Hickory Daily Record reported. It names Neill Grading & Construction Co., Mooresville-based subcontractor Dane Construction and Oregon-based arch manufacturer Western Wood Structures.

The city contends that the arch collapse “could not and would not have occurred in the absence of negligence by one or more of the defendants.”

The arches fell on Feb. 18, more than six months after being installed.

There had been issues when the second arch was being installed last year after part of the wood had splintered, city officials said. It was repaired using a combination of adhesives, clamps and screws.

### Man steals ambulance, leads police on chase

**IL** CHICAGO — A man has been charged with stealing a Chicago Fire Department ambulance and leading police on an 80-mile chase.

The 46-year-old Chicago man entered the ambulance as it sat empty and parked on the street outside a fire station, police said.

Officers pursued the ambu-

lance down Interstate 55 while the driver sped away at more than 70 mph. About two hours later, a tire on the ambulance blew out and the driver tried to run away, but he was arrested after a short foot chase, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

The man was charged with fleeing from police, resisting arrest and possession of a stolen vehicle, Illinois State Police said.

### Middle school student faces bomb charge

**IN** VALPARAISO — A northwestern Indiana middle school student faces a charge of possessing a destructive device after two improvised explosive devices were found inside a backpack, authorities said.

A Union Township Middle School administrator notified a resource officer about potential explosive devices in the student’s backpack, Porter County Police Cpl. Benjamin McFalls said.

The officer and administrators relocated classrooms of students near the backpack and secured the area until the Porter County Sheriff’s Office Bomb Squad arrived, McFalls told The (Northwest Indiana) Times.

### Fireball spotted over 3 states, NASA confirms

**MS** PORT GIBSON — A loud boom preceded a streaking fireball spotted in three Southern states, scientists confirmed.

More than 30 people in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi reported seeing the exceptionally bright meteor in the sky around 8 a.m. Wednesday after

hearing loud booms in Claiborne County, Miss., and surrounding areas, NASA reported. It was first spotted 54 miles above the Mississippi River, near Alcorn, Miss., officials said.

The object, which scientists called a bolide, moved southwest at a speed of 55,000 mph, breaking into pieces as it descended deeper into Earth’s atmosphere. It disintegrated about 34 miles above a swampy area north of the unincorporated Concordia Parish community of Minorca in Louisiana.

One witness told the Vicksburg Post that she heard a loud noise and then looked up and saw an “orange fireball the size of a basketball, with a white tail behind it,” heading west toward the Mississippi River.

### Council bans newspapers from City Hall lobby

**WA** SPOKANE — The Spokane Valley City Council in eastern Washington in an unusual move has banned newspapers from the City Hall lobby.

The council voted 4-2 to prohibit third-party publications from the lobbies of City Hall and the Spokane Valley Police Precinct, The Spokesman-Review reported.

The decision most notably affects free newspapers owned by council member Ben Wick, and one that runs advertisements.

Mayor Pam Haley and council members Rod Higgins, Arne Woodard and Laura Padden said the ban was necessary, with some arguing the papers can’t be on city property because they contain campaign ads and election coverage.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting World, National and Military News

# 76ers hope Embiid can return soon

*Associated Press*

MIAMI — The best that Philadelphia coach Doc Rivers could offer Saturday about Joel Embiid's possible availability for the Eastern Conference semifinal series against Miami was a two-word answer.

"There's hope," Rivers said.

For now, Philadelphia will cling to that.

The 76ers and Heat both hit the practice floor Saturday to begin the process of adjusting for a playoff series that won't have Embiid at the start — at minimum. Embiid, the NBA's scoring champion and an MVP finalist this season, has a right orbital fracture and a mild concussion, injuries that were suffered Thursday in a first-round series-clincher at Toronto and were announced Friday night.

Game 1 is Monday in Miami. And the 76ers will be without their center who averaged 30 points per game this season.

"I don't know how you make up for it, but you figure out how to," Rivers said. "Yeah, I mean, it's just a tough injury. The good news, I guess, is he's had it before. The bad news is there's just no timeline for when he's coming back."

