

New name urged for USS Chancellorsville

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A guided-missile cruiser based in Yokosuka, Japan, should be renamed because it commemorates the Confederate victory at Chancellorsville, a Defense Department commission says.

The USS Chancellorsville is one of more than 1,100 Defense Department assets that have been identified as honoring the Confederacy, according to a report by the congressionally mandated Naming Commission. Changing those names could cost roughly \$62.5 million.

Members of the commission said Tuesday they had finished the third — and final — part of their report and briefed the House and Senate Armed Services committees on its findings. It focuses on the final costs associated with renaming all assets that the group identified and all recommendations associated with assets not covered by the previous two sections.

The first two sections outlined the renaming of the nine Army bases that bear Confederate-linked names, which is expected to cost about \$21 million, and the second focused on the U.S. Military Academy and the Naval Academy, which will cost about

\$451,000.

“Our goal was to inspire everyone in the Department of Defense, local communities and the nation with names that have meaning,” retired Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule, vice chairman of the commission, said during a call with reporters.

The final section recommends the Navy rename two ships, the USS Chancellorsville and USNS Maury, the Air Force rename Fort Fisher Recreation Area in North Carolina and the Army strip the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia to its base.

It also suggests the Army review renaming Fort Belvoir in Virginia, which was renamed from Camp Humphreys in 1935 as a direct commemoration of the plantation that once operated on the land.

The commission did not recommend new names for the Navy’s ships because that is a job done regularly by the service’s secretary, Seidule said.

The Chancellorsville was named for a Confederate Civil War victory in Virginia in 1863. The Maury, an oceanographic survey ship, honors Matthew Fontaine Maury, who resigned from the U.S. Navy to fight with the Confederacy. The Air Force’s Fort Fish-

er site is named for a Confederate stronghold of the Civil War that honored Charles Frederick Fisher, who served as a colonel in the Confederate army and died in battle in 1861.

The memorial at Arlington was built in 1914 and is “problematic from the beginning to the end,” Seidule said. Designed by a Confederate veteran, the monument depicts a “mythologized version of the Confederacy, including highly sanitized depictions of slavery,” according to the cemetery’s website. It also includes a quote that describes the South’s secession as noble.

The commission was given more than \$2.3 million in funding to conduct its examination, but said it only spent a quarter of it, roughly \$612,500. It will return the remaining \$1.7 million, according to its members. The group’s work lasted 19 months and included 32 meetings, 11 in-person visits to Army posts and nine virtual visits, Seidule said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has until Jan. 1, 2024, to implement the recommendations, should he choose to do so. The deadline is also included in the National Defense Authorization Act, which sets priorities and spending for the Pentagon.

Zelenskyy visits retaken strategic city in Ukraine

Associated Press

IZIUM, Ukraine — His hand on his heart, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy watched as his country’s flag was hoisted Wednesday above the recently recaptured city of Iziium, a rare foray outside the capital that highlighted Moscow’s embarrassing retreat in the face of a lightning Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Russian forces left the war-scarred city last week as Kyiv’s soldiers pressed a stunning advance that has reclaimed large swaths of territory in the country’s northeastern Kharkiv region.

As Zelenskyy looked on and sang the national anthem, the Ukrainian flag was raised in front of the burned-out city hall building in the largely devastated town, where apartment buildings are blackened by fire and pockmarked by artillery strikes. The center of one

residential building had collapsed, a gaping hole and piles of rubble where homes used to be.

“The view is very shocking but it is not shocking for me,” Zelenskyy said in brief comments to the press, “because we began to see the same pictures from Bucha, from the first de-occupied territories ... the same destroyed buildings, killed people.”

After Russian forces withdrew from Bucha, on the outskirts of the capital of Kyiv, in the early weeks of the war, the bodies of civilians were found dumped in the streets, yards and mass graves. Many bore signs of torture. Moscow’s recent rout in the northeast was its largest military defeat since that withdrawal from the Kyiv area.

Prosecutors said they have found six bodies with traces of torture in recently retaken villages in the Kharkiv region.

“We have a terrible picture of what the oc-

cupiers did. ... Such cities as Balakliia, Iziium are standing in the same row as Bucha, Borodyanka, Irpin,” said Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin, listing the names of places where the Ukrainians have alleged Russian forces committed atrocities.

Local authorities have made similar claims in other places formerly held by Russia, but it was not immediately possible to verify their information. They have so far not provided evidence of atrocities on the scale that was seen in Bucha.

The Ukrainian governor of the eastern Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, said Ukrainian forces were preparing to retake the region, most of which has been under Russian control since July and which borders the Kharkiv region. He told The Associated Press that Ukrainian guerrilla forces were flying Ukrainian flags in the cities of Svatove and Starobilsk.

Air, Space Forces raise bonuses for troops

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force and Space Force are prepared to pay a premium to keep their cyber-trained professionals wearing blue, according to the updated list of bonus-eligible career fields.

