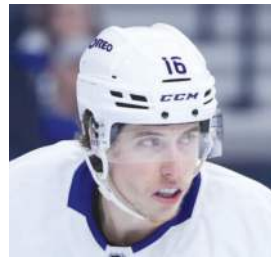


**FACES**

With 'F1,' rising star Damson Idris enters Hollywood's fast lane  
Page 18

**NATION**

Gunman started fire, killed 2 firefighters in Idaho ambush attack  
Page 9

**NHL**

Salary cap increase on free agency fuels unpredictable market  
Page 24

Top US general in Japan details sweeping command overhaul >> Page 4

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 84 Edition 53 ©SS 2025 TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## Last of its kind



AMANDA HELFERS/U.S. Navy

USS Pierre departs Austal USA shipyard to conduct acceptance trials in Mobile, Ala., in June. The Navy said on June 23 that the Independence-class littoral combat ship had completed sea trials.

## USS Pierre is final ship to join once-touted LCS class

By SHANNON RENFROE  
Stars and Stripes

The Navy's last Independence-class littoral combat ship successfully completed sea trials last month, a bittersweet milestone for a group of vessels that were once planned to be a bigger part of the service's future.

USS Pierre, the 19th vessel of its class, returned to Mobile, Ala., in early June after completing comprehensive testing of its major systems and equipment, Naval Sea Systems Command said in a June 23 statement.

The ship will be commissioned this fall and homeported in San Diego, supporting security,

sea control and deterrence operations, the Navy said.

The achievement marked the close of an important chapter in U.S. shipbuilding history, with the story of the littoral combat ship still being written by sailors, Jonas Brown, deputy program manager of the LCS Program Office, said in the statement.

Littoral combat ships are fast, nimble vessels prized for their abilities in coastal areas and the open ocean.

In the early 2000s, shipbuilders developed two variants, Independence and Freedom, each capable of surface warfare and mine hunting. The ships have different hulls and are

designed and built by separate shipbuilders.

At one point, the Navy planned to have the ships make up about one-sixth of the service's oceangoing fleet.

But the Independence variant suffered costly setbacks and delays, including cracked hulls and propulsion issues.

The USS Independence, the first ship in the class, joined the active fleet in 2010 and was decommissioned in 2021. The USS Coronado was decommissioned in 2022 after about eight years of service.

Upgrading the two ships, along with the first

SEE LAST ON PAGE 3

## Senate GOP rush after setbacks on Trump's bill

By LISA MASCARO,  
KEVIN FREKING  
AND JOEY CAPPELLETTI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate was sprinting ahead Monday on President Donald Trump's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts despite challenges including the weekend announcement from one GOP senator that he won't run for reelection after opposing the package over its Medicaid health care cuts.

Senators hunkered down to consider proposed amendments to the package, in what's called a vote-a-rama, though most are expected to fail. With Democrats united against the Republican president's legislation and eagerly lined up to challenge it, the voting could take all day and churn into the night.

"It's time to vote," said Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota as the session opened.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said the "hardest choices" for Republicans are still to come. Democrats, he said, are bringing "amendment after amendment after amendment to the floor, so Republicans can defend their billionaire tax cuts and so they can try to explain their massive cuts to Medicaid to people back home."

The day will be pivotal for the Republicans, who have control of Congress and are racing against Trump's July Fourth deadline to wrap up work. The 940-page "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," as it's formally titled, has consumed Congress as its shared priority with the president, with no room politically to fail, even as not all Repu-

SEE SETBACKS ON PAGE 7

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Smucker to scrap artificial colors in products

Associated Press

J.M. Smucker Co. plans to remove artificial colors from its products by the end of 2027.

Orrville, Ohio-based Smucker said Thursday it will also remove synthetic dyes from foods sold to K-12 schools by the 2026-27 school year.

Smucker said the majority of its products — including its Uncrustables sandwiches — are already free of synthetic dyes. But some products still have them, including sugar-free jams and ice cream

toppings.

Smucker said some products from Hostess, which it acquired in 2023, also contain artificial colors. Twinkies are made with Red 40 and Yellow 5, for example, while Snoballs snack cakes are made with Red 40 Lake, a dye combined with aluminum to keep it from dissolving in water.

Smucker joins a growing number of big food companies that have announced plans to eliminate artificial dyes. Last week, Nestle and Conagra Brands — the

parent company of Duncan Hines — both said they would phase out synthetic dyes. Kraft Heinz and General Mills recently made similar pledges.

The federal government has stepped up its scrutiny of artificial colors in recent months. In January, days before President Donald Trump took office, the U.S. regulators banned the dye called Red 3 from the nation's food supply, nearly 35 years after it was barred from cosmetics because of potential cancer risk.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (July 1)	0.83	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3747
British pound (July 1)	\$1.33	Britain (Pound)	1.36845
Japanese yen (July 1)	141.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.36719
South Korean won (July 1)	1321.00	China (Yuan)	7.1721
		Denmark (Krone)	6.36617
		Egypt (Pound)	49.5636
		Euro	0.85331
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.84985
		Hungary (Forint)	340.769
		Israel (Shekel)	3.3731
		Japan (Yen)	144.372
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.30523
		Norway (Krone)	10.12084
		Philippines (Peso)	56.43
		Poland (Zloty)	3.61792
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.746387
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.27472
		South Korea (Won)	1355.95
Switzerland (Franc)	0.79735		
Thailand (Baht)	32.53		
Turkey (NewLira)	39.7855		

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

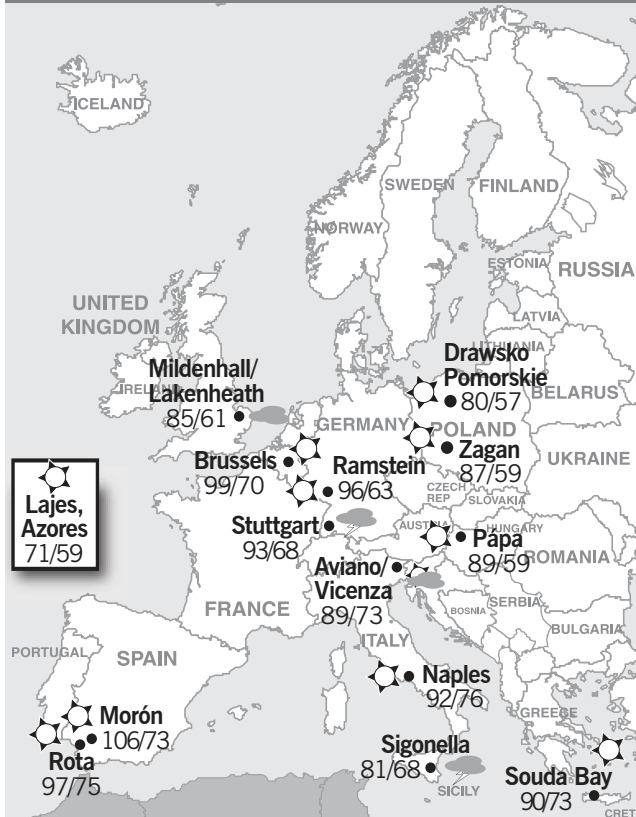
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Federal funds market rate	4.38
3-month bill	4.30
30-year bond	4.83

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### TUESDAY IN EUROPE



#### WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



### TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 15
- Classified ..... 12
- Comics ..... 17
- Crossword ..... 17
- Faces ..... 18
- Opinion ..... 16
- Sports ..... 19-24

## STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

+81 (42) 552.2511  
DSN: 315.227.7310

## Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.

## STARS AND STRIPES

Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY

# Armor officer takes over Army training unit

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The Army unit responsible for operating some of the most significant training ranges in Europe got a new commanding general Monday during a sunny ceremony in Bavaria.

Leadership of the 7th Army Training Command passed from Brig. Gen. Steven Carpenter to Brig. Gen. Terry Tillis at the Tower Barracks parade field.

The command oversees the Grafenwoehr Training Area, the Army's largest permanent training area in Europe, as well as the service's only combat training center outside the continental United States, the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels.



Carpenter

Tillis previously served in Grafenwoehr as commander of an armored brigade combat team during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're serving at very dynamic times," he said Monday.

"We must build individual and collective readiness, accelerate modernization of our warfighting capabilities and deter Russian aggression while assuring our partners and allies."

A career armor officer, Tillis arrives from the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., where he served as a deputy commanding general for support.

He steps into the role with the



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army Europe and Africa band plays while a Bavarian brass band listens and artillery fire rings out in the distance Monday during a change of command ceremony in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

command at the forefront of introducing the Army's "transforming in contact," a revamped concept for waging war.

Inspired by the innovative tactics seen in the Russia-Ukraine war, it includes the broad use of drones, electronic jamming and other measures.

The 7th ATC is responsible for developing training methods the Army will use to fight future wars, commander of U.S. Army Europe and Africa Gen. Christopher Donahue said Monday.

"This command makes sure that deterrence is real in Europe so that no adversary anywhere will ever think of doing anything dumb," Donahue said.

"This (command) is the reason why they won't."

Donahue credited Carpenter, who arrived in June 2023, with setting up the command for the service's ongoing transformation to the tech-savvy fighting doctrine and overseeing the training of over 300,000 U.S. and NATO soldiers.

Carpenter also supervised the training for nearly half of the 23,000 Ukrainian soldiers who



Gen. Christopher Donahue, commander of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, center, passes the 7th Army Training Command unit colors to incoming commander Brig. Gen. Terry Tillis, left, as outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Steven Carpenter, right, looks on during a change of command ceremony in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

received instruction at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels since April 2022, Donahue said during prepared remarks.

Carpenter, a career field artil-

lery officer, now heads to Mainz to lead the 56th Artillery Command, training command spokeswoman Lacey Justinger said.



A color guard marches during the 7th Army Training Command ceremony in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

## Last: Navy to prioritize Constellation-class, while 10 Freedom-class ships still in service

FROM PAGE 1

two Freedom-class variants, was considered too costly, Navy officials said at the time.

About 17 Independence-class vessels are active.