The Heat went from 4.5-point favorites in Game 1 to 8.5-point favorites, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, after the 76ers announced Embiid's latest injuries. But there were no outward signs of celebration in Miami on Saturday because of Embiid's absence.

Quite the contrary, actually.

"I feel bad for my guy," said Miami's Jimmy Butler, who played with Embiid in Philadelphia. "Obviously, one of my former teammates. Arguably, the MVP of this league. And I think I speak for everybody that's a part of this team — we want Jo to play. We want to go up against them at full strength and prove that we can hang with anybody and we can beat anybody. It's a mishap. I hope he recovers well, and gets back very, very soon."

Losing Embiid would be difficult enough for the 76ers under any circumstances. The fact that it happened with a 29-point lead and 3:58 left in a game that had essentially been decided only makes it worse.

Rivers bristled at criticism of why he had Embiid in the game at that point. Philadelphia's lead was never smaller than 18 in the fourth quarter on Thursday, was still 25 with

5 minutes to play and had reached 29 on back-to-back baskets by Tobias Harris and Embiid.

Rivers said the Raptors still had their starters in, and that he was about to call time to sub out his starters when the lead reached 29. He also said that in one-sided closeout games, that would be about the time where benches get cleared.

"Not upset that he was in," Rivers said. "You can make that a big deal if you want. Just go and look at every team, and every game, and their guys were in until about the 4:00, 3:00 mark."

Embiid went through a similar issue — orbital fracture and concussion — in 2018 and missed 10 games, plus needed surgery because of the fracture. The 76ers have not mentioned surgery as a possibility this time around, which would seem to raise the possibility that Embiid could be back quicker than he was four years ago.

The concussion would be the first hurdle to clear, and it's anyone's guess when Embiid would escape those protocols anyway.

## Healthy Warriors face rebuilt Grizzlies in 2nd round

*Associated Press*

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Splash Brothers Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson have the Golden State Warriors in their seventh Western Conference semifinal in 10 seasons, and both finally are as healthy as they've been since reaching five straight NBA Finals from 2015-19.

That remarkable run started when the Warriors rallied from a 2-1 deficit in the second round against Memphis in 2015, marking a big switch in the direction for both franchises.

Ja Morant has the rebuilt Grizzlies back in the West semis for the first time in seven years. The dynamic guard leads a young and deep roster that edged out Golden State for the No. 2 seed in the West with the NBA's best record behind only Phoenix.

And Memphis can't wait to see how it matches up with the

veteran-led, playoff-tested Warriors.

"We feel like we are one of the best backcourts in the league as well," Morant said. "So, going into any matchup, we're taking ourselves over anybody. We're very confident. We put in the work."

The third-seeded Warriors, rested with three days off since ousting Denver on Wednesday night, know what they want starting Sunday afternoon in Game 1.

"We've been around the block, and we're trying to get back to the mountaintop and understand the opportunity in front of us," Curry said Saturday before Golden State left San Francisco.

The Grizzlies earned the No. 8 seed a year ago after beating San Antonio, then going on the road to beat the Warriors in the play-in tournament. Memphis took three of four in the regular

season with Thompson playing only once, Draymond Green playing two and Curry averaging 36.3 points in his three games.

### Comeback Grizzlies

The Grizzlies are still playing because they play their best in the final 12 minutes. They're the first team in NBA history to post multiple comeback victories when trailing by double digits going into the fourth quarter, and they did it three times ousting Minnesota.

They outscored the Timberwolves 198-136 in the final quarter, finishing the series with a 40-22 edge in the fourth of Game 6. Memphis ended the game on a 17-7 run. The Grizzlies not only lead the NBA scoring 33 points in the fourth quarter this postseason, they also top the league in that quarter, making 45.3% of their threes.

### In the paint

Golden State believes it can defend any big man after getting past Denver star Nikola Jokic in the first round — even if the 7-foot reigning MVP averaged 31 points, 13.2 rebounds and 5.8 assists over the five-game series.

Now, the Warriors take on Memphis, which led the NBA in rebounding during the regular season — and only Milwaukee has hit the boards better this postseason, with the Grizzlies averaging 46.3 per game.