Released Sept. 8, that list added two cyber-related career specialties for a total of 65 careers eligible for a re-enlistment bonus, including five existing cyber fields whose bonus potentials also increased.

“This [Selective Retention Bonus] addition is an acknowledgment of extreme demand for the advanced skills and talent within the targeted cyber specialties, as

well as their criticality to the future force,” Air Force spokeswoman Laurel Falls told Stars and Stripes by email Tuesday.

The largest bonus bumps within the cyber fields went to the cyber warfare and defense specialties. Airmen who re-up in those fields would receive the same amount as those in special tactics jobs, historically the riskiest jobs, whose practitioners were paid the highest bonuses.

A senior airman with five years in cyber warfare is eligible for an \$83,610 bonus for re-enlisting for six years, the same amount airmen in the pararescue, combat control and tactical air control party fields are offered.

“For some cyber specialties, cumulative individual training costs reach close to one million dollars and the unique National Defense experiences that further develop these [members’] cyber proficiency are nearly incalculable,” Falls said.

The Air Force created cyber warfare operations as a career field in 2010. The career field remains open only to enlisted personnel serving in information technology professions.

Specialists in this field ensure computer networks function properly and remain secure from outside intrusion, according to the Air Force website.

The military services are now competing in a post-pandemic

job market in which the unemployment rate continues to decline, leaving employers fighting for workers.

A similar job in the civilian world in information security analysis has a median salary of \$102,600, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

Employment in this field is projected to grow 35% from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations.

“The [Air Force] continues to monitor retention rates across all specialties and while overall [Air Force] retention remains high, there are areas, such as some cyber specialties, that signal retention concerns,” Falls said.

Study: Lack of abortion access could affect military readiness

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Diminished combat readiness, recruitment woes and lower retention are among the factors the Pentagon could face now that nearly half of active-duty servicewomen live in states that have severely curtailed abortion access, a new policy study says.

“The possible costs to [the Defense Department] are wide-ranging,” the nonpartisan research group Rand Corp. wrote this month in an analysis of the potential effects of the U.S. Supreme Court’s June ruling that eliminated federal abortion protections, leaving all such decisions up to individual states.

The result of the ruling is that 40% of active-duty servicewomen in the U.S. will have very limited access to abortion services where they are stationed or no access at all, Rand said.

Additionally, nearly 43% of civilian women in the Defense

Department’s workforce are in the same situation, according to the report.

“Ultimately, the most important effect might be a decrease in force readiness and our national security,” Rand said.

Between 5,000 and 7,400 active-duty servicewomen and DOD civilians seek abortion services in any given year, according to a Rand estimate that relied on various Pentagon health surveys.

Given that many of the military’s largest bases are in states where abortion has been either banned outright, such as Texas, or restricted, the Pentagon will need to assess the implications, the report said.

Federal law prohibits abortions on military installations in cases other than pregnancy from rape or incest or when a mother’s life is in danger. As a result, DOD may need to focus efforts on ramping up conception education and awareness programs, Rand said.

Nominee: Counter rivals by revamping Space Force

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Competition from China and Russia is rapidly eroding the U.S. military’s dominance in space and the Space Force in its current form would struggle in a conflict with the two countries, the general nominated to lead the service told senators on Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Bradley C. Saltzman said the U.S. remains “the greatest spacefaring nation on the planet” and for now can resist the attack capabilities wielded by its two closest adversaries but it has not designed systems to operate at a crisis level.

“We need to change to a more defendable architecture to account for the fact that space has shifted from a benign environment to a more contested war-fighting domain,” he said.

Saltzman repeatedly told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he was worried about the pace of advancement by China

and, to a lesser degree, Russia. The committee is vetting his promotion from deputy chief of space operations to chief, replacing retiring Gen. John Raymond.

He called for a shift to more resilient space architecture, including proliferated constellations made up of many satellites in low orbits rather than a single, large satellite that is more vulnerable to attack.

The Space Force is taking notes on how such an architecture has aided Ukraine’s resistance to Russia’s invasion, he said, noting some of the constellations that Ukraine is using have shown resiliency to degradation attempts.

Another valuable lesson gleaned from the war is Ukraine’s effective reliance on commercial space capabilities to augment military and national decision-making, Saltzman said. The Space Force should also take advantage of “profoundly growing” commercial services, he said.

US: Russia spent \$300M to covertly affect world views

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russia has covertly spent more than \$300 million since 2014 to try to influence politicians and other officials in more than two dozen countries, the State Department says in a newly released cable.

The cable released Tuesday cites a new intelligence assessment of Russia's global covert efforts to support policies and parties sympathetic to Moscow. The cable does not name specific Russian targets but says the U.S. is providing classified information to select individual countries.

It's the latest effort by the Biden administration to declassify intelligence about Moscow's military and political aims, dating back to ultimately correct assessments that Russia would launch a new war against Ukraine.