The Freedom variant also was plagued by propulsion problems and other costly issues.

As a result, the Navy in 2022 proposed mothballing nine Freedom-class ships well ahead of

their end-of-service dates. Ultimately, five of the ships were saved.

About 10 Freedom-class ships remain in service, according to the Navy's website.

The variant's final vessel, USS Cleveland, is planned to be commissioned this fall, according to [usscleveland.org](http://usscleveland.org).

The service now is prioritizing production of the Constellation-

class frigate, which it says delivers a more powerful punch.

But with the aging Avenger-class minesweepers nearing retirement, the Navy recently designated at least three Independence-class ships — USS Canberra, USS Tulsa and USS Santa Barbara — to be homeported in Bahrain.

The ships are the first Independence-class vessels to be outfitted

with mine-hunting capabilities, including surface drones, Naval News reported in April.

Canberra arrived in the Middle East in May. Santa Barbara and Tulsa are expected to deploy to the region later this year, USNI News reported on June 23.

No Freedom-class variants are expected to be outfitted with mine-hunting capabilities, according to Naval News.

Pierre is named in honor of the South Dakota capital and is the second U.S. Navy warship to bear the name, the Navy said.

The ship "is not just the final LCS in its class; it's a symbol of our Navy's strength, lethality, and commitment to global security," Melissa Kirkendall, acting program executive officer for unmanned and small combatants, said in the statement.

## PACIFIC

# US general in Japan touts command overhaul

By **SETH ROBSON**  
AND **HANA KUSUMOTO**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The top American general in Japan touted a sweeping command reorganization and highlighted growing regional threats from China in a weekend op-ed published by one of Japan's most-read newspapers.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Jost outlined the transformation of U.S. Forces Japan and its evolving partnership with the Japan Self-Defense Forces in a Saturday opinion piece in the Asahi Shimbun headlined "Advancing the Alliance: USFJ, JSDF transform future of Indo-Pacific Security."

The first phase of restructuring USFJ from a liaison-focused entity to a more operationally integrated command was announced March 30 by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth during a visit to Tokyo.

"Moving from a headquarters primarily charged with an alliance management mission to one that, in time, will integrate and synchronize operations that span the spectrum of operations from humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and armed conflict is a monumental task," Jost wrote.

The goal, he said, is to improve war-fighting effectiveness alongside Japan and enhance the alliance's deterrence posture. In April, USFJ — headquartered at Yokota



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

**Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Jost takes command of U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, in October.**

in western Tokyo — announced plans to open a satellite office at Akasaka Press Center, a U.S. Army installation in central Tokyo near Japan's Ministry of Defense.

"The security, freedom and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific face increasing challenges from adversarial nations, primarily the People's Republic of China, and I can tell you firsthand that these threats are only intensifying," Jost wrote.

In a parallel move, Japan's Ministry of Defense in March activated its new joint

operations command — considered a counterpart to the restructured USFJ.

Jost described the creation of Japan's command as a historic milestone signaling a more agile and integrated security approach.

"Japan's ability to provide a more comprehensive and timely response to emerging threats and natural disasters will significantly increase," he wrote.

Jost noted that the U.S. reorganization is happening alongside Japan's growing defense budget and military capabilities, including efforts to acquire long-range counterstrike weapons. Japan test-fired a short-range, surface-to-ship missile from Hokkaido on June 24 and plans to deploy cruise missiles, including U.S.-made Tomahawks, later this year.

To support deeper collaboration, USFJ recently formed a team to coordinate with Japan's new command, Jost said. Further changes to the U.S. command are being developed in coordination with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

"These shifts in command and control are occurring against the backdrop of intensifying regional concerns, including a rise in coercive and unprofessional military maneuvers in all domains of operations," Jost wrote. "These activities emphasize the necessity for a more robust U.S.-Japan security alliance."

USFJ, in a statement emailed Monday by spokesman Air Force Col. John Seaverns, said the new liaison team will serve as a key bridge between the U.S. and Japanese command structures.

"This is the time for General Jost's op-ed to explain our transformation to the people of Japan," the statement said.

The reorganization comes amid questions about U.S. commitment to the alliance," Brad Glosserman, a senior adviser at the Hawaii-based Pacific Forum think tank, said by email Friday.

Jost's op-ed, Glosserman wrote, serves as both a vote of confidence in the Self-Defense Forces' reorganization and a signal of continued American support.

"U.S. military planners want Japan to be comfortable with what the U.S. is doing and they are doing their very best to quell concerns that it might anticipate a reduced commitment to Japan and the alliance," he said.

The article is intended to show Asahi's wide range of readers that U.S. policy won't be changing as Japan heads into national upper house elections in July, said Ken Jimbo, a professor of international relations at Keio University in Tokyo.

Jost, in his op-ed, indicated his intention to "drastically increase the level of integration of the Japan-U.S. alliance," Jimbo said by phone Monday.

## Expert: Japan unlikely to intervene directly if China attacks Taiwan

By **ALEX WILSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA, Japan — Tokyo is unlikely to provide direct military support in the event of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan and would instead focus on defending its nearby outlying islands, a foreign policy expert said.

China and Japan have long disputed the Senkaku Islands — uninhabited islets east of Taiwan and west of Okinawa that total 2.4 square miles. Japan administers the islands and is expected to prioritize their defense if China moves against Taiwan, said Paul Midford, a professor of international studies at Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo.

Midford — speaking Wednesday at a seminar for the Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies, or YCAPS — pushed back on the notion that Japan has committed to defending Taiwan directly.

"There's been open political debate about the importance of Taiwan for Japanese security, beginning in 2021, but there's been no real debate about Japan itself defending Taiwan," he said during the event at Yokosuka City Industrial Exchange Plaza.

YCAPS is a nonprofit that pro-

motes the study of strategic, diplomatic and legal issues affecting the region.

Midford pointed to a lack of public support and the absence of explicit commitments in government documents, including Japan's National Security Strategy.

A May 2023 poll by the Asahi Shimbun found that just 11% of almost 2,000 respondents supported direct military support for Taiwan. In contrast, 56% favored limited "rearguard support" for U.S. forces.

China views Taiwan — a self-governing democracy — as a breakaway province and has vowed to reunify it with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Beijing regularly sends warplanes and naval vessels across the Taiwan Strait — the 110-mile channel that separates Taiwan from the mainland — and has carried out large-scale military exercises simulating an invasion, notably in 2023 and 2021.

In a statement to Congress in March 2024, the former head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Adm. John Aquilino, said all indications suggest the Chinese military could be ready to invade Taiwan by 2027.

More recently, Secretary of



KYODO NEWS/AP

**Tiny islands in the East China Sea, which are called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, are seen in 2012. Japan is expected to prioritize their defense if China was to move against Taiwan, according to Paul Midford, a professor of international studies at Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo.**

State Marco Rubio said in a March 19 radio interview with Hugh Hewitt that the United States has consistently opposed any changes to Taiwan's status "by force or by extortion," according to a State Department transcript.

Midford acknowledged that "war is unpredictable," but said it's unlikely Japan would be drawn into directly defending Taiwan in a conflict.

"What I can say with confidence is that Japan is not preparing for that," he said.

Instead, he said the more plausible scenario would involve limited counterstrikes against Chinese bases if they were to attack U.S. installations in Japan to "reestablish deterrence," along with defense of the Senkakus and other territories.

Midford pointed to the 3rd Regiment of Japan's Amphib-

ious Rapid Deployment Brigade — designed to protect remote islands — and the Japan coast guard in the region as evidence of Japan's priorities.

The Senkakus, also claimed by China and Taiwan, lie near key shipping lanes and are surrounded by rich fishing grounds. They may also contain valuable resources such as oil and natural gas, according to the CIA World Factbook's website.

MILITARY

# Seoul asks N. Korea for dam release notice

BY DAVID CHOI  
AND YOOJIN LEE  
*Stars and Stripes*

South Korea's government urged the North to give advance notice if it releases water from its Imjin River dam as the monsoon season approaches the peninsula.

"North Korea's prior notice of dam discharge is directly related with safety of people's lives near the border," Unification Ministry spokeswoman Chang Yoon-jeong said at a news conference Friday in Seoul.

The request is being made "on humanitarian grounds" to prevent flooding and to avoid risking the lives of border-area residents, she added.

Around 63% of the Imjin River, a 160-mile-long body of water that crosses the peninsula, is within North Korea.

Water levels at South Korea's Pilsung Bridge overlooking the Imjin were around 2.2 feet Monday, Unification Ministry spokesman Koo Byongsam said during a news conference. An evacuation of the surrounding area is ordered if water levels reach 3.28 feet.

North Korea last released water from its Hwanggang Dam on the



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Freedom Bridge, overlooking the Imjin River, is seen from the South Korean side in 2007.

Imjin on July 18 without notice to Seoul, according to the South's Ministry of Environment.

The discharge caused no significant damage, the ministry said at the time.

Six South Koreans were killed in flooding after the North opened the dam in 2009. After that incident, the North signed an agreement to notify the South of its plans to release water.

Despite that agreement, North Korea has notified the South only on three occasions, according to a Unification Ministry news release July 3.

North Korea's state-run media

had yet to respond to the South's request as of Monday.

But the communist regime apparently acknowledged another move by Seoul to lower tensions at the inter-Korean border earlier this month.

After South Korean President Lee Jae-myung on June 11 silenced the military's propaganda loudspeakers at the heavily fortified border, the North also silenced its speakers later that evening.

Heavy rain lashes the Korean Peninsula during the summer monsoon season.

Last year, four South Koreans were killed in separate landslides and residential floods.

At Kunsan city, home of the U.S. Air Force's Kunsan Air Base, roughly five inches of rain fell in a one-hour span, a national record, the Korea Meteorological Administration reported July 10.

There is a 40% chance this year's rainfall will be similar to South Korea's annual average, according to a Feb. 24 report from the meteorological administration.

It also predicted a 40% chance of above-average rainfall.

## DOD agency identifies remains of 3 airmen killed in Laos in 1968

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has identified the remains of three airmen killed in action in Laos in 1968 when their secret mountaintop radar site was overrun by North Vietnamese commandos.