Green and Kevon Looney handled the defensive load against Jokic with help from guards Gary Payton II, Thompson and even Curry. The next challenge on the block is Xavier Tillman and Brandon Clarke with Steven Adams — the league's top rebounder on the offensive boards — still out in the health and safety protocols.

# Marlins top Mariners for 7th straight

Associated Press

MIAMI — Jesús Luzardo allowed one run and two hits in six innings and the Miami Marlins won their seventh straight game, beating the Seattle Mariners 3-1 on Saturday night.

Brian Anderson had two hits for the Marlins, whose last seven-game win streak ran from April 24-30, 2016.

Luzardo (2-1) struck out five and walked one in his longest outing of the season.

"I just wanted to get ahead and attack the hitters," Luzardo said. "I feel that's the biggest adjustment I've made this year. My stuff was working in the zone. I didn't want to fall behind in the count and give the hitters the edge."

Mariners starter Robbie Ray cruised through the first four innings before running into trouble in a 36-pitch fifth inning. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner allowed RBI singles to Bryan De La Cruz and Jon Berti and walked three, including Garrett Cooper with the bases loaded.

"(Ray) was unbelievable tonight," said Anderson, who began the fifth-inning rally with a double. "He didn't make many mistakes and when he did, we were ready. The way our pitching has been going, any offense that we can put together it seems to give us a whole lot of confidence."

Ray (1-2) was lifted after five innings. He gave up three runs, four hits, struck out eight and walked four.

**Phillies 4, Mets 1:** Kyle Schwarber hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning as Philadelphia bounced back from being no-hit by winning at New York.

Mets starter Taijuan Walker and reliever Trevor May blanked the Phillies through six innings before J.T. Realmuto drew a one-out walk in the seventh from Adam Ottavino (1-1).

Schwarber followed by homering to right-center field for a 2-1 lead. Alec Bohm walked and scored when Odubel Herrera chased Ottavino with a two-out double. Rhys Hoskins added a homer leading off the eighth.

James Norwood (1-0) struck out one in a perfect sixth. Corey Knebel earned his fourth save.

**Tigers 5, Dodgers 1:** Javier Báez and Austin Meadows each drove in two runs and Detroit snapped a six-game losing streak with a victory at Los Angeles, spoiling a night when Clayton Kershaw became the Dodgers' career strikeout leader.

Báez tied it at 1-1 in the third inning with

a base hit to left and then had the go-ahead double down the right-field line off Evan Phillips (1-1) in the seventh. Later in the inning, Meadows plated two more runs with a perfectly placed single between third and short that extended the lead to 4-1.

Kershaw began the game needing four to pass Don Sutton as his franchise's strikeout king. The 33-year-old lefty got Spencer Torkelson to whiff on a slider low and inside for his 2,697th strikeout and move past the Hall of Famer.

**Blue Jays 2, Astros 1:** George Springer homered twice against his former team, leading José Berríos and host Toronto as it snapped Houston's four-game win streak.

Springer's leadoff homer in the first was the 46th of his career. Starting at DH, Springer connected again in the third, the 19th multi-homer game of his career.

**Diamondbacks 2, Cardinals 0:** Merrill Kelly threw seven shutout innings and Ketel Marte and Nick Ahmed homered in the eighth inning, sending Arizona to a win at St. Louis.

Marte led off the eighth by taking a 1-1 changeup off Miles Mikolas (1-1) into the right field bullpen for his first homer of the season. One out later, Ahmed sent a 1-1 fastball into the left field bullpen for his second homer.

**Twins 9, Rays 1:** Kyle Garlick hit two home runs off starter Shane McClellan and Minnesota won at Tampa Bay.

Carlos Correa had three hits for the Twins, who have won eight of nine. Cody Stashak (2-0) got the win in relief.

**Guardians 3, Athletics 1:** Pinch-hitter Richie Palacios hit a two-out, two-run double in the ninth inning and Cleveland took advantage of a key error to win at Oakland.