Many of President Joe Biden's top national security officials have extensive experience countering Moscow and served in government when Russian President Vladimir Putin launched wide-ranging campaigns to influence the 2016 and 2020 U.S. presidential elections.

A senior administration official declined to say how much money Russia is believed to have spent in Ukraine, where President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his top deputies have long accused Putin of meddling in domestic politics. The official noted allegations of Russian influence in recent elections in Albania, Bosnia and Montenegro, all East-

ern European countries that have faced historical pressure from Moscow.

Unlike declared efforts by foreign governments to lobby for preferred initiatives, Russia's covert influence involved using front organizations to funnel money to preferred causes or politicians, the cable alleges. That includes think tanks in Europe and state-owned enterprises in Central America, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

The U.S. has in its history also covertly funded political groups and been responsible for efforts to topple or undermine foreign governments. The official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity under rules set by the administration, rejected comparisons between Russia's activities and current U.S. financing of media and political initiatives.

Putin is spending huge sums "in an attempt to manipulate democracies from the inside," the official said.

The State Department took the unusual step of releasing a diplomatic cable that was sent on Monday to many U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, many of them in Europe, Africa and South Asia, laying out the concerns.

The cable, which was marked "sensitive" and not intended for foreign audiences but was not classified, contained talking points that U.S. diplomats were instructed to raise with their host governments regarding alleged Russian interference.

Package explodes on Boston campus

Associated Press

A hard plastic case that exploded on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston causing minor injuries to a staff member contained a rambling note that railed against virtual reality and also referenced Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, a law enforcement official said Wednesday.

Investigators are still trying to identify the motive behind the Tuesday evening explosion and are working to understand why the package was specifically sent to Northeastern, the official said.

Investigators are also trying to determine the specific mechanism of the device and whether the package contained any gunpowder, the official added.

The official could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The official described the case as a "Pelican-style" case. Pelican makes hard cases designed to protect sensitive equipment. Northeastern in a message posted on its website Wednesday said campus is safe.

"Events such as the incident that took place on our Boston campus last night can create or heighten anxiety for many of us," said the post, credited to Provost David Madigan and Chancellor Kenneth Henderson.

"We would like to underscore what was communicated to our community last night: Multiple law enforcement agencies have determined that the campus is safe and secure."

The campus opened normally for classes and other activities Wednesday.

Former security chief says China, India had agents working for Twitter

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twitter's former security chief told Congress on Tuesday there was "at least one agent" from China's intelligence service on Twitter's payroll and that the company knowingly allowed India to add agents to the company roster as well, potentially giving those nations access to sensitive data about users.

These were some of the troubling revelations from Peiter "Mudge" Zatkó, a respected cybersecurity expert and Twitter

whistleblower who appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to lay out his allegations against the company.

Zatkó told lawmakers that the social media platform is plagued by weak cyber defenses that make it vulnerable to exploitation by "teenagers, thieves and spies" and put the privacy of its users at risk.

"They don't know what data they have, where it lives and where it came from and so, unsurprisingly, they can't protect it," Zatkó said. "It doesn't mat-

ter who has keys if there are no locks."

"Twitter leadership ignored its engineers," he said, in part because "their executive incentives led them to prioritize profit over security."

In a statement, Twitter said its hiring process is "independent of any foreign influence" and access to data is managed through a host of measures, including background checks, access controls, and monitoring and detection systems and processes.

US sets up Afghan relief fund with frozen money

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and Swiss governments and Afghan economics experts said Wednesday they will transfer \$3.5 billion in frozen funds from Afghanistan's central bank to use for the country's people as hunger grips every province there.

Notably, the Taliban government will not be a part of the new Afghan Fund, which will maintain its account with the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland.

In the interim, Afghanistan's central bank, which in February had \$7 billion in frozen funds, "must demonstrate that it has the expertise, capacity, and independence to responsibly perform the duties of a central bank," the U.S. Treasury and State departments said Wednesday in a joint statement. "Robust safeguards have been put in place to prevent the funds from being used for illicit activity."

International funding to Afghanistan was suspended and billions of dollars of the country's assets abroad, mostly in the United States, were frozen after the Taliban

took control of the country in August 2021 following the U.S. military's withdrawal.

In February, President Joe Biden issued an executive order that called for banks to provide \$3.5 billion of the frozen money to a trust fund for distribution through humanitarian groups for Afghan relief and basic needs.

The other \$3.5 billion will stay in the U.S. to finance payments from lawsuits by U.S. victims of terrorism that are still working their way through the courts, prompted by claims brought by family members of people killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

"The Afghan Fund will help mitigate the economic challenges facing Afghanistan while protecting and preserving \$3.5 billion in reserves from Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), Afghanistan's central bank, for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan," Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo said.

He said the Taliban's "repression and economic mismanagement" had exacerbated long-standing economic challenges for Afghanistan that had made the return of the

funds untenable.