The airmen, serving with Detachment 1, 1043rd Radar Evaluation Squadron, were among 19 men stationed atop a 5,600-foot peak in a tactical air navigation radar site known as Lima Site 85. The clandestine site was used to help American B-52 bombers navigate to their targets.

The men, officially accounted for on June 23, are Tech. Sgt. Donald Kennebunk Springsteadah, of New Jersey; Staff Sgt. Henry Gerald Gish, of Pennsylvania; and Tech. Sgt. Willis Rozelle Hall, of Florida.

DPAA has identified seven service members missing from the Vietnam War since Oct. 1.

About 1,570 service members remain unaccounted for from that 10-year conflict, with the remains of more than 280 of them believed to be in Laos, the agency told Stars and Stripes earlier this year.

The United States secretly set up Lima Site 85, or LS 85, in the fall of 1967, according to an online article by the National Museum of



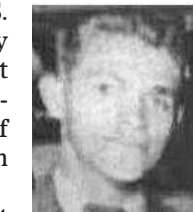
Gish

the U.S. Air Force.

"The location of LS 85 created complicated military and political problems," the article states. "It was only 15

miles away from the border with North Vietnam and was surrounded by numerous communist troops. Moreover, the U.S. could not legally have an overt military presence because of official Laotian neutrality."

The top-secret radar program conducted there was manned by "hand-picked, volunteer USAF technicians" who were "sheep



Springsteadah

dipped," a descriptor for airmen who had "officially" left the Air Force and became civilians but remained under Air Force command, the article states.



Hall

"When the mission was over, they were to be reinstated in the Air Force with no loss of rank or

pay," the article states.

Despite the site's secrecy, North Vietnam military leaders recognized within months that the radar complex was contributing greatly to devastating bombing runs over North Vietnam and Laos. On the night of March 10, 1968, commandos scaled the cliffs and overran LS 85, the article states.

Springsteadah, Gish, Hall and 16 other men were manning the site as the commandos commenced an assault with grenades and mortars early on March 11, DPAA said in a narrative of the loss posted on its website.

The airmen who survived the initial attack made their way to a narrow ledge overlooking the valley below. There they fended off small-arms fire and grenade attacks.

A few hours later, U.S. helicopters arrived and rescued eight men while covered by an A-1 Skyraider attack plane.

Eleven Americans were killed in action, but their remains were unrecoverable, DPAA said. Springsteadah, Gish and Hall were among them.

DPAA personnel and members of partner organizations discovered remains near the site in 2023 and 2025 that were recovered and brought to the forensic lab in Hawaii.

## Trump suggests return of secretary of war title

*The News Tribune (Tacoma, Wash.)*

President Donald Trump said he wants to bring back a long-retired title: secretary of war. Why was it dropped in the first place?

Trump brought up the idea of a name change while introducing Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth at a June 25 news conference in the Netherlands, which hosted this year's NATO summit.

"You know, it used to be called secretary of war," the president said. "Maybe for a couple of weeks we'll call it that because we feel like warriors."

"In fact, if you look at the old building next to the White House, you can see where it used to be secretary of war," Trump added. "Then we became politically correct and they called it secretary of defense. Maybe we'll have to start thinking about changing it."

Here's why the secretary of war came to be known as the secretary of defense.

The title of secretary of war dates back to the founding of the United States.

In 1789, shortly after the U.S. Constitution was ratified, President George Washington signed legislation establishing the War Department, according to the Department of Defense.

The new department was tasked with overseeing and main-

taining the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, all of which were set up three years earlier.

Washington chose Henry Knox, one of his aides, to serve as its first secretary.

Then, less than a decade later, in 1798, the scope of the department shrank, when management of the Navy was handed over to the newly formed Navy Department. And, in 1834, the Marine Corps was moved under the Navy Department, leaving just the Army under the War Department.

In 1879, following the Civil War, the War Department took up headquarters in the newly built Eisenhower Executive Office Building. It was then referred to as the State-War-Navy Building.

In 1947, during the aftermath of World War II, President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act, which combined the War and Navy Departments, as well as the newly formed Air Force, into one organization known as the National Military Establishment.

This new organization was renamed the Department of Defense in 1949, according to Dartmouth University records.

James Forrestal, who had previously served as the secretary of the Navy, then became the nation's first secretary of defense.

## MIDEAST

# President eyes cuts to top US spy agency

BY NATALIA DROZDIAK,  
JAMIE TARABAY  
AND NANCY COOK  
*Bloomberg News*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is pressing ahead with plans to slash staff at the top U.S. spy agency, determined to act at a time when he has openly challenged its director and rejected intelligence findings that contradict his public statements.

Trump has openly discussed dismantling the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, including when he nominated Tulsi Gabbard to lead it, according to people familiar with the situation, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters. He's floated the idea again more recently, they said.

Trump and members of his Cabinet also appear to be pushing Gabbard to the sideline to work with CIA Director John Ratcliffe

on intelligence matters instead, other people familiar with the matter said.

The deliberations to cut ODNI were already in motion before Trump rejected Gabbard's assessment that Iran wasn't actively seeking a nuclear bomb and then clashed with the intelligence community this week over early findings that suggested his strike on the country's nuclear sites didn't fully destroy them.

The White House denied Gabbard is being sidelined.

"President Trump has full confidence in his entire exceptional national security team," White House spokesman Steven Cheung said. "DNI Gabbard is an important member of the President's

team and her work continues to serve him and this country well."

Gabbard has already reduced staff by about 25% and has been in discussions for months with Congress to map out deeper cuts, another one of the people said. The former Democratic congresswoman won Senate backing for the job in February in part due to her pledges to slim down the organization.

Many of those existing departures at ODNI were part of Elon Musk's cost-cutting efforts with staff opting into buyouts, two of the people said.

The reduction includes both ODNI officers and detailees who will be returned to their home agencies.

Officials from both parties concede that the ODNI has become too bloated over the years and that the agency often duplicates work carried out by the independent in-

telligence agencies it oversees. At Gabbard's confirmation hearing in January, Sen. Tom Cotton, a Republican from Arkansas who leads the intelligence committee, said the agency's staff are "measured in the thousands, when it should be measured in the dozens, maybe a few hundred."

On Friday, Cotton introduced legislation that would cap ODNI staff at 650. While exact staffing is classified, that's a third of the estimated 2,000 people it's believed to employ now.

"Created after the September 11th attacks, ODNI was intended to be a lean organization to align America's intelligence resources and authorities, not the overstaffed and bureaucratic behemoth that it is today, where coordinators coordinate with other coordinators," Cotton said in a statement.

In recent weeks, Trump has

said Gabbard and the intelligence community were "wrong" about the assessment that Iran wasn't seeking a nuclear weapon. She later said she and the president were on the same page, pointing to her previous comments that Iran's enriched uranium had reached unprecedented levels.

Gabbard also didn't participate in an administration briefing to lawmakers on the Iran strikes last week, according to Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat. A senior administration official declined to comment on why she didn't attend the Iran briefing but said the media was turning the issue into something it wasn't.

That briefing came about after the White House slammed the leak of a preliminary report from the Defense Intelligence Agency that said strikes on Iran's nuclear facility may not have been as extensive as Trump claimed.



Gabbard

## CIA director: Iranian nuke program set back years after US strike

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — CIA Director John Ratcliffe told skeptical U.S. lawmakers that American military strikes destroyed Iran's lone metal conversion facility and in the process delivered a monumental setback to Tehran's nuclear program that would take years to overcome, a U.S. official said Sunday.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive intelligence, said Ratcliffe laid out the importance of the strikes on the metal conversion facility during a classified hearing for U.S. lawmakers last week.

Details about the private briefings surfaced as President Donald Trump and his administration keep pushing back on questions from Democratic lawmakers and others about how far Iran was set back by the strikes before last Tuesday's ceasefire with Israel took hold.

"It was obliterating like nobody's ever seen before," Trump said in an interview on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures." "And that meant the end to their nuclear ambitions, at least for a period of time."

Ratcliffe also told lawmakers that the intelligence community assessed the vast majority of Iran's amassed enriched uranium likely remains buried under the rubble at Isfahan and Fordo, two of the three key nuclear facilities targeted by U.S. strikes.

But even if the uranium remains intact, the loss of its metal conversion facility effectively has taken away Tehran's ability to build a bomb for years to come, the official said.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the three Iranian sites with "capabilities in terms of treatment, conversion and enrichment of uranium have been destroyed to an important degree."

But, he added, "some is still standing" and that because capabilities remain, "if they so wish, they will be able to start doing this again." He said assessing the full damage comes down to Iran allowing in inspectors.

"Frankly speaking, one cannot claim that everything has disappeared, and there is nothing there," Grossi said.

Trump has insisted from just hours after three key targets were struck by U.S. bunker-buster bombs and Tomahawk missiles that Iran's nuclear program was "obliterated."

His defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, has said they were "destroyed." A preliminary report issued by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, meanwhile, said the strikes did significant damage to the Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan sites, but did not totally destroy the facilities.

As a result of Israeli and U.S. strikes, Grossi says that "it is clear that there has been severe dam-



ROD LAMKEY/AP

**CIA Director John Ratcliffe departs a classified briefing for senators at the Capitol on Capitol Hill, on Thursday.**

age, but it's not total damage." Israel claims it has set back Iran's nuclear program by "many years."

The metal conversion facility that Ratcliffe said was destroyed was located at the Isfahan nuclear facility.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio in comments at the NATO summit last week also suggested that it was likely the U.S. strikes had destroyed the metal conversion facility.

"You can't do a nuclear weapon without a conversion facility," Rubio said. "We can't even find where it is, where it used to be on the map. You can't even find where it used to be because the whole thing is just blackened out. It's gone. It's wiped out."

## Trump says he may ease Iran's sanctions if it can be peaceful

*Bloomberg News*

President Donald Trump suggested he might back eventual sanctions relief for Iran "if they can be peaceful," combining threats and the prospect of diplomacy after U.S. strikes aimed at destroying Iranian nuclear sites.

