

Texas school rampage rocks nation

Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas — The gunman who massacred 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school legally bought two AR-style rifles just days before the attack, soon after his 18th birthday, and seemed to hint online that something was about to happen.

As details of the latest mass killing to rock the U.S. emerged Wednesday, grief engulfed the small town of Uvalde, population 16,000.

The dead included an outgoing 10-year-old, Eliahna Garcia, who loved to sing, dance and play basketball; a fellow fourth grader, Xavier Javier Lopez, who had been eagerly awaiting a summer of swimming; and a teacher, Eva Mireles, with 17 years' experience whose husband is an officer with the school district's police department.

"I just don't know how people can sell that type of a gun to a kid 18 years old," Eliahna's aunt, Siria Arizmendi, said angrily through tears. "What is he going to use it for but for that purpose?"

The gunman, Salvador Ramos, a resident of the community about 85 miles west of San Antonio, opened fire Tuesday at Robb Elementary. Lt. Christopher Olivarez of the Texas Department of Public Safety told CNN that all of the victims were in the same fourth-grade classroom.

The killer "barricaded himself by locking the door and just started shooting children and teachers that were inside that classroom," Olivarez said. "It just shows you the complete evil of the shooter."

Law enforcement officers eventually broke into the classroom and killed the gunman. Police and others responding to the attack also went around breaking windows at the school to enable students and teachers to escape.

Investigators did not immediately disclose a motive. But in chilling posts on social media in the days and hours before the massacre, an account that appeared to belong to Ramos displayed photos of his guns and seemed to indicate something was going to happen.

The attack in the predominantly Latino town of Uvalde was the deadliest school shooting in the U.S. since a gunman killed 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn., in December 2012.

The bloodshed was the latest in a seemingly unending string of mass killings at churches, schools, stores and other sites in the United States. Just 10 days earlier, 10 Black people were shot to death in a racist rampage at a Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket.

In a somber address to the nation hours af-

ter the attack in Texas, President Joe Biden pleaded for Americans to "stand up to the gun lobby" and enact tougher restrictions, saying: "When in God's name are we going to do what has to be done?"

But the prospects for any reform of the nation's gun regulations appeared dim. Repeated attempts over the years to expand background checks and enact other curbs have run into Republican opposition in Congress.

Days before the attack, an Instagram account investigators say apparently belonged to Ramos posted a photo of a hand holding an ammunition magazine. On the day Ramos bought his second weapon last week, the account carried a photo of two AR-style rifles.

In that post, Ramos apparently tagged another Instagram user, one with more than 10,000 followers, asking her to share the picture with her followers.

"I barely know you and u tag me in a picture with some guns," replied the Instagram user, who has since removed her profile. "It's just scary."

On the morning of the attack, the account linked to the gunman replied: "I'm about to."

Instagram confirmed to The Associated Press that it is working with law enforcement to review the account but declined to answer questions about the postings.

US and South Korea respond to North's missile tests

BY DAVID CHOI
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea fired three ballistic missiles Wednesday morning off its eastern coast, prompting the United States and South Korea to respond with a show of force of their own launches.

North Korea's missiles, fired hours after President Joe Biden wrapped up his first presidential trip to Seoul and Tokyo, came from the Sunan area, where the regime's airport is located, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The three missiles were fired at 6 a.m., 6:37 a.m. and 6:42 a.m. The first, believed to

be an intercontinental ballistic missile, flew roughly 224 miles at a peak altitude of 336 miles; the second "disappeared" at an altitude of 12 miles; and the third, believed to be a short-range ballistic missile, flew about 472 miles at an altitude of 37 miles, according to South Korea's military.

The Japan Ministry of Defense confirmed at least two ballistic missiles were fired Wednesday morning and landed outside of the country's exclusive economic zone, Minister Nobuo Kishi told news reporters.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in an unsigned press release Wednesday said the incident did not pose "an immediate threat to U.S. personnel or territory" and that it highlights the "destabilizing impact of [North Ko-

rea's] illicit weapons program."

Following the launches, U.S. Forces Korea announced in an unsigned press release that it had fired surface-to-surface missiles toward its eastern coast "to demonstrate the ability of the combined [U.S.-South Korea] force to respond quickly to crisis events."

USFK, which is responsible for roughly 28,500 troops on the Korean Peninsula, said in the release it used the Army's Tactical Missile System and South Korea's Hyunmu-2 missile system for the live-fire exercise.

South Korea's military also conducted an armed exercise consisting of 30 South Korean F-15K jets, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement Wednesday.

Navy climate plan lacks key emission targets

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

An ambitious plan to make the U.S. Navy greener aims to raise the energy efficiency of the service's ground vehicles, boost its supply of lithium batteries and install cyber-secure microgrids, among other goals.

But there's a glaring omission in the strategy. It lists no emission-reduction targets for the Navy's ships and planes, widely regarded as the hardest to decarbonize because of the amount of energy they require and the missions they perform.

Still, the Navy says in its new plan unveiled Tuesday that it should be able to reduce its overall emissions by 65% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050. The term means some greenhouse gases are released but are offset by the removal of an equivalent amount of the gases from the atmosphere.