Human Rights Watch said in August that Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis cannot be effectively addressed unless the U.S. and other governments ease restrictions on the country's banking sector to allow economic activity and humanitarian aid.

Nearly half the Afghan population — 18.9 million people — is estimated to be acutely food insecure between June and November 2022, the World Food Programme said. All 34 provinces in the country are facing some level of crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity.

Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said the people of Afghanistan are facing humanitarian and economic crises born of "decades of conflict, severe drought, COVID-19, and endemic corruption."

"Today, the United States and its partners take an important, concrete step forward in ensuring that additional resources can be brought to bear to reduce suffering and improve economic stability for the people of Afghanistan while continuing to hold the Taliban accountable," Sherman said.

Graham unveils ban on abortions after 15 weeks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Upending the political debate, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham introduced a nationwide abortion ban Tuesday, sending shockwaves through both parties and igniting fresh debate on a fraught issue weeks before the midterm elections that will determine control of Congress.

Graham's own Republican Party leaders did not immediately embrace his abortion ban bill, which would prohibit the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy with rare exceptions, and has almost no chance of becoming law. Democrats torched it as an alarming signal of where "MAGA" Republicans are headed if they win in November. The South Carolina Republican said that rather than shying away from the Supreme Court's ruling this summer overturning *Roe v. Wade's*

nearly 50-year right to abortion access, Republicans are preparing to fight to make a nationwide abortion ban federal law.

"Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, we're going nowhere," the senator said. "We welcome the debate. We welcome the vote in the United States Senate as to what America should look like in 2022."

Reaction was swift, fierce and unwavering from Democrats who viewed Graham's legislation as an extreme example of the far-right's hold on the GOP, and as a political gift of self-inflicted pain for Republican candidates now having to answer questions about an abortion ban heading toward the midterm elections.

"A nationwide abortion ban — that's the contrast between the two parties, plain and simple," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

Queen Elizabeth II's coffin at Parliament to lie in state

Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II left Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, borne on a horse-drawn carriage and saluted by cannons and the tolling of Big Ben, in a solemn procession through the flag-draped, crowd-lined streets of London to Westminster Hall. There, Britain's longest-serving monarch will lie in state for the world to mourn.

Her son, King Charles III, and his siblings and sons marched behind the coffin, which was topped by a wreath of white roses and her crown resting on a purple velvet pillow.

The queen will lie in state for four days until her funeral Monday, with hundreds of thousands of people expected to file past.

Eight pall bearers carried the oak and lead-lined coffin into Westminster Hall, placing it on

a raised platform known as a catafalque.

The solemn procession from Buckingham Palace was designed to underscore the queen's seven decades as head of state as the national mourning process shifted to the grand boulevards and historic landmarks of the U.K. capital.

Thousands of people who had waited for hours along The Mall outside the palace and other locations to line the route held up phones and cameras, and some wiped away tears, as the procession passed. Applause broke out as it went through Horse Guards Parade.

The coffin was draped in the Royal Standard and topped with the Imperial State Crown — adorned with almost 3,000 diamonds — and a bouquet of flowers and plants including pine from the Balmoral Estate, where Elizabeth died last week.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pro bull rider killed in domestic violence incident

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A pro bull rider was killed in Utah in what Salt Lake City police are calling a domestic violence homicide.

Demetrius Omar Lateef Allen, who went by the name Ouncie Mitchell as a pro bull rider, was found shot outside an apartment complex in Salt Lake City, police said in a news release. Allen, 27, was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Police arrested LaShawn Denise Bagley, a 21-year-old woman, on suspicion of murder.

Bagley and Allen had been in a relationship. Allen had come to Utah to attend the state fair and was staying with Bagley. The two got into a fight at a bar, and Allen went to Bagley's apartment to get his things, where he was shot, police said.

Officials: Sergeant who led rogue cops sentenced

NJ NEWARK — A former police sergeant who authorities said led a group of officers who illegally stopped and searched numerous people and vehicles and stole thousands of dollars from them was sentenced to nearly three years in federal prison.

Michael Cheff, 51, an Oakland resident who served on the force in Paterson, was convicted in May of a civil rights violation and filing a false report. Five Paterson officers who have pleaded guilty to various charges stemming from the corruption probe testified against Cheff.

The officers have said Cheff knew about the thefts that occurred from 2016 to 2018.

Cheff, who maintains his in-

nocence, received a 33-month prison term, with three years of supervised release after he is freed. The five other officers received terms ranging from probation to 24 months in prison.

Arson investigated after fire at historic church

CA LOS ANGELES — An arson investigation is under way after fire destroyed a historic church in South Los Angeles, authorities said.

The blaze at Victory Baptist Church last weekend quickly grew to major emergency status, said Nicholas Prange, a spokesperson with the Los Angeles Fire Department. Two firefighters were hospitalized with mild to moderate injuries after battling the flames, Prange said.

Founded in a local storefront on Easter Sunday in 1943, the church moved into its current building on McKinley Avenue a year later.