"We have the sanctions on," Trump said in comments on Fox News's "Sunday Morning Futures" with Maria Bartiromo. "And if they do a job, and if they can show us they're not going to do any more harm, I would take the sanctions off."

Trump said Friday he considered easing sanctions on Iran after a ceasefire but would instead keep them in place, while lashing out at Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for claiming victory in the war with Israel.

That followed his comments last week hinting at relief when he said he doesn't mind China continuing to buy Iranian oil. White House officials later indicated that didn't mean an easing of U.S. restrictions.

In the Fox News interview, which was taped Friday, Trump renewed his argument that Iran was weeks away from getting a nuclear weapon and that U.S. strikes "obliterated" a key underground site of Iran's nuclear program.

He also injected a note of caution, saying that Iran's nuclear ambitions had been set back "at least for a period of time."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a foreign-policy hawk who's close to Trump, suggested the U.S. require that Iran recognize Israel's right to exist as a condition for resuming U.S.-Iranian talks, which went through several inconclusive rounds this year.

"They have to say, for the first time — the Iranian regime — we recognize Israel's right to exist," Graham said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." "If they can't say that, you're never going to get a deal worth a damn."

The head of the United Nations nuclear monitoring agency disputed the Trump administration's claims about the level of damage to Iran's nuclear program from U.S. strikes, which targeted its uranium enrichment capabilities.

"One cannot claim that everything has disappeared and there is nothing there," Rafael Mariano Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said on CBS's "Face the Nation." "It is clear that there has been severe damage, but it's not total damage."

Iran has industrial and technological capabilities to resume producing enriched uranium possibly "in a matter of months," he said. "So if they so wish, they will be able to start doing this again."

He cautioned that damage assessment isn't the IAEA's job and the agency's information on the state of Iran's nuclear program is limited.

## NATION

# GOP senator won't run for reelection

## North Carolina's Tillis to step back after opposing Trump tax breaks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina said Sunday he will not seek reelection next year, an abrupt announcement that came one day after he staked out his opposition to President Donald Trump's tax breaks and spending cuts package because of its reductions to health care programs.

His decision creates a political opportunity for Democrats seeking to bolster their numbers in the 2026 midterm elections, creating a wide-open Senate race in a state that has long been a contested battleground. It could also make Tillis a wild card in a party where few lawmakers are willing to risk Trump's wrath by opposing his agenda or actions. Trump had already been threatening him with a primary challenge, and posted Sunday that Tillis' announcement was "Great News!"

"In Washington over the last few years, it's become increasingly evident that leaders who are willing to embrace bipartisanship, compromise, and demonstrate independent thinking are becoming an endangered species," Tillis said in a lengthy statement.

Tillis said he was proud of his career in public service but acknowledged the difficult political environment for those who buck their party and go it alone.

"I look forward to having the pure freedom to call the balls and strikes as I see fit and representing the great people of North Carolina to the best of my ability," Tillis said in a statement.

Republicans hold a 53-47 edge in the Senate.

Trump, in social posts, had berated Tillis for being one of two Republican senators who voted on Saturday night against advancing the massive tax bill.



Tillis

The Republican president accused Tillis of seeking publicity with his "no" vote and threatened to campaign against him, accusing the senator of doing nothing to help his constituents after last year's devastating floods in western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene.

"Tillis is a talker and complainer, NOT A DOER," Trump wrote.

The announcement from the two-term senator surprised senior Republicans with its timing, but not necessarily the substance. Tillis had planned to announce his reelection plans later this year, likely September at the latest, but had been heavily leaning in favor of retiring, according to a person close to the senator.

In the hours before his announcement, Tillis was weighing two questions: whether Trump and the White House would give him freedom to campaign with

some independence, and whether Tillis would have the full protection of Senate Republican leaders, said the person, who was granted anonymity to discuss internal dynamics.

The GOP leadership's decision to forge ahead with cuts to Medicaid that Tillis repeatedly warned would devastate North Carolina, and the president's Truth Social post calling for a primary challenger to the senator made it clear to him that the answers to those two questions were no.

Tillis then decided he would announce his retirement, with the thinking that it would remove any ambiguity whether he would flip his opposition to the GOP's sweeping tax bill.

He informed Trump and Senate Majority Leader John Thune on Saturday night of his decision to retire.

The North Carolina Republican Party chairman, Jason Simmons, said the party wishes Tillis well and "will hold this seat for Republicans in 2026."

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina,

the chairman of the campaign arm for Senate Republicans, did not mention Tillis in a statement but said the party's winning streak in North Carolina will continue. Scott noted that Trump won the state three times.

Democrats expressed confidence about their prospects.

Former Rep. Wiley Nickel, who announced his candidacy in April, said he was ready for any Republican challenger.

"I've flipped a tough seat before and we're going to do it again," Nickel said in a statement.

Some said Tillis' decision is another sign of the dramatic transformation of the Republican Party under Trump, with few lawmakers critical of the president or his agenda remaining in office.

It "proves there is no space within the Republican Party to dissent over taking health care away from 11.8 million people," said Lauren French, spokesperson for the Senate Majority PAC, a political committee aligned with the chamber's Democratic members.

## Setbacks: Republicans rush to deliver bill to president before July 4

FROM PAGE 1

blicans are on board.

A new analysis from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office found 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law. The CBO said the package would increase the deficit by nearly \$3.3 trillion over the decade.

House Speaker Mike Johnson's leadership team has recalled lawmakers back to Washington for voting in the House as soon as Wednesday, if the legislation can first clear the Senate.

But the outcome remains uncertain.

As the first few amendments came up Monday — to strike parts of the bill that would limit Medicaid funds to rural hospitals or shift the costs of food stamps benefits to the states — some were winning support from a few Republicans.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, joined Democrats on the rural hospitals amendment, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, joined Democrats on both votes.

But none of the amendments

won majority support to substantially change the package.

Few Republicans appear fully satisfied as the final package emerges. GOP Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, who announced Sunday he would not seek reelection after Trump badgered him over his opposition to the package, said he has the same goals as Trump: cutting taxes and spending.

But Tillis said this package is a betrayal of the president's promises not to kick people off health care, especially if rural hospitals close.

"We could take the time to get this right," he thundered.

At the same time, some loosely aligned conservative Senate Republicans — Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Lee of Utah, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming — have pushed for steeper cuts, particularly to health care, drawing their own warning from Trump.

"Don't go too crazy!" the president posted on social media. "REMEMBER, you still have to get re-elected."

All told, the Senate bill includes some \$4 trillion in tax cuts, making permanent Trump's 2017 rates, which would expire at the



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / AP

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, arrives Monday at the Capitol as Republicans begin a final push to advance President Donald Trump's tax breaks and spending cuts bill.

end of the year if Congress fails to act, while adding the new ones he campaigned on, including no taxes on tips.

The Senate package would roll back billions of dollars in green energy tax credits that Democrats warn will wipe out wind and solar investments nationwide and impose \$1.2 trillion in cuts, largely to Medicaid and food stamps, by imposing work requirements, making sign-up eligibility more stringent and changing federal reimbursements to states.

Additionally, the bill would provide a \$350 billion infusion for border and national security, in-

cluding for deportations, some of it paid for with new fees charged to immigrants.

Unable to stop the march toward passage, the Democrats as the minority party in Congress are using the tools at their disposal to delay and drag out the process.

Democrats forced a full reading of the text, which took 16 hours. Then Democratic senators took over Sunday's debate, filling the chamber with speeches, while Republicans largely stood aside.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, raised particular concern about

the accounting method being used by the Republicans, which says the tax breaks from Trump's first term are now "current policy" and the cost of extending them should not be counted toward deficits.

"In my 33 years here in the United States Senate, things have never — never — worked this way," said Murray, the longest-serving Democrat on the Budget Committee. She said that kind of "magic math" won't fly with Americans trying to balance their own household books.

"Go back home," she said, "and try that game with your constituents."



Thune

## NATION

# No plan set to extend a pause on global tariffs

By DAVID KLEPPER  
AND ALI SWENSON  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says he is not planning to extend a 90-day pause on tariffs on most nations beyond July 9, when the negotiating period he set would expire, and his administration will notify countries that the trade penalties will take effect unless there are deals with the United States.

Letters will start going out “pretty soon” before the approaching deadline, he said.

“We’ll look at how a country treats us — are they good, are they not so good — some countries we don’t care, we’ll just send a high number out,” Trump told Fox News Channel’s “Sunday Morning Futures” during a wide-ranging interview taped Friday and broadcast Sunday.

Those letters, he said, would say, “Congratulations, we’re allowing you to shop in the United States of America, you’re going to pay a 25% tariff, or a 35% or a 50% or 10%.”

Trump had played down the deadline at a White House news conference Friday by noting how difficult it would be to work out separate deals with each nation.

The administration had set a goal of reaching 90 trade deals in 90 days.

Negotiations continue, but “there’s 200 countries, you can’t talk to all of them,” he said in the interview.

Trump also discussed a potential TikTok deal, relations with China, said again that the U.S. strikes on Iran “obliterated” its nuclear facilities and touched on his immigration crackdown.

Here are some takeaways:

A group of wealthy investors will make an offer to buy TikTok, Trump said, hinting at a deal that could safeguard the future of the popular social media platform, which is owned by China’s ByteDance.

“We have a buyer for TikTok, by the way. I think I’ll need, probably, China approval, and I think President Xi (Jinping) will probably do it,” Trump said.

Trump did not offer any details about the investors, calling them “a group of very wealthy people.”

Last month, Trump signed an executive order to keep TikTok running in the U.S. for 90 more days to give his administration more time to broker a deal to bring the social media platform under American ownership.

It is the third time Trump extended the deadline.

As he played up his immigration crackdown, Trump offered a more nuanced view when it comes to farm and hotel workers.

“I’m the strongest immigration guy that there’s ever been, but I’m also the strongest farmer guy that there’s ever been,” the Republican president said.

He noted that he wants to deport criminals, but it’s a problem when farmers lose their laborers and it destroys their businesses.