Climate Action 2030 commits the Navy to exploring electrification, alternative low-carbon fuels and advanced propulsion for its land, sea and air vehicles.

"For the Department of Navy, this is existential," Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said

in a forward to the strategy. "Our naval forces, the United States Navy and Marine Corps, are in the crosshairs of the climate crisis: the threat increases instability and demands on our forces while simultaneously impacting our capacity to respond to those demands."

The goals listed meet targets included in an executive order issued last year to all federal agencies by President Joe Biden.

In addition to those targets, the Navy pledged to cut 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2027, which is the equivalent of removing 1 million cars from roads.

The service says it also plans to get all of its electricity through "carbon pollution-free" means by 2030; have a fleet of zero-emission vehicles by 2035; and halve the CO2 emissions from its installations by 2032.

Cyber-secure microgrids are one of the ways the Navy will operate carbon pollution-free power at its installations, the strategy said. Microgrids are small-scale power generators, often creating energy from several sources, that can operate independently or collaboratively. At the same time, the service would draw carbon dioxide out of the atmo-

sphere and ensure a domestic supply of lithium batteries to help meet its climate goals.

Scientists say rising sea levels, recurrent flooding and more frequent and destructive hurricanes result from man-made climate change and are a particular challenge for the Navy.

"Climate change increases risk, exposes vulnerabilities to our people, installations, platforms, operations, and allies and partners," Meredith Berger, assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment, said in a statement Tuesday.

The Navy says in its strategy that it will equip sailors to operate in a world with more volatile weather. For example, climate threats will be incorporated into war games and training exercises.

The Biden administration's targets pose a formidable challenge to the Defense Department, which is the world's largest institutional consumer of petroleum and the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. However, DOD says it is taking the threats posed by climate change seriously and released an overarching climate plan in October.

Trial opens for Army reservist charged with entering Capitol

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Army reservist who worked on a Navy base stormed the U.S. Capitol because he wanted to kick off a civil war and create "a clean slate," a federal prosecutor said Tuesday at the start of the New Jersey man's trial.

But a lawyer for Timothy Hale-Cusanelli told jurors that "groupthink" and a desperate desire "to be heard" drove him to follow a mob into the Capitol. Hale-Cusanelli shouldn't have entered the building on Jan. 6, 2021, defense attorney Jonathan Crisp acknowledged during the trial's opening statements.

"But the question of why he was there is what is important," Crisp added.

Hale-Cusanelli is charged with obstructing the joint session of Congress convened to certify

President Joe Biden's electoral victory. He isn't charged with engaging in any violence or property destruction that day.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathryn Fifield played a video that captured Hale-Cusanelli yelling profanities at police officers guarding the Capitol and screaming, "The revolution will be televised!"

In pretrial court filings, prosecutors presented evidence that coworkers described Hale-Cusanelli as a white supremacist, a Nazi sympathizer and a Holocaust denier who wore a Hitler-style mustache to work. On Hale-Cusanelli's cellphone, investigators found photos of him with the distinctive mustache along with pro-Nazi cartoons. It's unclear from online court filings how much of that evidence, if any, will be admissible at trial.

China, Russia sent bombers near Japan as Quad met

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Japan scrambled fighter jets Tuesday in response to Chinese and Russian bombers flying near its airspace just as President Joe Biden met with leaders of the Quad grouping in Tokyo, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi told reporters Tuesday.

On the same day, South Korea scrambled fighter jets as Chinese and Russian warplanes passed through its air defense identification zone several times, Reuters reported Tuesday.

Near Japan, two Chinese H-6 bombers flew from the East China Sea to the Sea of Japan, where they joined a pair of Russian TU-95 bombers, Kishi said in a statement posted on the Ministry of Defense's website.

The two Chinese bombers

were later replaced by a second pair of warplanes believed to be Chinese, and the four aircraft then flew out toward the Pacific Ocean, Kishi said.

None of the aircraft entered Japan's national airspace, he said.

Kishi characterized the bomber flights as a "provocation" timed with the meeting of the Quad nation's leaders. Biden met with Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese, Australia's newly elected prime minister.

The four nations make up the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, a loosely formed security pact. The cooperative is essentially a means of countering China's growing influence in the region, and the collaboration has not been welcomed by Beijing.

New names recommended for 9 Army bases

By **CAITLIN DOORNBOS**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army will now have bases named after women and African Americans if Congress and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approve the recommendations offered Tuesday by an independent commission assigned to make the selections.

Congress mandated last year that an appointed Naming Commission come up with potential new names for nine Army installations that now honor Confederate generals from the Civil War. The nine bases are all in former Confederate states and were named during the 1910s and 1940s amid the South's Jim Crow era.

These are the bases and the suggested names, according to retired Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule, a member of the commission:

■ Fort Bragg, N.C., to Fort Liberty.

Fort Bragg is home to the 82nd Airborne Division and the name Fort Liberty honors a line in the division's song: "We're all American and proud to be well we're the soldiers of liberty," Seidule said Tuesday in a call with reporters.

"Throughout our history, liberty remains the greatest value ever since the nation created a standing army to provide for the common defense that army's greatest battles have been for liberty," he said.