Man gets life for selling fentanyl in 11 fatal ODs

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota man was sentenced to life in prison for selling fentanyl online that led to 11 fatal overdoses.

A federal jury in March convicted Aaron Broussard, 32, of Hopkins, of 17 counts including distribution of fentanyl resulting in death. Federal prosecutors said at trial that Broussard's customers thought they were buying a stimulant similar to Adderall.

Senior U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson told Broussard: "Your disregard for human life is terrifying," the Star Tribune reported.

Police: Woman shot by cops after dragging officer

MD TOWSON — Police in a Baltimore suburb shot a woman who dragged an off-duty officer with her car and later rammed into other vehicles, according to a police department spokeswoman.

The woman shot had injuries that weren't considered life-threatening, Baltimore County police spokeswoman Joy Lepola-Stewart said.

The woman drove off after hitting and dragging a Baltimore County police officer with her car, police said. The officer, whose injuries weren't believed to be life-threatening, had been working an off-duty job at a shopping center.

Later, several miles from where the officer was dragged, police shot the woman after she rammed her car into officers' vehicles and a bystander's vehicle, Lepola-Stewart said.

Police wound woman after shooting at complex

DE NEWARK — A woman suspected of shooting another woman at a Delaware apartment complex was critically wounded by police who confronted her, authorities said.

The armed woman was firing a gun when two officers encountered her at the apartment complex in Newark, the New Castle County police department said in a news release.

Both officers opened fire on the woman, hitting her in the chest, police said. She was taken to a hospital, where she was in critical condition, according to the release.

Investigators believe the

woman had shot a 26-year-old woman during an argument. The other woman was also in critical condition at a hospital, police said.

State delays road project over farmer concerns

ND BISMARCK — A \$4.2 million project to install metal poles with reflective markers along two-lane highways across North Dakota was put on hold because of worries about how the new poles affected farmers driving large equipment.

The posts installed this summer along state highways with shoulders less than 8 feet wide will be removed as the Department of Transportation redesigns the project. State Sen. Janne Myrdahl, who complained about the problems the posts were causing farmers, said the hard metal posts will likely be replaced by flexible ones.

Northwest cherry harvest smallest in 14 years

OR PORTLAND — The Pacific Northwest cherry crop this year is the smallest in 14 years at least in part because of a spring snowstorm.

The smaller-than-usual fruit harvest happened largely because Oregon and Washington were hit with a severe winter storm on April 14, during the cherry blossom bloom, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

According to B.J. Thurlby, the president of both the Washington State Fruit Commission and Northwest Cherries, this year's crop is the smallest since 2008.

— From wire reports



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Mahomes enjoys proving naysayers wrong

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It's sometimes difficult to believe that Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, for all that he's accomplished during his young but brilliant NFL career, would carry such a considerable chip on his shoulder.

He thrives on the doubters. The naysayers. The critics who try to diminish everything he's done.

It was that way when he was coming out of high school, and Texas Tech was among the only schools that gave the baseball player a football scholarship. And coming out of Texas Tech, when so many NFL teams pegged him as a system quarterback who would flounder like so many other "Air Raid" products as a professional.

It was that way this past offseason, too, when detractors tried to argue that Mahomes would take a step back without the game-breaking ability of Tyreek Hill, who was shipped to the Dolphins for a package of draft picks.

So much for that.

Mahomes merely responded by throwing for 360 yards and five touchdowns without an interception on Sunday in Arizona, a performance that was so nearly flawless that the Chiefs built a big enough lead that he could ride the bench at the end.

"That's just Pat. That's just who he is," Kansas City offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy said this week, after they had turned their attention from the 44-21 blitz of the Cardinals to a Thursday night showdown against the Los Angeles Chargers.

There was one point during the game when Mahomes, after throwing his fourth touchdown pass, put up four fingers at a woebegone defender, as if to say: "How 'bout that?" It was done in the heat of the moment, and Mahomes said Tuesday that he didn't even remember doing it. But it spoke volumes about his competitive fire.

"There's always that behind-the-scenes moment he's going to create that keeps him fired up and energized," Bieniemy said. "The kid is a tremendous football player. I love the energy and excitement he brings. And he's the ultimate competitor."

It's something that Chiefs coach Andy Reid identified a half-decade ago, when they traded up in the first round to make Mahomes their quarterback of the future. They were traits similar to those Reid saw while coaching Brett Favre in Green Bay, Donovan McNabb and Michael Vick in Philadelphia, and Alex Smith in Kansas City.

"The way he approaches football is important," Reid said. "If you ask him, family and football are right at the top of the things he does. Whether he does a commercial or whatever, he's going to put football at the front. It's not going to disrupt what he's doing. And as you know, he's extremely smart. His recall is exceptional. His attention goes with that."

"You tell him something once," Reid said, "and he's got it."

The same goes if you slight him once. He's going to remember it.