It was 1-1 with one out in the Guardians ninth with a runner on first when Oscar Mercado hit a potential double-play grounder to rookie second baseman Nick Allen, who misplayed it for an error. Palacios hit a towering double on a 3-1 pitch from Dany Jiménez (1-1).

**Giants 9, Nationals 3:** Jason Vosler homered and Darin Ruf had three hits as host San Francisco overcame the absence of several players due to COVID-19 and beat Washington.

Giants starter Logan Webb (3-1) gave up a career-high 11 hits in six innings. He struck out three, walked one and allowed three runs.

**White Sox 4, Angels 0:** Tim Anderson and Luis Robert homered to help host Chi-

cago end the LA's six-game winning streak.

Josh Harrison, AJ Pollock and Anderson had two hits apiece for the White Sox, who won for the second time in 12 games.

**Rangers 3, Braves 1:** Corey Seager homered in his third straight game, Dane Dunning allowed one run over a career-high 7⅓ innings and host Texas beat Atlanta.

Seager's solo homer gave the Rangers their first run in the first inning since opening day. They snapped a four-game losing streak.

**Pirates 7, Padres 6 (10):** Ke'Bryan Hayes singled in the tying run and scored the winning run on an error as host Pittsburgh scored twice in the bottom of the 10th inning to beat San Diego and snap a four-game losing streak.

Hayes hit a leadoff single into center field off Luis Garcia (0-1) that scored automatic runner Jake Marisnick with the tying run. First baseman Eric Hosmer then misplayed Bryan Reynolds' ground ball. The ball rolled down the right-field line and Hayes scored from first base.

**Yankees 3, Royals 0:** Gerrit Cole pitched six sharp innings and visiting New York won its eighth straight game by manufacturing runs against sloppy Kansas City pitching.

Cole (2-0) allowed five hits and two walks while striking out six. Aroldis Chapman worked a perfect ninth for his fifth save.

**Brewers 9, Cubs 1:** Eric Lauer struck out 11 in seven innings as host Milwaukee beat Chicago.

Rowdy Tellez hit a two-run homer in the fifth, and Christian Yelich and Hunter Renfroe connected for consecutive home runs in the eighth.

**Orioles 2, Red Sox 1 (10):** Jorge Mateo scored the winning run in the 10th inning on a throwing error by pitcher Hirokazu Sawamura, capping host Baltimore's comeback over Boston.

The Orioles had runners on first and second with no outs in the 10th when Robinson Chirinos dropped a bunt in front of the mound. Sawamura (0-1) scooped up the ball and threw it well over the head of third baseman Rafael Devers, allowing Mateo to score easily.

**Rockies 4, Reds 3:** Chad Kuhl shook off a first-pitch homer by Tyler Naquin and lasted into the eighth inning, Ryan McMahon hit a go-ahead two-run triple in the sixth and Colorado dealt Cincinnati its ninth straight road loss.

# Kickers and RBs grab Day 3 spotlight

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — In Las Vegas, which bills itself as the “Entertainment Capital of the World,” an NFL draft bereft of star quarterback prospects wouldn’t seem a fit.

It didn’t matter, though, because as personnel people throughout the league predicted, the 2022 crop was so deep that even in the final four rounds, there were plenty of highlights.

They didn’t include the passers very much, but such was the quality of QBs.

Running backs and kickers — kickers? — were more of a focus for much of Day 3 on Saturday.

Indeed, two punters and a placekicker went as the final day of selections began before any more quarterbacks were taken. Maybe it shouldn’t be surprising that LSU placekicker Cade York went to Cleveland at No. 124 overall, followed by Penn State punter Jordan Stout six spots later to Baltimore. At No. 133 to Tampa Bay it was punter Jake Camarda of Georgia — four spots before the fifth quarterback in total, Western Kentucky’s Bailey Zappe, headed to New England.

Of course, it can’t be ignored that the Patriots once had some luck with a late-round QB. What was his name?

“With the draft, it’s always a tossup, but I did have a good idea that I was going to be a Raven,” said Stout, who will compete with veteran Sam Koch. “I’m extremely excited about it.”