■ Fort Polk, La., to Fort Johnson after Sgt. William Henry Johnson.

Johnson was a member of an all-Black infantry regiment that later became the 369th Infantry Regiment, according to the Army. Johnson is known for saving his fellow soldiers after suffering a German grenade attack on May 14, 1918, in France during World War I.

"Despite a grenade wound, Johnson attacked the Germans. First, he threw all his grenades, then he fired all his rifle ammunition," Seidule said. "He ran out of bullets to use, [then used] his rifle as a club until it was smashed to

bits. [Finally], he took out his bow knife to save his comrades."

■ Fort Benning, Ga., to Fort Moore for Lt. Gen. Hal and Julia Moore.

The couple are honored each for their services to the nation, one in uniform and one as a civilian.

"With Hal and Julia Moore, we recognize the Army family that serves the nation together," Seidule said.

The lieutenant general served in the Battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam in 1965 and received the Distinguished Service Cross and later "played a crucial role in the transition to the all-volunteer Army," he said.

Julia Moore is honored for her advocacy that led the Army to establish its casualty notification program and survivor support networks, Seidule said.

■ Fort Gordon, Ga., to Fort Eisenhower for former President Dwight Eisenhower.

"Eisenhower spent a lifetime in service to the nation starting as a West Point cadet in 1911 and finishing as president 50 years later," Seidule said. "Of course, we know Eisenhower best for leading one of the greatest operations in military history: the D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6, 1944."

■ Fort A.P. Hill, Va., to Fort Walker after Dr. Mary Walker.

Walker is a Medal of Honor recipient who served as a doctor during the Civil War. She was the Army's first female surgeon to go into battle, where "she remained with wounded soldiers after the U.S. Army unit departed, disregarding her own safety," Seidule said.

"The enemy captured her and she spent four months in a prison-of-war camp," he said.

■ Fort Hood, Texas, to Fort Cavazos after Gen. Richard Cavazos.

Cavazos was a Distinguished Service Cross recipient who fought in the Korean and Vietnam wars and later commanded the Army's III Corps, which is head-

quartered at the installation, Seidule said.

"As a young lieutenant in Korea, [Cavazos] led his company on three separate charges of an enemy position," he said. "Then he returned to the field five times to evacuate his wounded soldiers before allowing medics to treat his wounds."

■ Fort Pickett, Va., to Fort Barfoot for Tech. Sgt. Van T. Barfoot.

Barfoot was a Medal of Honor recipient who served in the Army for more than 34 years, Seidule said.

"On May 23, 1944, Tech. Sgt. Barfoot was in Northern Italy with his unit attacking a well-entrenched German position," Seidule said. "Barfoot moved out alone against the enemies left blank. [Took] out three separate machine gun emplacements one after the other capturing 17 prisoners."

■ Fort Rucker, Ala., to Fort Novosel after Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel Sr.

Novosel was a Medal of Honor recipient who flew more than 2,500 extraction missions in Vietnam, rescuing more than 5,500 wounded soldiers, Seidule said.

"On one extraordinary mission on Oct. 2, 1969, he saved 29 men despite suffering severe wounds," Seidule said. "Incredibly, on another mission, he rescued his son, a fellow helicopter pilot."

■ Fort Lee, Va., to Fort Gregg-Adams after Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams.

"The local community suggested we consider a hyphenated name, we thought that was a great idea," Seidule said.

Gregg, who is now 95 years old, enlisted in the Army at 17 at the end of World War II. He commanded logistics units "in war and peace all over the globe" during his career and still makes time to mentor soldiers and families, Seidule said.

Adams left her teaching job in 1941 to join the military, later becoming one of the highest-rank-

ing female soldiers in World War II. She commanded a postal battalion in Europe from 1944-45, "working under the motto, 'no mail, no morale,'" Seidule said.

"Adams and her unit made it their mission to sustain soldiers at the front and keep the families at home connected to soldiers, handling more than 6 million pieces of mail a month," Seidule said. "They cleared a six-month backlog in half the time expected."

The commission also considered changing the name of Fort Belvoir, Va., which was named after Union Army Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys from 1917-35 before it was renamed in 1935 after the family who owned the plantation where the installation now sits. However, the group decided Belvoir "does not meet the criteria Congress provided" for the renaming recommendation, "but will recommend the Department of Defense conduct its own naming review of the post," the commission said Tuesday in a statement.

Army and Pentagon leaders began looking at stripping bases of Confederate-linked names in 2020 amid a nationwide racial reckoning after the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

In the commission's selection process, the members of the group visited the bases last year for listening sessions with military commanders and community leaders "to gain feedback on their process, preferences for new names and an understanding of local sensitivities," the commission said. They also opened a website for the public to make suggestions between September and December, which resulted in the commission receiving 3,670 different name suggestions in more than 34,000 submissions, Seidule told reporters.

The names will be delivered in a report due to Congress in October. Lawmakers must give their approval on the names, which will then go to Austin to carry out the renaming formally, Seidule said.