"I mean, you always feel like you have more to prove," Mahomes said. "I promise,

Tom Brady's feeling like he has more to prove, and I think that just comes with any sport, any competitor. If you're not getting better, you're getting worse. And they build you up to tear you down, and you got to kind of know that. For me, it's all about, 'How can I make myself better?' Not what other people say. 'How can I make myself better so we can go out there and win football games?'"

That's rapidly becoming a difficult question to answer.

Mahomes is coming off his sixth career game with at least five TD passes, joining a club that includes Drew Brees, Peyton Manning, Dan Marino and Ben Roethlisberger. Each of them played at least 240 games; Mahomes has played 64.

He's also closing on 20,000 yards for his career — he needs 649 more — a number that Mahomes could reasonably achieve in two games. That would mean reaching the threshold in 66 games, five fewer than the NFL record.

"I'm glad that he's on our side," Bieniemy said, "and just looking forward to watching him do work from here on out."

Notes: CB Trent McDuffie was placed on injured reserve with a hamstring injury, meaning he will be out at least four weeks. ... K Harrison Butker (ankle sprain) did not practice Tuesday and appears unlikely to play Thursday night. The Chiefs signed former Jets K Matt Ammendola to their practice squad to provide insurance. "We've got the Plan B. We're working on it," Reid said.

Busch leaving Gibbs, Toyota to join Childress in '23

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kyle Busch will move to Richard Childress Racing next season, ending a 15-year career with Joe Gibbs Racing because the team could not come to terms with NASCAR's only active multiple Cup champion.

Busch will drive the No. 8 Chevrolet for Childress in an announcement made Tuesday at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. He wore the two Cup championship rings he won driving for Gibbs on his middle fingers.

"I'll be taking my talents to Welcome, N.C. to drive the No. 8

car starting in 2023," Busch said of moving to the team based about an hour north of Charlotte.

Tyler Reddick, who is currently competing for the Cup championship in the No. 8 Chevrolet, will remain under contract at RCR and drive for the team next season. Reddick in July told Childress he was moving to 23XI Racing in 2024.

Richard Childress said he informed Reddick he'd be out of the No. 8 next season one hour before Busch's announcement. Childress said he'd obtain a third charter for Reddick's car, but gave no other details except

that Reddick's current crew chief will be paired with Busch next season.

When Childress joined Busch at the announcement, the Hall of Fame team owner presented Busch's 7-year-old son, Brexton, with a contract option to someday drive for RCR. But before that, Childress handed Busch his "signing bonus," which was a boxed watch.

Childress in 2011 tussled with Busch after a Truck Series race at Kansas Speedway. The car owner removed his watch and handed it to someone, saying 'Hold my watch' before the al-

tercation. Childress was fined \$150,000 by NASCAR afterward.

Childress and Busch, now 37 years old, long ago made amends, which helped make RCR a landing spot for Busch during his excruciatingly long free agency period. JGR learned longtime partner Mars Wrigley was leaving the sport at the end of 2022, and Gibbs had been searching for a deep-pocketed sponsor to keep Busch in the No. 18 Toyota.

Busch even said he'd drive for below his market value to get a deal done.

Big 12's also-rans basking in spotlight

Associated Press

Kansas improved to 2-0 for the first time in more than a decade by squeezing out a victory at West Virginia, a win highlighted by a clinching pick-six in overtime.

Iowa State also went on the road and ended a six-game skid against its biggest rival, Iowa.

There was Kansas State walloping ex-Big 12 rival Missouri to stay perfect through the first two games of the season, and Texas Tech, which beat then-No. 25 and future conference foe Houston to likewise stack two wins together.

Pretty salty stuff from what were supposed to be the Big 12 also-rans.

"We know this program has struggled to get wins," Jayhawks coach Lance Leipold said after the 55-42 win in Morgantown, their first there after six consecutive losses. "This is a group that's been bruised mentally a lot, and they're starting to gain some confidence and believe in one another. Confidence in the system and how we're going about it.

"This," Leipold said, "is one you hope we are going to build upon."

There are a lot of coaches feeling the same way this week.

Texas took then-No. 1 Alabama to the wire in a loss, even after losing its starting

quarterback to injury, and Baylor fell to No. 12 BYU on the road in overtime. But even in defeat, they were strong efforts by programs that, along with Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, were expected to be the cream of the Big 12 crop this season.

Yet it was the remaining schools in the conference that showed how deep the league might be.

Iowa State thought its breakthrough was going to come last season, when it returned most of the key players from a 9-3 team that had just won the Fiesta Bowl. But the Cyclones never quite got on track and won just seven games — disappointing by the standards Matt Campbell has brought to Ames — and the expectations heading into this season were tempered. If a rout of Southeast Missouri State in their opener didn't raise them, the Cyclones' win in Iowa City might have done it.

They shut down an impotent Hawkeyes offense, then put together a 99-yard touchdown drive in the fourth quarter, before a few more defensive plays in the waning minutes preserved a 10-7 victory.