Trump said his administration is working on “some kind of a temporary pass” that could give farmers and hotel owners control over immigration raids at their facilities.

Trump has praised a recent trade deal with Beijing over rare earth exports from China and said establishing a fairer relationship will require significant tariffs.



RICK BOWMER/AP

More than 170 EPA employees published a letter addressing concerns over support for their mission.

## EPA employees pen ‘declaration of dissent’ over moves at agency

Associated Press

A group of Environmental Protection Agency employees on Monday published a declaration of dissent from the agency’s policies under the Trump administration, saying they “undermine the EPA mission of protecting human health and the environment.”

More than 170 EPA employees put their names to the document, with about 100 more signing anonymously out of fear of retaliation, according to Jeremy Berg, a former editor-in-chief of Science magazine who is not an EPA employee but was among non-EPA scientists or academics to also sign. The latter figure includes 20 Nobel laureates.

The letter represents rare public criticism from agency employees who could face blowback for speaking out against a weakening of funding and federal support for climate, environmental and health science. Scientists at the National Institutes of Health made a similar move earlier in June.

“Since the Agency’s founding in 1970, EPA has accomplished (its) mission by leveraging science,

funding, and expert staff in service to the American people. Today, we stand together in dissent against the current administration’s focus on harmful deregulation, mischaracterization of previous EPA actions, and disregard for scientific expertise,” the letter read.

Agency spokespeople did not immediately respond Monday to messages seeking comment.

“I’m really sad. This agency, that was a superhero for me in my youth, we’re not living up to our ideals under this administration. And I really want us to,” said Amelia Hertzberg, an environmental protection specialist at the EPA who has been on administrative leave since February from the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, while the administration works to close down her department.

Hertzberg’s work focused on the most vulnerable groups impacted by pollution: pregnant and nursing people, young children and babies, the elderly, people with preexisting and chronic health conditions and people liv-

ing in communities exposed to higher levels of pollution. That wasn’t supposed to be controversial, but it’s become so in this political climate, she said.

“Americans should be able to drink their water and breathe their air without being poisoned. And if they aren’t, then our government is failing,” she said.

Berg, who also directed the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at NIH from 2003-11, said the dissent isn’t motivated by partisan criticism. He said the employees hope it will help the EPA get back to the mission for which it was established — which “only matters if you breathe air and drink water.”

The letter outlines what the EPA employees see as five main concerns: undermining public trust; ignoring scientific consensus to benefit polluters; reversing EPA’s progress in America’s most vulnerable communities; dismantling the Office of Research and Development; and promoting a culture of fear, forcing staff to choose between their livelihood and well-being.

## Alarm raised as government cuts key data for hurricane forecasting

Associated Press

Weather experts are warning that hurricane forecasts will be severely hampered by the upcoming cutoff of key data from U.S. Department of Defense satellites, the latest Trump administration move with potential consequences for the quality of forecasting.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said it would discontinue the “ingest, processing and distribution” of data collected by three weather

satellites that the agency jointly runs with the Defense Department. The data is used by scientists, researchers and forecasters, including at the National Hurricane Center.

It wasn’t immediately clear why the government planned to cut off the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program’s microwave data by Monday. The Defense Department referred questions to the Air Force, which referred them to the Navy, which

did not immediately provide comment.

NOAA spokesperson Kim Doster, in a statement, called it a “routine process of data rotation and replacement” and said that the remaining data sources “are fully capable of providing a complete set of cutting-edge data and models that ensure the gold-standard weather forecasting the American people deserve.”

Traditional visible or infrared satellites provide data that be-

comes images showing the structure, intensity and temperature of a storm, according to NOAA information, along with features such as lightning. But those miss the three-dimensional details of a storm. The microwave data gives critical information that can’t be gleaned from the conventional satellites, and helps peer under a regular image of a hurricane or a tropical cyclone to see what is going on inside of it. It is especially helpful at night.

The news is especially noteworthy during the ongoing hurricane season and as lesser storms have become more frequent, deadly and costly as climate change is worsened by the burning of fossil fuels.

Microwave imagery allows researchers and forecasters to see the center of the storm. Experts say that can help in detecting the rapid intensification of storms and in more accurately plotting the likely path of dangerous weather.

NATION

# Gunman in Idaho starts blaze and kills 2 firefighters

BY REBECCA BOONE AND CHRISTOPHER WEBER  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — As a wildfire began to sow panic in a small northern Idaho mountain community, a group of firefighters who rushed to put out the blaze instead found themselves in an unexpected shootout.

A man who had intentionally set the fire to ambush the crew on Sunday was perched in a sniper position, firing at the firefighters. They took cover behind fire trucks, but two died and a third was wounded during a barrage of gunfire over several hours, authorities said.

First responders made urgent calls for help on their radios at Canfield Mountain just north of Coeur d'Alene: "Everybody's shot up here ... send law enforcement now," according to one dispatch.

Two helicopters converged on the area, armed with snipers ready to take out the suspect if needed, while the FBI used his cellphone data to track him and the sheriff ordered residents to shelter in place. They eventually

found the suspect dead in the mountains, his firearm beside him.

It is unknown how he died, and authorities have not yet revealed a motive.

The suspect has been identified as Wess Roley, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Monday. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation.

"We do believe that the suspect started the fire, and we do believe that it was an ambush and it was intentional," Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris said at a Sunday night news conference. "These firefighters did not have a chance."

The wounded firefighter was "fighting for his life" after surgery and was in stable condition, Norris said.

"When you have an environment where you don't know where the bullets are coming from because of the trees and the shrubbery and what have you, it is daunting for police officers, let alone firefighters," Norris said.



BILL BULEY, COEUR D'ALENE PRESS/AP

A procession escorts the bodies two firefighters killed by sniper fire while responding to a blaze started by the gunman, in a northern Idaho mountain community, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Sunday.

Outpouring of support was swift in Coeur d'Alene, a city of 55,000 residents near the border with Washington.

Hours after the ambush, people gathered along Interstate 90 holding American flags to pay their respects as the two fallen firefighters' bodies were taken to the medical examiner's office in Spokane, Wash., about 35 miles from Coeur d'Alene.

Gov. Brad Little on Monday ordered U.S. and Idaho state flags to

be lowered to half-staff to honor the firefighters until the day after their memorial service.

"All our public safety officers, especially our firefighters, bravely confront danger on a daily basis but we have never seen a heinous act of violence like this on our firefighters before," he said in a statement. "This is not Idaho. This indescribable loss is felt deeply by all those in the firefighting community and beyond."

The Idaho House Republican

Leadership said in a statement: "We are horrified by the murder of two firefighters in Coeur d'Alene, and shocked by such a vicious attack on our first responders. We are praying for them, the injured, their families and their colleagues."

Though the shelter-in-place order was lifted, the sheriff's office cautioned residents to be prepared because the fire was still burning. The status of the fire was not immediately known Monday.

## Star witness against Kilmar Abrego Garcia won't be deported

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Court records show that the Trump administration has agreed to spare from deportation a key witness in the federal prosecution of Kilmar Abrego Garcia in exchange for his cooperation in the case.

Jose Ramon Hernandez Reyes, 38, has been convicted of smuggling migrants and illegally reentering the United States after having been deported. He also plead-



Garcia

ed guilty to "deadly conduct" in connection with a separate incident where he drunkenly fired a gun in a Texas community.

Records reviewed by The Washington Post show that Hernandez Reyes has been released early from federal prison to a half-

way house and has been given permission to stay in the U.S. for at least a year.

Prosecutors have identified Hernandez Reyes as the "first cooperator" in the case against Abrego, according to court filings. The Department of Homeland Security maintains that Hernandez owned the SUV that Abrego Garcia was allegedly using to smuggle migrants when the Tennessee Highway Patrol stopped him in

2022. That traffic stop is at the center of the criminal investigation against Abrego Garcia.

Hernandez Reyes is among a handful of cooperating witnesses who could help the administration deport Abrego Garcia.

Abrego Garcia, a construction worker who had been living in Maryland, became a flashpoint over Trump's hard-line immigration policies when he was mistakenly deported to his native El Sal-

vador in March. Facing mounting pressure and a Supreme Court order, the administration returned him last month to face the smuggling charges, which his attorneys have called "preposterous."

On Friday, attorneys for Abrego Garcia asked a federal judge in Tennessee to delay his release from jail because of "contradictory statements" by the administration over whether or not he'll be deported upon release.

## Jurors begin deliberations in 'Diddy' sex trafficking trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jurors started deliberating Monday at Sean "Diddy" Combs' federal sex trafficking trial, weighing charges that could put the hip-hop mogul in prison for life.

After more than two hours of legal instructions from federal Judge Arun Subramanian, the jury of eight men and four women headed behind closed doors to deliberate.

They'll be sifting through seven weeks of sometimes graphic and emotional testimony about the rap, fashion and reality TV impresario's propensity for violence and his sex-

ual predilections, including drug-fueled sex marathons dubbed "freak-offs" or "hotel nights."

Jurors are being provided with a laptop loaded with all of the exhibits shown in court. As he sent the jury to deliberate, Subramanian told the five alternate jurors to remain on standby in case they're needed to fill in on the main jury.

Combs faced his family and supporters in the courtroom gallery, all who were bowing their heads in prayer — his family members holding hands with each other.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty

to federal charges of racketeering conspiracy, two counts of sex trafficking — relating to two of his ex-girlfriends — and two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution for allegedly arranging to fly sex workers across state lines.

In closing arguments last week, federal prosecutors and Combs' defense team took their last shots at convincing jurors to convict or acquit the Grammy Award-winning founder of Bad Boy Records.

"The defendant used power, violence and fear to get what he wanted," Assistant U.S. Attorney Christy

Slavik said. "He thought that his fame, wealth and power put him above the law."

Defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo countered, "This isn't about crime. It's about money." He noted that one of Combs' accusers in the criminal case also sued him in civil court.

In all, 34 witnesses testified, headlined by Combs' former girlfriends Cassie — the R&B singer born Cassandra Ventura — and "Jane," who testified under a pseudonym. Both women said he often was violent toward them and forced them into hundreds of sexual encounters with

paid male sex workers.