Ruling may help US workers with German taxes

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — A potentially precedent-setting decision by Germany's top fiscal court to overturn tax penalties on a U.S. Army civilian employee is being studied to see what ramifications it could have for other Americans locked in financially devastating fights with German tax authorities.

The Munich-based tribunal ruled in February 2021 that the finance court in Rheinland-Pfalz, home to the largest American military community outside the United States, had ignored provisions in a bilateral tax treaty that makes U.S. government pay off-limits to German tax collectors under certain circumstances.

The little-known case, only

now coming to light publicly, centered on an unidentified active-duty soldier stationed in Germany in the 1990s.

An American official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday that the U.S. is aware of the ruling and is analyzing its implications to determine whether it could be a model for others in Germany covered by NATO's Status of Forces Agreement.

At some point during the Germany tour of the former soldier in the case, he married a German and bought real estate, actions that tax offices view as grounds for targeting U.S. personnel regardless of their SOFA status.

He was put in the taxing authority's crosshairs after leaving the service and transitioning

to an Army civilian job in Germany.

The case did not delve into the main dispute over whether SOFA offers blanket tax protection for U.S. personnel on orders in Germany. Still, the crux of the issue is an American's motive for coming to Germany, according to the Munich court.

Local tax offices have argued that if Defense Department employees are not in Germany "solely" for their job and have other ties to the country, such as a German spouse, they can be taxed as an ordinary German resident regardless of their SOFA protections.

The Munich court asserted that "what is decisive is the point in time at which the applicant became resident in Germany."

That means local tax officials

"need to look at the reason for this person coming to Germany in the first place," said Georg Weishaupt, a tax specialist representing three American families in separate SOFA-related tax cases. He analyzed the ruling for Stars and Stripes.

If the American arrived in Germany "solely" for the job and later married a German or bought German real estate, military pay would be exempt from taxation, Weishaupt said. But arriving in Germany with a German spouse or anything else that could be perceived as a special tie to the country is still problematic, he said.

"(The court decision) doesn't work for everybody," Weishaupt said. "Maybe (the problem) has been solved for some people who are affected but not for all."

Trump rebuked in Georgia primary as Kemp wins nod

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia easily dispatched Donald Trump's hand-picked challenger on Tuesday in a Republican primary that demonstrated the limits of the former president and his conspiracy-fueled politics in a critical swing state.

Kemp will face Democrat Stacey Abrams this fall in what will be one of the nation's most consequential governor's races.

The GOP results, combined with the loss of the Trump-backed candidate for secretary of state, served as a stinging rebuke for the former president in a state he prioritized above almost all others. Angered by Kemp's refusal to go along with his extraordinary effort to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia, Trump personally recruited former Sen. David Perdue to challenge the sitting governor. He also helped clear the primary field and spent more than \$3 million on

the failed effort.

Kemp ultimately emerged as a powerful candidate able to draw prolific fundraising totals that helped him flood Georgia with television and other ads. He tapped into the power of his office to show voters what he could do for them, unveiling a \$5.5 billion, 8,100-job Hyundai Motor plant near Savannah in the final days of the campaign.

In defeat, Perdue struck a unifying tone that has become increasingly rare in a Republican Party dominated by Trump's hardline tactics.

"I want you to know tonight that I am fully supporting Brian Kemp in his run to beat Stacey Abrams," Perdue said. "It's emotional for all of us, we're disappointed, I get that. Let's take a few hours, lick our wounds, and tomorrow morning, you're going to hear me going to work for Brian Kemp to make damn sure that Stacey Abrams is never governor of Georgia."

Ukraine: Russia must return to prewar position for talks

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's president said Wednesday that Russia must pull back to its pre-war positions as a first step before diplomatic talks, a negotiating line that Moscow is unlikely to agree to anytime soon as it focuses its fire on key regions in the east three months into the war.

Speaking by video link at this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed a willingness to negotiate with Russian President Vladimir Putin directly, but stressed that Moscow needs to make clear that it too is prepared to "shift from the bloody war to diplomacy."

"It's possible if Russia shows at least something. When I say at least something, I mean pulling back troops to where they were before Feb. 24," the day Russia's invasion began, he said. "I believe it

would be a correct step for Russia to make."

Zelenskyy also made clear that Ukraine wants to drive Russian troops out of all captured areas.

"Ukraine will fight until it reclaims all its territories," he said. "It's about our independence and our sovereignty."

Attending the Davos forum in person, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the situation in his country's eastern Donbas region was "extremely bad."

He called for friendly countries — particularly the United States — to provide the Ukrainian military with multiple launch rocket systems so they could try to recapture territory.

"Every day of someone sitting in Washington, Berlin, Paris and other capitals, and considering whether they should or should not do something, costs us lives and territories," Kuleba said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Jaws' extra now police chief where flick filmed

MA OAK BLUFFS — A man who as a child had a brief role in “Jaws” was named police chief on the Massachusetts island on which the 1975 Oscar-winning movie was partially filmed.

Jonathan Searle was offered the job of police chief in Oak Bluffs on Martha’s Vineyard last week.

The movie centers on the efforts of a police chief in a fictional resort town trying to rid the local waters of a killer shark. Scenes were filmed in various locations on Martha’s Vineyard, according to IMDB.com.