"It's a game of imperfection," said Campbell, whose team gets Ohio on Saturday before beginning Big 12 play. "For our kids to have the character and resiliency to keep playing, those are traits that will continue to

serve us well."

The Wildcats didn't need a whole lot of resilience in the first meeting with Missouri since it bolted for the SEC — and left the Big 12 in a precarious lurch — prior to the 2012 season. In fact, the only resistance Kansas State faced all day came from the weather, which included torrential downpours and an hour-long delay for lightning in the first half.

Kansas State led 14-3 at that point. It was 20-3 at halftime. The margin of victory, 40-12, was enough to raise eyebrows around the country, though the folks that follow the Wildcats closely know that this could turn out to be a special season in Manhattan.

"We have a good football team, but we have a lot of guys with a chip on their shoulder," said Wildcats coach Chris Klieman, whose team plays Tulane on Saturday before a showdown with the Sooners. "We think we can be a really good team."

That same positive vibe is running through the Red Raiders, who have rallied around first-year coach Joey McGuire to beat Murray State and then knock off the Cougars in double overtime. Texas Tech got a 47-yard field goal from Trey Wolff to force the extra sessions, then twice answered Houston scores with touchdowns to escape with the 33-30 win.

Offense or defense? Assistants benefit by doing both

Associated Press

Abdul Hodge was a three-time, all-Big Ten linebacker who played the position in the NFL and spent the last three years coaching future linebackers at South Dakota.

Yet the former Iowa star now is working on the other side of the ball as he returns to his alma mater and coaches the Hawkeyes' fullbacks and tight ends. Hodge compares the new assignment to learning a different language.

"Let's say you speak English, but you want to learn how to speak Spanish," Hodge said. "There are some Spanish words that sound a lot like words you know in English. The challenges are, well, here's the new language you're trying to learn. But you're able to reference it back to

the things you know."

For instance, Hodge says his background helps him understand why an opposing defense is trying a particular strategy, giving him knowledge he can pass on to his fullbacks and tight ends.

The type of move that Hodge has made isn't particularly common.

A survey of sports information directors and a study of coaching rosters at all Power Five schools revealed six position coaches who moved this season from offense to defense, or vice versa, though many others made similar switches years beforehand. Four were in the Big Ten, including two at one school.

Michigan's Ron Bellamy is coaching wide receivers after working with the Wolverines' sa-

feties last season. Special teams coordinator Jay Harbaugh, who coached tight ends a year ago, is filling Bellamy's former role as safeties coach.

"It's really good from the standpoint of, if you're a defensive coach, you really need to know how an offense would be attacking a defense," Wolverines coach Jim Harbaugh said. "And if you're an offensive coach, you really need to understand how defenses defend that same offense. That works both ways, the value to that coach and the value to the unit."

Bellamy was particularly suited to coach on both sides of the ball because he played both receiver and defensive back at Michigan before focusing on offense. He coached defensive

backs at the high school level early in his coaching career, making for an easier transition to his current assignment.

The other Big Ten assistant to make the switch this year is Wisconsin offensive line coach Bob Bostad, who coached the Badgers' inside linebackers from 2017-21. Bostad's situation is a little different from the others.

He coached Wisconsin's offensive line from 2008-11 and was an NFL offensive line coach the next four seasons.

Bostad said he had an offer from a Big Ten school to coach on the offensive line for the 2017 season but opted for the familiarity of Wisconsin, which had an offensive line coach in place but needed someone to coach linebackers.

LA wins NL West; Judge hits 2 HRs

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Last year, the Los Angeles Dodgers went all the way to the last day of the regular season, won a whopping 106 games, and still lost the NL West title to the San Francisco Giants.

This time, Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers left no doubt.

Kershaw pitched seven dominant innings and the Dodgers won the NL West for the ninth time in 10 seasons, blanking the Arizona Diamondbacks 4-0 Tuesday night.

The Dodgers walked from the dugout when it was over to congratulate each other, much like they did after most of their wins in a runaway season, and posed for a team photo on the field.

Then, it was back to the clubhouse at Chase Field for a spirited, spraying celebration. Clearly, the near-miss last year, beaten by the Giants by a game for the division title, was on their minds.

“We weren’t defending National League West champions. That was first on our list,” manager Dave Roberts said.

“It’s something we should enjoy and be proud of, and get back to work (Wednesday), but it’s quite the accomplishment,” he said.

Freddie Freeman, Max Muncy and Joey Gallo homered as the Dodgers boosted the best record in the majors to 98-43. They lead second-place San Diego by a whopping 20½ games.

Yankees 7, Red Sox 6, (10): Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 56th and 57th home runs, Gleyber Torres had a go-ahead three-run double in the 10th inning and visiting New York held on to beat Boston.