“One big thing for me is that I know special teams is always very successful with the Ravens.”

True. Justin Tucker has been the most ac-

curate placekicker in NFL history, and Koch has been a mainstay in Baltimore since 2006.

Cleveland saw in York exactly what every team wants in a kicker with a game on the line: utter confidence.

“I believe that I am the best kicker in this draft because I have been able to make big kicks in big situations,” he said. “I have been put out for a lot of long field goals in tough situations, and I still brought out good results in it. I think that is what makes me the best.”

Many scouts considered Camarda the best punter in the nation. He was the 11th player selected from the national champs.

“I think it has certainly prepared me for the next level, playing at Georgia for four years, playing in every single biggest game you can possibly imagine,” Camarda noted. “The Bucs certainly are a team that’s looking to make a big run. I definitely think that’s something with my history, playing in those big games and big moments, I certainly think it’s going to help play being with the Bucs.”

Another punter, San Diego State’s left-footed Matt Araiza, was the opening pick of the sixth round, by Buffalo. He’ll go from kicking in the pristine conditions of San Diego to the often-frigid Western New York.

“I’m kind of excited for that challenge,” said Araiza, who would someday like to punt, placekick and hold in the NFL. “I love it. I think the biggest job in the NFL is to out-punt the player across from you. As long as I can bring better field position to my team than the team we’re playing against, that’s kind of my goal.

“I think leg strength and athleticism are two things that help a lot in the conditions. Those are two things I pride myself in and two things I’ll continue to work on. So I’m excited and I’m confident I’ll be able to do well in these conditions.”

And yet another punter, Trenton Gill of North Carolina State, was the 255th selection by Chicago.

The philosophy of taking running backs deeper into proceedings is nothing new, and several highly accomplished ball carriers were taken in Round 4. After Tampa Bay made tight end Cade Otton of Washington the leadoff pick — Rob Gronkowski has not publicly committed to return — Houston grabbed RB Dameron Pierce of Florida. From there, the likes of Zamir White of Georgia, Isaiah Spiller of Texas A&M, Pierre Strong, a standout from South Dakota State of the FCS and Hassan Haskins of Michigan went off the board.

The fifth round, however, got started with Washington grabbing North Carolina QB Sam Howell, who was projected as a much higher selection just a year ago, but didn’t have an outstanding final season for the Tar Heels.

Howell called it “a little stressful” to sit through four rounds.

“I was just hanging out and just waiting for a call, and I’m so glad it was Washington that called,” Howell said. “This is a perfect spot for me. It’s a team I wanted to play for all along.”

Zappe wasn’t hearing from any comparisons to New England’s 2000 sixth-rounder at No. 199, Tom Brady.

“I am continuing to be myself,” he said.

## Taylor tops Serrano in women’s headline bout at MSG

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Minutes after they traded punches during a slugfest of a final round, Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano embraced each other and the moment.

With most of the sold-out crowd that watched the first women’s boxing match to headline at Madison Square Garden still standing, Serrano delivered a message.

“Women can sell, women can fight and we put on a hell of a

show,” Serrano said.

All three were true on a historic night for women’s boxing.

Taylor remained the undisputed lightweight champion in a thrilling fight, edging Serrano in a split decision Saturday.

### Stevenson hands Valdez his first loss

WBO champion Shakur Stevenson handed Oscar Valdez the first loss of his career Saturday night in a junior lightweight championship bout.

What some thought could be a fight of the year candidate turned into a one-sided boxing clinic.

Stevenson (18-0, 9 KOs) won by unanimous decision and took Valdez’s WBC belt with the victory.

### Bears release former Super Bowl MVP Foles

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears have released veteran quarterback Nick Foles two years after acquiring the

former Super Bowl MVP to compete with Mitchell Trubisky. New general manager Ryan Poles had told reporters he hoped to trade Foles after signing Trevor Siemian to back up Justin Fields. He had one year left on his contract.

Foles took Super Bowl 52 honors for Philadelphia. The Bears acquired him from Jacksonville in March 2020. Foles was third string last year behind Fields and Andy Dalton.