In the movie, Searle played one of two boys who send beachgoers into a panic by swimming around with a fake shark’s fin.

\$300K-plus hospital bill tossed for promised tab

CO DENVER — Colorado’s Supreme Court ruled in favor of a woman who expected to pay about \$1,300 for spinal fusion surgery but was billed more than \$300,000 by a suburban Denver hospital that included charges it never disclosed she might be liable for.

The ruling in favor of Lisa French, who underwent two surgeries in 2014, follows efforts by many states and the federal government to help curb health care costs by restricting or eliminating so-called “surprise billing” and requiring increased price transparency for consumers. In a unanimous opinion, the Colorado justices ruled that agreements French signed before surgery at St. Anthony North Health Campus in West-

minster don’t compel her to pay the extra charges, which stemmed from a then-secret list of prices for services that hadn’t been disclosed to her.

French had expected to pay \$1,337 out of pocket after her medical insurance covered the rest, believing St. Anthony’s was an in-network provider.

But a hospital employee provided her an incorrect estimate after apparently misreading her insurance card; in fact, the hospital wasn’t in-network, The Denver Post reported.

Couple kills bear that attacked them in home

WI MEDFORD — A Wisconsin couple said they killed a bear that attacked them inside their home after they spotted it eating from their bird feeder.

The Taylor County Sheriff’s office said the attack happened at a home near Medford in north-central Wisconsin. The couple told authorities that the bear charged through a window after they yelled at it to go away.

Both the husband and wife were injured before they were able to stab the bear with a kitchen knife. Eventually, the man was able to grab a firearm and kill the animal.

Retired warrant officers can join National Guard

TN NASHVILLE — Beginning this month, warrant officers retired from active duty in the U.S. Army will be able to join the Tennessee National Guard.

The program has been talked about for years, but Tennessee is the first to implement it, Brig-

Gen. Warner Ross, Tennessee’s assistant adjutant general-Army, said in a news release. It was previously allowed only for soldiers deemed indispensable by the Army secretary. Now, nearly all retired active duty Army warrant officers are eligible.

The U.S. Army and National Guard Bureau updated their policies to make the change possible last year. Tennessee formalized its own state policy this month, according to the release.

Elected official arrested, charged with cattle theft

TX MENTONE — The top elected official in a rural and sparsely populated West Texas county was arrested after being accused of stealing cattle.

Loving County Judge Skeet Jones, 71, and three other men were arrested on charges of livestock theft and engaging in organized criminal activity.

The arrests came after a year-long investigation, according to a statement from the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. The association’s special rangers alleged Jones and the others gathered stray cattle and sold them without following procedures set forth in the Texas Agriculture Code.

The theft of livestock charge carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison while the organized criminal activity charge carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

Resort parent firm fined \$27K over zip line death

VT STOWE — Vail Resorts was fined more than \$27,000 for safety viola-

tions after a Stowe Mountain Resort employee was thrown from a zip line ride and died last fall.

Scott Lewis, 53, of Stowe, hit the anchoring platform that was holding the line and could not be revived on Sept. 23, police said.

Investigators found a component of the lanyard supporting Lewis had not been properly inspected or replaced as the manufacturer recommended, WCAX-TV reported. Investigators also found the resort failed to provide training to each employee required to use the equipment, the news station reported. The report also noted Lewis was traveling at more than 80 mph.

Vail Resorts, the parent company of Stowe, said it continues to work with Vermont authorities concerning the accident.

Gun-sniffing dog added to security team at mall

SC COLUMBIA — A dog trained to sniff out guns was added to the security team at a South Carolina mall where 15 people were hurt in a shooting last month.

The dog, named Carlos, will walk around Columbiana Centre with its handler, alerting the human if he smells a weapon. Security guards will then remove the person from the mall, which has a policy prohibiting weapons, mall officials said in a statement.

Nine people were shot and another six injured in the rush to exit Columbiana Centre in Columbia after the April 16 shooting. Three people face charges in the shooting, which police said stemmed from a long-running dispute.

— From wire reports

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Kerr, Kidd address Texas school shooting

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Dallas Mavericks coach Jason Kidd and Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr declined to talk about basketball less than two hours before Game 4 of the Western Conference finals tipped off Tuesday.

They had bigger concerns in mind.

Kidd and Kerr spent the entirety of their pregame press conferences discussing the elementary school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where at least 19 children and two adults died Tuesday afternoon.

For three minutes in front of cameras and reporters, Kerr delivered an emotional, impassioned, outraged call for action.

He pounded the table. He shouted. He called out Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and U.S. senators for inaction. His voice caught with emotion.

Kerr's father, Malcolm, was shot and killed by two gunmen in 1984, and the Warriors' coach has long been one of the NBA's most fervent advocates for gun control.

"I'm not going to talk about basketball," Kerr started his press conference. "Nothing's happened with our team in the last six hours. We're going to start the same way tonight. Any basketball questions don't matter.

"Since we left [pregame] shootaround, 14 children were killed 400 miles from here, and a teacher. In the last 10 days, we've had elderly black people killed in a supermarket in Buffalo, we've had Asian churchgoers killed in Southern California, now we have children murdered at school.

