



Antetokounmpo ready to do ‘dirty work’ in NBA playoffs

SPORTS, 1B

Burlington Free Press

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025 | BURLINGTONFREEPRESS.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. to drop peace push if no progress in Ukraine



“If it’s not possible, if we’re so far apart that this is not going to happen, then I think the president is probably at a point where he’s going to say, ‘well, we’re done,’” Secretary of State Marco Rubio, center, said April 18 in Paris. JULIEN DE ROSA/VIA REUTERS

Kyiv says talks in Paris are constructive

Bart H. Meijer and Gabriel Stargardter
REUTERS

PARIS – President Donald Trump will walk away from efforts to broker a Russia-Ukraine peace deal within days unless there are clear signs that a deal can be done, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said April 18.

“We’re not going to continue with this endeavor for weeks and months on end. So we need to determine very quickly now, and I’m talking about a matter of days, whether or not this is doable in the next few weeks,” Rubio said in Paris after meeting European and Ukrainian leaders.

“If it’s not possible, if we’re so far

apart that this is not going to happen, then I think the president is probably at a point where he’s going to say, ‘well, we’re done.’”

Three European diplomatic sources told Reuters of Rubio’s comments, which coincided with signs of some progress in talks with Ukraine, reflected growing frustration in the White House over Russian intransigence to end the war.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said some progress on a peace settlement had already been made but that contacts with Washington were difficult. He said Russia was striving to resolve the conflict while ensuring its own interests. Moscow remained open to dialogue with the United States, he added.

Trump said April 17 he expected to sign a minerals deal with Kyiv soon after an attempt in February fell apart following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s Oval Office clash with Trump and Vice President JD Vance.

The talks in Paris were the first substantive, high level and in-person talks on Trump’s peace push that have included European powers. Rubio said a United States peace framework he presented received an “encouraging reception.” Zelenskyy’s office called the talks constructive and positive.

If Washington walks away, efforts to broker a peace would likely founder because no other nation is able to bring similar pressure on both Moscow and Kyiv.

See UKRAINE, Page 3A

Senator meets with man deported from U.S.

Nick Penzenstadler
and Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, said he has met with Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a union sheet metal worker and father of three who was wrongly deported to a Salvadoran prison in March.

Van Hollen, who traveled to El Salvador, wrote in an April 17 post on X: “I said my main goal of this trip was to meet with Kilmar. Tonight I had that chance.”

“I have called his wife, Jennifer, to pass along his message of love,” he added. “I look forward to providing a full update upon my return.”

Moments before the lawmaker posted a message and image, Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele posted three additional photos from the meeting. He quipped that the two were sharing a margarita.

“Now that he’s been confirmed healthy, he gets the honor of staying in El Salvador’s custody,” Bukele said of Abrego Garcia.

The meeting appeared to occur at the hotel Van Hollen had been staying at in San Salvador. Van Hollen’s office declined to release additional information.

Meanwhile, Abrego Garcia’s wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, said she only knew where her husband had been taken based on news photos of men with their heads down being led through the notorious CECOT prison. She recognized her husband’s scars and tattoos.

Vasquez Sura said her “prayers have been answered” after Van Hollen’s announcement.

Van Hollen was stopped by armed guards at a military checkpoint earlier on April 17, less than 2 miles from the prison where the Maryland man is

See SENATOR, Page 3A

University in Florida mourns after mass shooting

Jeff Burlew, Jeanine Santucci,
Arianna Otero, Elena Barrera
and Jim Rosica
USA TODAY NETWORK

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Another community mourned and searched for explanations after a mass shooter opened fire on the campus of Florida State University on April 17, killing two people and injuring six more.

Family and close friends identified the dead men as Tiru Chabba, a 45-year-old father and executive for a campus vendor, and Robert Morales, a beloved high school football coach who worked at the university’s dining services department.

Morales “loved his job at FSU and his beautiful Wife and Daughter,” his brother wrote on X. He was a longtime high school special teams football coach and

a partner in local favorite Gordos Cuban Cuisine. Lions athletic director Riley Bell coached with Morales. “A great guy. Good heart, family man,” Bell said. “Just full of energy and very happy.”

Chabba, of Greenville, South Carolina, was the regional vice president of Aramark Collegiate Hospitality, according to his LinkedIn page. He is survived by his wife and two children, according to national civil rights attorney Bakari Sellers of The Strom Law Firm and Jim Bannister. In a news release, the attorneys said they were hired “to ensure that all those who bear responsibility for this senseless act of violence are held to account.”

The six injured people were treated and are expected to recover, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare said.

See MASS SHOOTING, Page 3A



People place flowers at a makeshift memorial near the scene of a shooting on the Florida State University campus in Tallahassee on April 17. Two people were killed and six were injured. GREGG PACHKOWSKI/PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