Jurors also saw now-infamous security camera video of Combs beating, kicking and dragging Cassie at a Los Angeles hotel in 2016 and clips from videos of sexual encounters.

Combs chose not to testify, and his lawyers didn't call any witnesses in their defense case. His attorneys elected instead to challenge the accusers' credibility during lengthy cross-examination questioning.

The defense has acknowledged that Combs veered into violence, but his lawyers maintain that the sex acts were consensual.

## NATION

# High court to hear party spending limit case

By MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will take up a Republican-led drive, backed by President Donald Trump's administration, to wipe away limits on how much political parties can spend in coordination with candidates for Congress and president.

The justices said Monday they will review an appellate ruling that upheld a provision of federal election law that is more than 50 years old, ignoring pleas from Democrats to leave the law in place. The Supreme Court itself upheld it in 2001.

But since Chief Justice John Ro-

berts joined the court in 2005, a conservative majority has upended a variety of congressionally enacted limits on raising and spending money to influence elections. The court's 2010 Citizens United decision opened the door to unlimited independent spending in federal elections.

Without the limits on party spending, large donors would be able to skirt caps on individual contributions to a candidate by directing unlimited sums to the party with the understanding that the money will be spent on behalf of the candidate, supporters of the law say.

The case will be argued in the

fall.

Richard Hasen, an election law expert at the University of California at Los Angeles law school, has predicted the court will strike down the limits. "That may even make sense now in light of the prevalence of super PAC spending that has undermined political parties and done nothing to limit (and in fact increased) corruption and inequality," Hasen wrote on the Election Law blog.

The Justice Department almost always defends federal laws when they are challenged in court. But the Trump administration notified the court that "this is the rare case that warrants an exception to that

general approach" because it believes the law violates free-speech protections in the First Amendment.

The Republican committees for House and Senate candidates filed the lawsuit in Ohio in 2022, joined by two Ohio Republicans in Congress, then-Sen. JD Vance, who's now vice president, and then-Rep. Steve Chabot.

In 2025, the coordinated party spending for Senate races ranges from \$127,200 in several states with small populations to nearly \$4 million in California. For House races, the limits are \$127,200 in states with only one representative and \$63,600 everywhere else.

The court also agreed to referee a fight between internet service provider Cox Communications and record labels over illegal music downloads by Cox customers.

The justices will review a lower-court ruling in a lawsuit led by Sony Music Entertainment that Cox has to cut off customers who downloaded music they didn't pay for or face liability for any future acts of digital piracy.

A jury had initially found Cox liable for more than \$1 billion, but the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the award. The high court rejected the record labels' appeal of that aspect of the ruling.

## Democrats wrestle with how to conduct oversight duties

By MATT BROWN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just hours after she pleaded not guilty to federal charges brought by the Trump administration, New Jersey Rep. LaMonica McIver was surrounded by dozens of supportive Democratic colleagues in the halls of the Capitol. The case, they argued, strikes at the heart of congressional power.

"If they can break LaMonica, they can break the House of Representatives," said New York Rep. Yvette Clarke, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Federal prosecutors allege that McIver interfered with law enforcement during a visit with two other House Democrats to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Newark, N.J. She calls the charges "baseless."

It's far from the only clash between congressional Democrats and the Republican administration as officials ramp up deportations of immigrants around the country.

Sen. Alex Padilla of California was forcibly removed by federal agents while attempting to speak at a news conference for Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

At least six groups of House Democrats have recently been denied entry to ICE detention centers. In early June, federal agents entered the district office of Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., and briefly detained a staffer.

Congressional Republicans have largely dismissed Democrats' behavior as inflammatory and inappropriate, and some have publicly supported the prosecution of McIver.

Often in the dark about the Trump administration's moves, congressional Democrats are wrestling with how to perform their oversight duties at a time of roiling tensions with the White House and new restrictions on

lawmakers visiting federal facilities.

"We have the authority to conduct oversight business, and clearly, House Republicans are not doing that oversight here," said New Jersey Rep. Rob Menendez, one of the House Democrats who went with McIver to the Newark ICE facility.

"It's our obligation to continue to do it on site at these detention facilities. And even if they don't want us to, we are going to continue to exert our right."

The prospect of facing charges for once routine oversight activity has alarmed many congressional Democrats who never expected to face criminal prosecution as elected officials.

Lawmakers in both parties were also unnerved by the recent targeted shootings of two Minnesota lawmakers and the nation's tense political atmosphere.

"It's a moment that calls for personal courage of members of Congress," said Rep. Summer Lee of Pennsylvania. "I wish that we had more physical protection. I think that's one of those harsh realities that members of Congress who are not in leadership recognize: that oftentimes, we do this job at our own peril, and we do it anyway."

The arrests and detentions of lawmakers have led some Democrats to take precautionary measures.

Several have consulted with the House general counsel about their right to conduct oversight. Multiple lawmakers also sought personal legal counsel, while others have called for a review of congressional rules to provide greater protections.

"The Capitol Police are the security force for members of Congress. We need them to travel with us, to go to facilities and events that the president may have us arrested for," said Rep. Jonathan Jackson of Illinois.



ANGELINA KATSANIS/AP

**Congresswoman Rep. LaMonica McIver, D-N.J., exits the grounds at Delaney Hall, an ICE detention facility, May 9, in Newark, N.J.**

As the minority party in the House, Democrats lack the subpoena power to force the White House to provide information. That's a problem, they say, because the Trump administration is unusually secretive about its actions.

"There's not a lot of transparency. From day to day, oftentimes, we're learning about what's hap-

pening at the same time as the rest of the nation," said Rep. Lucy McBath, D-Ga., who led a prayer for McIver at the Capitol rally.

Democrats, to amplify their concerns, have turned to public letters, confronted officials at congressional hearings and digital and media outreach to try to create public pressure.

"We've been very successful

when they come in before committees," said Rep. Lauren Underwood of Illinois, who added that she believed the public inquiries have "one hundred percent" resonated with voters.

Congressional Democrats say they often rely on local lawmakers, business leaders and advocates to be their eyes and ears on the ground.

A handful of Democrats say their best sources of information are across the political aisle, since Republicans typically have clearer lines of communication with the White House.

"I know who to call in Houston with the chamber. I think all of us do that," said Texas Rep. Sylvia Garcia of how business leaders are keeping her updated.

Garcia said Democrats "need to put more pressure" on leading figures in the agriculture, restaurant and hospitality sectors to take their concerns about the immigrant crackdown to Trump's White House.

"They're the ones he'll listen to. They're the ones who can add the pressure. He's not going to listen to me, a Democrat who was an impeachment manager, who is on the bottom of his list, if I'm on it at all," Garcia said.

Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, for instance, had a working relationship with a for-profit ICE facility in his district until DHS in February ended reports as part of an agency-wide policy change.

A member of Crow's staff now regularly goes to the facility and waits, at times for hours, until staff at the Aurora facility respond to detailed questions posed by the office.

Still, many House Democrats concede that they can conduct little of their desired oversight until they are back in the majority.

Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Texas, said that "real oversight power and muscle" only comes "when you have a gavel."

## NATION

# Flutes for Fido: Music for the animal soul

BY THOMAS PEIPERT  
Associated Press

DENVER — It's often said music is the universal language of humanity. Now a 12-year-old Houston boy is putting that to the test for an unlikely audience — man's best friend.

Yuvi Agarwal started playing keyboard when he was 4 and several years ago noticed his playing soothed his family's restless golden doodle, Bozo. He grew curious if it also could help stressed homeless animals.

With help from his parents, who both have backgrounds in marketing, he founded the nonprofit Wild Tunes in 2023 to recruit musicians to play in animal shelters. So far he has enlisted about 100 volunteer musicians and singers of all ages and abilities to perform at nine shelters in Houston, New Jersey and Denver.

"You don't have to understand the lyrics to enjoy the music. Just enjoy the melody, the harmony and the rhythms. So it transcends linguistic barriers, and even it can just transcend species," Agarwal said recently after playing hits like The Beatles' "Hey Jude" and Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" on his portable keyboard at the Denver Animal Shelter.

Agarwal, who was playing for an elderly miniature poodle named Pituca — Spanish slang



THOMAS PEIPERT/AP

**Sarah McDonner, a volunteer for Wild Tunes, which aims to soothe stressed shelter animals with live music, plays the flute at the Denver Animal Shelter in May.**

sometimes used to describe a snob — said many of his four-legged listeners, which include cats, become excited when he enters their kennel. But after a few minutes of playing, they calm down. Some even go to sleep.

A few stalls down from where he was jamming on his keyboard at the Denver shelter, volunteer Sarah McDonner played Mozart and Bach on her flute for Max, a 1-year-old stray boxer that tilted his head when she hit the high notes.

"The animals having that human interaction in a positive way, I think, gives them something to look forward to, something that is different throughout their day," said McDonner, a professional musician who met Agarwal in Houston.

She helped bring the program to Colorado after moving to Denver a few months ago. "I think it's very important to give them something different from what they're used to in their little tiny cages ... and makes them more adoptable in the

long run," McDonner said.

While the effect of music on humans has been studied extensively, its role in animal behavior remains murky.

Several studies suggest that classical music generally has a calming influence on dogs in stressful environments like kennels, shelters and veterinary clinics. But some researchers warn there is not enough data to support the claim.

"We always want these really simplistic answers. So we want to

say that music calms animals, for example, and I think that it's much more nuanced than that," said Lori Kogan, a self-described "dog-person" who chairs the human-animal interaction section of the American Psychological Association. "There's a lot more research that needs to happen before I think that we can unequivocally say that music is a great thing for animals."

Kogan, a professor and researcher at Colorado State University, has studied for more than two decades how animals and humans get along. Research involving the effect of music on dogs often produces mixed results, she said, because there are so many variables: the setting; the volume, type and tempo of the music and the breed of the dog and its previous exposure to music.

"If you play music for your pet, and they seem to like it and they appear calmer, then I think we can say that that's a positive thing, that you're providing some level of enrichment for that pet. ... I would encourage people to give it a try and to see how their pets respond," she said.