Judge is four from tying the American League home run record Roger Maris set with the Yankees in 1961. He has 10 multi-homer games this season, one shy of the AL record Hank Greenberg set in 1938.

New York, which came from behind three times, reopened a six-game AL East lead, its largest since Sept. 1.

Torres broke a 4-4 tie in the 10th against Jeurys Familia (2-3). Clay Holmes (6-3) was the winner.

Twins 6, Royals 3: Minnesota rookie Joe Ryan and reliever Jovani Moran combined to pitch no-hit ball until Bobby Witt Jr. doubled with one out in the ninth inning against visiting Kansas City.

Ryan was pulled after seven innings and 106 pitches, four shy of his big league high. There has never been a no-hitter at Target Field, and the crowd of 19,005 booed when

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli sent Moran to the mound to start the eighth.

Moran worked a perfect eighth. The Royals hadn’t come close to a hit until Witt lined a 1-2 fastball for a clean drive to deep left for an RBI double, setting off more boos from the fans.

Carlos Correa, Jose Miranda and Gio Urshela hit home runs as Minnesota snapped a three-game skid.

Guardians 3, Angels 1: Los Angeles star Mike Trout’s home run streak ended at seven games, one shy of the major league record, and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat the visiting Angels.

Trout went 0-for-3 with three routine flyballs and a walk. The three-time AL MVP was chasing the mark of eight straight games with a home run, set by Pittsburgh’s Dale Long in 1956 and matched by Don Mattingly of the Yankees in 1987 and Seattle’s Ken Griffey Jr. in 1993.

Braves 5, Giants 1: Kyle Wright earned his major league-leading 18th victory, Dansby Swanson homered and drove in three runs and visiting Atlanta beat San Francisco to move within a half-game of the first-place New York Mets in the NL East.

Wright (18-5) struck out four while pitching into the sixth. The right-hander won his fifth straight decision.

Cubs 4, Mets 1: Jacob deGrom was outpitched by Adrian Sampson and frustrated New York mustered little on offense against host Chicago.

Ian Happ homered deep into the second deck on a 99 mph heater from deGrom (5-2), and No. 9 batter David Bote added his second home run of the season for the Cubs.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 4: Andrew McCutchen homered and drove in three and visiting Milwaukee used eight pitchers to beat NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Down three starters to injuries, the taxed Brewers staff was stretched even further when starter Matt Bush left after just 15 pitches in what the club had already designated as a bullpen game.

Padres 2, Mariners 0: Yu Darvish limited Seattle to two hits in eight innings, Wil Myers provided the primary offensive highlight with an RBI double and visiting San Diego beat Seattle.

The Padres stayed two games ahead of Milwaukee in the chase for the final wild-card spot in the NL, while the Mariners dropped into a tie with Tampa Bay a half-game behind Toronto in the AL race for the top spot.

Orioles 4, Nationals 3: Ryan Mountcastle hit a tying homer and visiting Baltimore beat Washington.

The Orioles moved within five games of Tampa Bay for the final wild-card spot. The Nationals have lost four in a row to fall a season-high 44 games under .500 at a majors-worst 49-93.

White Sox 4, Rockies 2: Eloy Jiménez hit a three-run homer and Miguel Cairo directed host Chicago to another victory, topping Colorado.

The White Sox improved to 10-4 since Cairo stepped in for manager Tony La Russa, who is awaiting clearance to return to the dugout after dealing with a heart issue.

Rangers 8, Athletics 7: Mark Mathias hit his second homer of the game, a solo shot with one out in the ninth, and host Texas overcame a five-run deficit to beat Oakland.

Mathias had three extra-base hits and drove in four runs. Adolis Garcia added a two-run homer and had three RBIs for the Rangers.

Astros 6, Tigers 3: Rookie Hunter Brown returned to his hometown to pitch six strong innings, leading visiting Houston past Detroit.

Brown (2-0), who allowed two runs on five hits, grew up in suburban Detroit and attended Wayne State, about a mile from Comerica Park.

Rays 4-2, Blue Jays 2-7: Pinch-hitter Whit Merrifield drove in two runs with a seventh-inning double, George Springer added a two-run homer and host Toronto beat Tampa Bay for a doubleheader split between AL wild-card contenders.

The Blue Jays (80-62) remained a half-game ahead of the Rays (79-62).

In the opener, Tampa Bay’s Jeffrey Springs (8-4) pitched six shutout innings to win for the fifth time in six decisions, Randy Arozarena drove in two runs and Díaz had three hits and scored twice.

Pirates 6-1, Reds 1-0: Kevin Newman hit an RBI single in the seventh inning, four pitchers combined on a one-hitter and visiting Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati for day-night doubleheader sweep.

Bryan Reynolds homered for the second straight game and drove in two runs as the Pirates won the opener.

Phillies 2, Marlins 1: Nick Maton hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning off Sandy Alcantara, leading visiting Philadelphia past Miami and tightening the Phillies’ grip on the second spot in the NL wild-card race.