"When are we going to do something? I'm tired. I'm so tired of getting up here and offering condolences to the devastated families that are out there. I'm so tired. Excuse me. I'm sorry. I'm tired of the moments of silence. Enough.

"There's 50 senators right now who refuse to vote on HR8, which is a background check rule that the House passed a couple years ago. It's been sitting there for two years. There's a reason they

won't vote on it: to hold onto power.

"I ask you, Mitch McConnell, all of you senators who refuse to do anything about the violence, school shootings, supermarket shootings, I ask you: Are you going to put your own desire for power ahead of the lives of our children and our elderly and our churchgoers? Because that's what it looks like. That's what we do every week.

"So I'm fed up. I've had enough. We're going to play the game tonight. But I want every person here, every person listening to this, to think about your own child or grandchild, mother or father, sister, brother. How would you feel if this happened to you today?

"We can't get numb to this. We can't sit here and just read about it and go, 'Well, let's have a moment of silence. Go Dubs. C'mon, Mavs, let's go.' That's what we're going to do. We're going to go play a basketball game.

"Fifty senators in Washington are going to hold us hos-

tage. Do you realize that 90 percent of Americans, regardless of political party, want background checks, universal background checks? Ninety percent of us. We are being held hostage by 50 senators in Washington who refuse to even put it to a vote, despite what we the American people want.

"They won't vote on it because they want to hold onto their own power. It's pathetic. I've had enough."

Said Kidd: "It's tough. You know, as coaches or fathers, we have kids. People in this room have kids. Elementary school. You just think about what could take place with any of your family or friends at a school.

"This is on-the-run job training. We're going to try to play the game. We have no choice. The game is not going to be canceled. But we have to find a way to be pro, find a way to win, and move forward.

"But the news of what's happening, not just here in Texas but throughout our country, is sad."

Mavericks avoid sweep with win over Warriors

Associated Press

DALLAS — Luka Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks had to wait out a rain delay in the middle of the game and sweat out some tense moments near the end.

Once they did, they avoided a sweep and were still alive in the Western Conference finals.

Doncic had 30 points and 14 rebounds, and the Mavericks beat Golden State 119-109 in Game 4 on Tuesday night, when there was a 16-minute rain delay at the start of the second half and the Warriors cut a 29-point deficit down to single digits late.

"Just got to finish the game. A win is a win," said Doncic, who was 10-for-26 shooting with only three made threes but got

plenty of help from his supporting cast.

It was the 10th double-double in his 14 games this postseason for Doncic, who also had nine assists. When he had 40 points in Game 3, Reggie Bullock shot 0-for-10 with seven misses from three-point range.

Dorian Finney-Smith had 23 points on 9-for-13 shooting and Bullock added 18 points on 6-for-10 — all three-pointers. Jalen Brunson had 15 points and Maxi Kleber, who was 2-for-14 shooting (all threes) in the first three games, made two threes before halftime and was 5-for-6 shooting overall for 13 points.

"Everybody in that locker room felt like we had more basketball to play," Finney-Smith

said. "We just wanted to get the win any way. ... Feel like we came out desperate that first half."

The loss snapped the Golden State's nine-game winning streak in Western Conference finals games, though it is still firmly in control of this series headed back to California for Game 5 on Thursday night.

"It was almost like an ego win (for Dallas). You come out and really have nothing to lose. So that confidence started early," Stephen Curry said. "And we really didn't do nothing to slow it down, and then that's when the avalanche starts. You tip your hat to them."

Curry had 20 points and returned to the game with 3:22

left — his first appearance in the fourth quarter — after the Warriors had cut a 29-point deficit to 110-102. But they never got closer even after Curry and other starters returned to the floor.

"Just made the decision to see if we could pull off a miracle, but it wasn't meant to be," coach Steve Kerr said. "Dallas was great tonight. They deserved to win. This is the conference finals. This is how it's supposed to be."

Doncic then drove for a dunk and Bullock had his sixth three-pointer, among the 20 long-range makes for the Mavericks, who now have 11 games this postseason with at least 15 threes.

Rangers power past Canes, even series

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers got the kind of strong, all-around effort from the start they needed and stormed past the Carolina Hurricanes.

Andrew Copp had a goal and two assists, and Frank Vatrano and Adam Fox each had a goal and an assist as the Rangers beat the Hurricanes 4-1 in Game 4 Tuesday night, evening the second-round series.

Mika Zibanejad also scored, Ryan Lindgren had two assists and Igor Shesterkin stopped 30 shots for New York, which won its fifth straight at home in the postseason. In the series, the Rangers won two at home after opening with two losses at Carolina.

“Everyone’s kind of contributing and has been over the course of the playoffs,” Copp said. “It’s not just one line, one D-pairing, it’s throughout the lineup. ... Just trying to build off some of the momentum we’ve created these last two games.”

New York has won two straight against the Hurricanes after losing eight of the previous nine meetings, including a three-game sweep in the qualifying round of the 2020 playoff bubble and three of four in the regular season.