For Agarwal, his firsthand experience at shelters is undeniable evidence that music helps comfort stressed animals, and he plans to grow Wild Tunes into a nationwide program.

## Revolutionary War-era boat buried in Manhattan now being rebuilt

BY MICHAEL HILL  
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Workers digging at Manhattan's World Trade Center site 15 years ago made an improbable discovery: sodden timbers from a boat built during the Revolutionary War that had been buried more than two centuries earlier.

Now, over 600 pieces from the 50-foot vessel are being painstakingly put back together at the New York State Museum. After years on the water and centuries underground, the boat is becoming a museum exhibit.

Arrayed like giant puzzle pieces on the museum floor, research assistants and volunteers recently spent weeks cleaning the timbers with picks and brushes before reconstruction could even begin.

Though researchers believe the ship was a gunboat built in 1775 to defend Philadelphia, they still don't know all the places it traveled to or why it ended up apparently neglected along the Manhattan shore before ending up in a landfill around the 1790s.

"The public can come and contemplate the mysteries around this ship," said Michael Lucas, the museum's curator of historical archaeology. "Because like anything



MICHAEL HILL/AP

**Research assistant Alyssa Carpenter works beneath a Revolutionary War-era gunboat to prepare for the craft's partial reconstruction at the New York State Museum in Albany.**

from the past, we have pieces of information. We don't have the whole story."

The rebuilding caps years of rescue and preservation work that began in July 2010 when a section of the boat was found 22 feet below street level.

The wood was muddy, but well preserved after centuries in the oxygen-poor earth. A previously constructed slurry wall went right through the boat, though timbers comprising about 30 feet of its rear and middle sections were carefully recovered. Part of the bow was re-

covered the next summer on the other side of the subterranean wall.

The timbers were shipped more than 1,400 miles to Texas A&M's Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation.

Each of the 600 pieces underwent a three-dimensional scan and spent years in preservative fluids before being placed in a giant freeze-dryer to remove moisture. Then they were wrapped in more than a mile of foam and shipped to the state museum in Albany.

While the museum is 130 miles up the Hudson River from lower

Manhattan, it boasts enough space to display the ship.

The reconstruction work is being done in an exhibition space, so visitors can watch the weathered wooden skeleton slowly take the form of a partially reconstructed boat.

On a recent day, Lucas took time out to talk to passing museum visitors about the vessel and how it was found.

Explaining the work taking place behind him, he told one group: "Who would have thought in a million years, 'someday, this is going to be in a museum?'"

Researchers knew they found a boat under the streets of Manhattan. But what kind?

Analysis of the timbers showed they came from trees cut down in the Philadelphia area in the early 1770s, pointing to the ship being built in a yard near the city. It was probably built hastily. The wood is knotty, and timbers were fastened with iron spikes. That allowed for faster construction, though the metal corrodes over time in seawater.

Researchers now hypothesize the boat was built in Philadelphia in the summer of 1775, months after the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired at Lexington

and Concord in Massachusetts. Thirteen gunboats were built that summer to protect Philadelphia from potential hostile forces coming up the Delaware River.

"They were really pushing, pushing, pushing to get these boats out there to stop any British that might start coming up the Delaware," said Peter Fix, an associate research scientist at the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation.

Historical records indicate at least one of those 13 gunboats was later taken by the British. And there is some evidence that the boat now being restored was used by the British, including a pewter button with "52" inscribed on it. That likely came from the uniform of soldier with the British Army's 52nd Regiment of Foot, which was active in the war.

It's also possible that the vessel headed south to the Caribbean, where the British redirected thousands of troops during the war. Its timbers show signs of damage from mollusks known as shipworms, which are native to warmer waters.

Still, it's unclear how the boat ended up in Manhattan and why it apparently spent years partially in the water along shore.

NATION

# Administration: Harvard failed to protect Jewish students

By COLLIN BINKLEY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Harvard University failed to protect Jewish students from harassment, the Trump administration concluded after an investigation, threatening to cut all federal funding from the Ivy League school if it fails to take action.

A federal task force sent a letter to Harvard on Monday finding the university violated civil rights laws requiring colleges to protect students from discrimination based on race or national origin. It says investigators found Harvard

was at times a “willful participant in anti-Semitic harassment of Jewish students, faculty, and staff” and that campus leaders allowed antisemitism to fester on the campus in Cambridge, Mass.

“Failure to institute adequate changes immediately will result in the loss of all federal financial resources and continue to affect Harvard’s relationship with the federal government,” officials said in the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press and first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Harvard did not immediately

comment.

It’s the latest intensification in the White House’s battle with Harvard, which lost more than \$2.6 billion in federal research grants after rejecting a list of federal demands calling for sweeping changes to campus governance, hiring and admissions.

The Trump administration for months has accused Harvard of tolerating antisemitism on its campus, but a formal finding paves the way for a negotiated agreement or — if one isn’t reached — an attempt to cut the school off from federal dollars.

Much of the investigation’s evidence focuses on campus protests over the Israel-Hamas war.

It says the campus was “over-run by an impermissible, multi-week encampment” that left Jewish and Israeli students fearful and disrupted their studies.

It accuses Harvard of imposing lax and inconsistent discipline against students who participated in the encampment, noting that none was suspended.

Harvard President Alan Garber has acknowledged problems with antisemitism and anti-Muslim bias on campus, but he says Har-

vard has made strides to fight prejudice.

He announced new initiatives in April after Harvard released internal reports finding evidence of antisemitism and Islamophobia on campus.

“Harvard cannot — and will not — abide bigotry,” Garber wrote in releasing the reports.

The Monday letter finds that Harvard violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Such findings have almost always been resolved through voluntary resolutions between schools and the federal government.

# Flint’s lead pipe effort becomes cautionary tale

By MICHAEL PHILLIS  
AND TAMMY WEBBER  
Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. — About a decade after Flint’s water crisis caused national outrage, replacement of lead water pipes still isn’t finished.

Although the city recently said it completed work required under a legal settlement, the agreement didn’t cover vacant homes and allowed owners to refuse, potentially leaving hundreds of pipes in the ground. The state agreed to oversee work and says it’s determined to finish by fall.

Flint’s missteps offer lessons for municipalities that face a recently imposed federal mandate to replace their own lead service lines. The Trump administration is expected to soon tell a federal appeals court if it will stand by that mandate.

“I think other cities are racing not to be Flint,” said Margie Kelly,

a spokesperson with the environmental nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council, which reached a settlement with the city to force it to replace lead pipes.

After problems were discovered in 2014, Flint entered into a settlement in 2017 requiring it to replace all lead pipes and fix dug-up yards for free within three years. Funds were directed first toward homes with known lead lines at the NRDC’s insistence, which meant workers couldn’t tackle neighborhoods systematically. And finding those homes proved challenging because many records were missing or inaccurate — some handwritten on notecards dating to the early 1900s.

“The city’s overall management of the program was ineffective,” and it could have better coordinated work geographically, said Sarah Tallman, an attorney with the NRDC.

That stalled the program and, ultimately, the city had to check every pipe anyway. COVID-19 also slowed work.

Flint Department of Public Works Director Kenneth Miller, who was hired last year, said the city didn’t know how many homeowners had opted out of lead pipe replacement or how many properties had simply been missed as contractors came and went.

Because the city didn’t keep accurate records of repairs, a judge ordered officials to visually check thousands of properties that had been excavated.

Yards torn up by contractors sometimes sat that way for months or years. For months, Danyelee Darrough’s lawn was a mess and the sidewalk and driveway were covered, she said. Grass seed that workers applied never grew. Finally this spring, nearly three years later, she bought bags

of topsoil and seed to fix her lawn herself.

“It was like, yeah, we knew it; we couldn’t trust them,” said Darrough.

Miller said the city now has robust data management, which he recommends to other communities tackling lead lines.

Now officials are working from a list of more than 4,000 properties where there could be a lead line, sending letters and making in-person visits to homes, if needed. Miller said he hopes the outreach will show that customer service is now a priority, but it will take time to rebuild trust.

Some also distrust the Environmental Protection Agency, which in May lifted a long-standing emergency order for Flint water. The agency said it’s now safe to drink from the tap after years of tests showing sharply reduced lead levels.



PAUL SANCYA/AP

A copper water supply line, left, is shown connected to a water main after being installed for lead pipe, right, in Flint, Mich.

“We don’t know what to believe,” resident Aonie Gilcreast said at a recent community gathering. “We don’t trust the system” because officials have said “time after time after time .... that everything was fine.”

As other cities and towns start replacing their own lead pipes — there are roughly 9 million in the U.S. — one thing should be top of mind, experts say: Digging them up isn’t just a construction job, but also a test of community trust.

## STARS AND STRIPES

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

### VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

<b>GERMANY</b> +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	<b>U.S.A</b> +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us
---	---	---

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Are you in the picture?

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.  
*No one covers the bases the way we do.*

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

# WORLD

## 6 Americans detained for trying to send rice, Bibles to North Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Six Americans were detained Friday in South Korea for trying to send 1,600 plastic bottles filled with rice, miniature Bibles, \$1 bills and USB sticks toward North Korea by sea, police said.

The Americans were apprehended on front-line Gwanghwa Island before throwing the bottles into the sea so they could float toward North Korean shores on the tides, two Gwanghwa police officers said. They said the Americans are being investigated on allegations they violated the law on the management of safety and disasters.

The officers, who requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to media on the issue, refused to provide personal details of the Americans in line with privacy rules.

Gwanghwa police said they haven't found what is on the USB sticks.

For years, activists have sought to float plastic bottles or fly balloons across the border carrying

anti-North Korea propaganda leaflets and USB thumb drives carrying South Korean dramas and K-pop songs, a practice that was banned from 2021-23 over concerns it could inflame tensions with the North.

North Korea has responded to previous balloon campaigns with fiery rhetoric and other shows of anger, and last year the country launched its own balloons across the border, dumping rubbish on various South Korean sites including the presidential compound.