“We’re confident,” Copp said. “We get two games where we win, we play well, we give up two goals total. Now the reverse of the talk of you guys is on them now. We just got to kind of block all that out and stay with our game. Guys are feeling better about themselves and we got to ride this momentum into Carolina.”

Rangers coach Gerard Gallant liked what he saw from his team, calling it “close” to one of the most complete games by his team this postseason.

“We had a little bit of a let-down in part of the second (period) and little bit in the third, too,” he said. “But for the most part we did a real good job.”

Teuvo Teravainen scored and Antti Raanta finished with

24 saves for the Hurricanes, who fell to 0-5 on the road in the postseason to go along with their 6-0 mark at home.

Carolina has scored just six goals in the series, including one in each of the last two games. The Hurricanes were 0-for-2 on the power play to fall to 0-for-9 against New York.

“I am confident eventually they are going to find their way to the back of the net,” the Hurricanes’ Sebastian Aho said. “We just have to find ways to score. We got to score on the power play.”

Game 5 is in Raleigh, N.C., on Thursday night, and Game 6 at Madison Square Garden on Saturday.

Teravainen spoiled Shesterkin’s shutout bid when he scored his third of the playoffs at 6:33 of the third, pulling Carolina within 3-1. However, Copp scored from the right side with just under nine minutes remaining.

There was more pushing and shoving between players in the

closing seconds of the game, with the New York’s Ryan Reaves and the Hurricanes’ Max Domi being separated by officials as they exchanged words.

Trailing 2-0, Carolina got its first power play midway through the second period, but couldn’t convert. About a minute into the Hurricanes’ advantage, the Rangers had a 2-on-1, short-handed chance but Raanta made a sprawling save on Zibanejad.

New York pushed its lead to 3-0 with 3:12 left in the middle period as Lindgren fired a shot that Raanta stopped. However, as the puck trickled through his pads, Zibanejad swooped in behind him and knocked it in for his fifth of the playoffs.

Shesterkin made a spectacular glove save going from right to left on Brett Pesce 1:20 into the game on Carolina’s first shot on goal, drawing a big roar from the home crowd that was buzzing even before the puck drop.

Oilers push Flames to the brink of elimination

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Ryan Nugent-Hopkins has suffered through plenty of heartache in Edmonton.

The top pick at the 2011 draft missed the playoffs in seven of his first eight NHL seasons as the Oilers repeatedly fumbled and bumbled their way through what must have felt like a never-ending rebuild.

After a stunning turn of events midway through the third period on Tuesday night, Nugent-Hopkins rose to the occasion when he was needed most.

Nugent-Hopkins scored his second goal of the game with 3:27 left in regulation, and Edmonton beat the Calgary Flames 5-3 to take a 3-1 lead in the second-round playoff se-

ries.

“The main thing was that we had to keep pushing,” Nugent-Hopkins said after Rasmus Andersson scored short-handed from 150 feet away as the Flames rallied all the way back from a 3-0 deficit to tie the game. “Stuff like that happens, it’s hockey. Bounces happen.

“There was no quit.”

Oilers interim head coach Jay Woodcroft credited Nugent-Hopkins, who was playing just the 32nd playoff game of his 11-season career, for stepping up with Edmonton wobbling.

“It’s inspiring,” said Woodcroft, whose Oilers are now one win from making the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2006. “There’s room for greatness from everybody on our team.

“Tonight was Ryan’s moment.”

Evander Kane scored his NHL-leading 11th and 12th goals of the postseason, and Zach Hyman added a goal for Edmonton. Leon Draisaitl added three assists and Mike Smith made 29 saves.

Connor McDavid also had two assists. He has 25 points in 11 playoff games for the Oilers, who earned a third straight victory over their provincial rival.

Andersson, Elias Lindholm and Mikael Backlund scored for Calgary. Jacob Markstrom stopped 21 shots.

“We all believe in this group,” Andersson said. “We’ve been a good team all year and we’ve been strong on home ice. We’ve just got to go home and focus on winning one game and take it

from there.

“Obviously we’re in a tough situation.”

The Flames will look to stave off elimination on Thursday at home in Game 5.

After trailing 3-0 after the first period and 3-2 through two periods, Calgary tied the game in the third on an Edmonton power play when Andersson fired a 150-foot clearing attempt from his own end that somehow fooled Smith at 10:56.

With the Oilers wavering, Nugent-Hopkins poked in his fourth goal of the playoffs from in front of Markstrom.

Andersson then took a four-minute penalty for high-sticking with 2:40 left to effectively kill off the game before Kane iced it by scoring into an empty net.

Pederson's 3 HRs lift Giants past Mets

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Joc Pederson turned a pair of pregame chats with home run king Barry Bonds into the best night of his career.

Pederson homered three times and drove in a career-high eight runs, including a tying single with two outs in the ninth inning, and the San Francisco Giants outslugged the New York Mets 13-12 on Tuesday in one of the wildest games imaginable.

“Just getting knowledge from such a good hitter and the way he thinks about baseball and hitting, it just helped to connect some dots to free my mind up at the plate,” Pederson said. “I’m not ever going to be Barry Bonds. He’s the best hitter to touch a bat. But it definitely helped free my mind up in the box.”

Brandon Crawford hit a game-winning single off closer Edwin Díaz and the Giants — after blowing a late six-run lead — somehow recovered to pull off two improbable comebacks of their own.

Francisco Lindor homered and drove in six runs for the Mets, including a bases-loaded triple that put them ahead in a seven-run eighth.

Pederson was preparing for the game when he and teammate LaMonte Wade Jr. spent 30 minutes with Bonds in the clubhouse.

Yankees 7, Orioles 6 (11): Jose Trevino hit a game-ending single in the 11th inning and ailing New York overcame injuries to two All-Stars to end its first three-game skid of the season by beating Baltimore.

Trevino hit his second homer of the season earlier in the game and also had a tying single in the seventh.

Red Sox 16, White Sox 3: Trevor Story and Christian Vazquez each hit a three-run home run and drove in four runs as Boston extended its winning streak to six games

with a rout at Chicago.

Story’s homer off Dylan Cease (4-2) capped a four-run first inning. Vazquez hit a three-run shot off Matt Foster to highlight a six-run sixth.

Brewers 4, Padres 1: Corbin Burnes outlasted Blake Snell in a showdown of recent Cy Young Award winners and Tyrone Taylor hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer to help Milwaukee win at San Diego.

Mike Brosseau also homered for the Brewers, who ended the Padres’ winning streak at five.

Angels 5, Rangers 3: Noah Syndergaard allowed one run over eight strong innings of four-hit ball in his longest appearance since returning from elbow surgery, and Jared Walsh homered in Los Angeles’ win over visiting Texas.

Luis Rengifo and Tyler Wade had RBI singles during a four-run fourth inning for the Angels, who have won three straight following a four-game skid that began with three losses on the road against the Rangers last week.

Dodgers 9, Nationals 4: Mookie Betts homered twice and Los Angeles won at Washington.

Betts smacked a three-run homer off former Dodgers prospect Josiah Gray (4-4) and hit solo shot off Victor Arano for his 21st career multihomer game.

Braves 6, Phillies 5: William Contreras singled home Ronald Acuña Jr. in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift host Atlanta over Philadelphia.

Bryce Harper put the Phillies ahead 5-4 in the top of the ninth with a two-run homer off closer Kenley Jansen (3-0). Harper finished with four RBIs.

Rockies 2, Pirates 1 (10): Connor Joe singled home the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning and Colorado won at Pittsburgh.

With one out, Joe grounded his hit up the middle off David Bednar (1-1), scoring automatic runner Sam Hilliard from second base.

Twins 2, Tigers 0: Sonny Gray struck out a season-high 10 over seven sharp innings, carrying host Minnesota past Detroit for its sixth straight victory.

Gray (2-1) allowed four hits and one walk in by far his best of six starts with his new team. The Twins, who are 23-8 since April 21, have won each of the last four games with Gray on the mound after he returned from a strained hamstring.

Blue Jays 8, Cardinals 1: Danny Jansen hit a three-run homer and a solo shot, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. also went deep and Toronto won at St. Louis.

Kevin Gausman (4-3) threw six scoreless innings with eight strikeouts and no walks. He allowed four hits and beat the Cardinals for the first time in eight appearances.

Cubs 11, Reds 4: Frank Schwindel homered twice in a game for the first time in his career, Marcus Stroman recovered from a rough start to pitch five effective innings, and Chicago rolled at Cincinnati.

Rays 4, Marlins 0: Kevin Kiermaier hit Pablo López’s first pitch for an inside-the-park home run and host Tampa Bay beat Miami.

Astros 7, Guardians 3: Framber Valdez pitched seven strong innings and Kyle Tucker hit a three-run homer as host Houston beat Cleveland.

Diamondbacks 8, Royals 6: Pavin Smith and pinch-hitter Jordan Luplow homered in a five-run sixth inning as host Arizona beat Kansas City.

Athletics 7, Mariners 5: Elvis Andrus hit a tying homer in the sixth inning, then singled and scored in a two-run seventh as visiting Oakland snapped a 13-game losing streak to Seattle.

Djokovic rolls on, Raducanu falls in Roland Garros

Associated Press

PARIS — Novak Djokovic eased into the third round of his French Open title defense with a straight-set victory over Alex Molcan.

The top-ranked Djokovic defeated the 24-year-old Slovakian 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (4) at Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Molcan was able to push Djo-

kovic to a third-set tiebreaker but threw his racket down in frustration after hitting the ball into the net — his 34th unforced error — to fall behind 6-3 before Djokovic closed it out.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion next faces 32-year-old Slovenian Aljaž Bedene.

While Djokovic made it look easy, others on the men’s side

had it more difficult.

Third-seeded Alexander Zverev had to rally from two sets down and save a match point to reach the third round at Roland Garros.

The German overcame Argentina’s Sebastian Baez 2-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-5. Zverev had trouble with the 21-year-old Baez’s serve but got his return

game in order in the third set.

In the day’s most exciting match, Carlos Alvarez outlasted fellow Spaniard Albert Ramon-Vinolas 6-1, 5-7, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

On the women’s side, U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu lost to Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 to end her Roland Garros tournament debut on Wednesday.