In 2023, South Korea's Constitutional Court struck down a controversial law that criminalized the sending of leaflets and other items to North Korea, calling it an excessive restriction on free speech.

But since taking office in early June, the new liberal government of President Lee Jae Myung is pushing to crack down on such civilian campaigns with other safety-related laws to avoid a flare-up tensions with North Korea and promote the safety of front-line South Korean residents.

## Germany to help Ukraine make more weapons faster

By ILLIA NOVIKOV AND GEIR MOULSON  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Germany aims to help Ukraine manufacture more weapons more quickly as Kyiv looks to strengthen its negotiating position in peace talks with Russia about ending their more than three-year war, the top German diplomat said Monday.

"We see our task as helping Ukraine so that it can negotiate more strongly," Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said during a visit to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, accompanied by German defense industry representatives.

U.S.-led international peace efforts have failed to make progress on halting the fighting. Russian President Vladimir Putin has effectively rejected a ceasefire and hasn't budged from his war goals.

"When Putin speaks of peace today, it is pure mockery," Wadephul told a news conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha. "His apparent readiness to negotiate is only a façade so far."

Russia's invasion shows no sign of letting up. Its grinding war of attrition along the roughly 620-mile front line and long-range strikes on civilian areas of Ukraine have killed thousands of troops and civilians.

Ukraine is outgunned and short-handed on the front line and international aid has been vital for Ukraine's resistance against its neighbor's bigger army and economy. Germany has been Ukraine's second-largest military backer after the United States, whose continuing support is in doubt.

"We want to build new joint ventures so that Ukraine itself can produce faster and more for its own defense, because your needs are enormous," Wadephul said while standing next to Sybiha.

"Our arms cooperation is a real trump card — it is a logical continuation of our delivery of material," Wadephul said. "And we can even benefit mutually from it — with your wealth of ideas and your experience, we will become better."

The top German diplomat's trip

to Kyiv came less than 48 hours after Russia launched its biggest combined aerial attack against Ukraine over the weekend, Ukrainian officials said, in an escalating bombing campaign that has further dashed hopes for a breakthrough in peace efforts.

Ukraine's air force said Monday it detected 107 Russian Shahed and decoy drones in the country's air space overnight.

Strikes in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region left two civilians dead and eight injured, including a 6-year-old child, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said Monday.

The aerial onslaughts are calculated by Russia to squeeze Ukraine into submission, according to the Institute for the Study of War.

"Russia is continuing to use increasingly large numbers of drones in its overnight strike packages in order to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses and enable subsequent cruise and ballistic missile strikes," the Washington-based think tank said late Sunday.



**YOUR ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER IN SEOUL**

Conveniently located at USAG Yongsan, we exclusively welcome our US military service Members, their families and DOD Civilians. We're also proud to extend our hospitality to even more veterans who qualify under The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018.



Our room deals are perfect for those looking to visit Seoul! Enjoy a convenient location, create lasting memories, and savor classic American cuisine.



**For a quick getaway**  
**6 Days / 5 Nights Package**

**\$499**



This room deal is perfect for a quick getaway! Enjoy Seoul to the fullest with our hotel located right in the heart of the city, making your commute to popular attractions quick and convenient.



**For a full Korean experience**  
**20 Nights Package**

**\$1899**



Our extended package is perfect for those looking to explore all that Seoul has to offer! With our 20-night package, you can split your stay to visit nearby cities while still having plenty of time to discover the beautiful sights in and around Seoul, including fantastic day trips outside the city.

\*Offer and rates subject to change. Visit our website for up to date, rates and all information about our room packages.



www.DragonHillLodge.com



reservations@DragonHillLodge.com



DSN: #315-738-2222 or #02-790-0016 ext.1

## WORLD

# Burning temperatures cook Europe

BY SUZAN FRASER  
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Forest fires fanned by high winds and hot, dry weather damaged some holiday homes in Turkey as a lingering heat wave that has cooked much of Europe led authorities to raise warnings and tourists to find ways to beat the heat on Monday.

A heat dome hovered over an arc from France, Portugal and Spain to Turkey, while data from European forecasters suggested other countries were set to broil further in coming days.

New highs are expected on Wednesday before rain is forecast to bring respite to some areas later this week.

“Extreme heat is no longer a rare event—it has become the new normal,” tweeted U.N. Secretary-

General António Guterres from Seville, Spain, where temperatures were expected to hit nearly 108 Fahrenheit on Monday afternoon.

Reiterating his frequent calls for action to fight climate change, Guterres added: “The planet is getting hotter & more dangerous—no country is immune.”

In France, which was almost entirely sweltering in the heat wave on Monday and where air conditioning remains relatively rare, local and national authorities were taking extra effort to care for homeless and elderly people and people working outside.

Some tourists were putting off plans for some rigorous outdoor activities.

“We were going to do a bike tour today actually, but we decided be-

cause it was gonna be so warm not to do the bike tour,” said Andrea Tyson, 46, who was visiting Paris from New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Authorities in Portugal issued a red heat warning for seven of 18 districts as temperatures were forecast to exceed 100 F. Almost all inland areas were at high risk of wildfires.

In Turkey, forest fires fanned by strong winds damaged some holiday homes in Izmir’s Doganbey region and forced the temporary closure of the airport in Izmir, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Authorities evacuated four villages as a precaution, the Forestry Ministry said.

In Italy, the Health Ministry put 21 cities under its level three “red” alert, which indicates “emergency

conditions with possible negative effects” on healthy, active people as well as at-risk old people, children and chronically ill people.

Regional governments in northwestern Liguria and southern Sicily in Italy put restrictions on outdoor work, such as construction and agricultural labor, during the peak heat hours.

In southern Germany, temperatures of up to 95 F were expected on Monday, and they were forecast to creep higher until midweek—going as high as 102 F on Wednesday.

Some German towns and regions imposed limits on how much water can be taken from rivers and lakes. At the Berlin zoo, elephants were showered with water and bears treated with blocks of ice containing fruit.

## Israeli settlers attack base in West Bank

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Dozens of Israeli settlers rampaged around a military base in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, setting fires, vandalizing military vehicles, spraying graffiti and attacking soldiers, the military said.

Sunday night’s unrest came after several attacks in the West Bank carried out by Jewish settlers and anger at their arrests by security forces attempting to contain the violence over the past few days.

More than 100 settlers on Wednesday evening entered the West Bank town of Kfar Malik, setting property ablaze and opening fire on Palestinians who tried to stop them, Najeb Rostom, head of the local council, said.

Three Palestinians were killed after the military intervened. Israeli security forces arrested five settlers.

“No civilized country can tolerate violent and anarchic acts of burning a military facility, damaging IDF property and attacking security personnel by citizens of the country,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

The footage showed security forces using stun grenades as dozens of settlers gathered around the military base just north of Ramallah.

The Israeli military released photos of the infrastructure burned in the attack, which it said included “systems that help thwart terrorist attacks and maintain security.”

Far-right Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who has often defended Israelis accused of similar crimes, offered a rare condemnation of Sunday’s violence.

“Attacking security forces, security facilities, and IDF soldiers who are our brothers, our protectors, is a red line, and must be dealt with in full severity. We are brothers,” he wrote on X.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid told Israel’s Army radio that the riots were carried out by “Jewish terrorists, gangs of criminals, who feel backed by the (governing) coalition.”

A hard-line supporter of Jewish settlements, Ben-Gvir was previously convicted in Israel of racist incitement and support for terrorist groups, and has called for the deportation of all Arab citizens from Israel.

Defense Minister Israel Katz vowed Monday to “eradicate this violence from the root,” and implored the settlers to remember that many of the security forces are exhausted reservists serving multiple rounds of duty.

## Denmark adds women to draft amid Russian threat

BY JAMES BROOKS  
Associated Press

HOVELTE, Denmark — Peering across a dense stretch of woodland outside of Denmark’s capital with camouflage paint smeared across her face, 20-year-old Katrine scans the horizon for approaching threats.

After nearly four months of military training, the young soldier and the rest of her unit spent early June completing their final exercises near the Danish army’s barracks in Hovelte, 15 miles north of Copenhagen.

Katrine and other female soldiers, all of whom spoke to The Associated Press on June 11 on the condition that only their first names be used because of operational security, volunteered for military service earlier this year. Until now, that was the only way women were allowed to partake in military service, although women have been able to enlist as full-time members of the armed forces since the early 1970s.

The Scandinavian country is seeking to increase the number of young people in the military by extending compulsory enlistment to women for the first time. Men and women can both still volunteer, and the remaining places will be filled by a gender-neutral draft lottery.

“In the situation the world is in now, it’s needed,” Katrine said. “I think it’s only fair and right that women participate equally with men.”

Under new rules passed by Denmark’s parliament earlier in June, Danish women who turn 18 after Tuesday will be entered into the lottery system, on an equal footing with their male compatriots. The change comes against a backdrop of Russian aggression and growing military investment



JAMES BROOKS/AP

**Katrine, 20, right, speaks with another female conscript during final exercises last month at a training area in Hovelte, north of Copenhagen, Denmark.**

across NATO countries.

Even from the relative safety of Denmark, Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine casts its shadow. Lessons from the Ukrainian battlefields have even filtered down into their training.

“That makes it very real,” Katrine said.

Denmark’s gender-parity reforms were originally outlined in 2024 as part of a major defense agreement. The program was originally expected to be implemented by early 2027, but has been brought forward to summer 2025.

Col. Kenneth Strom, head of the conscription program, told AP the move is based on “the current security situation.”

“They could take part in NATO collective deterrence,” Strom

added. “Raising the number of conscripts, that would simply lead to more combat power.”

Denmark, a nation of 6 million people, has about 9,000 professional troops. The new arrangement is expected to bring the figure up to 6,500 people doing military service annually by 2033, up from 4,700 last year.

Under Danish law, all physically fit men over age 18 are called up for military service. Some people—both men and women—volunteer, and the rest of the places are filled by a lottery system that until now has only involved men. Women volunteers make up roughly a quarter of 2024’s cohort.

“Some will probably be very disappointed being chosen to go into the military,” Anne Sofie, part of Katrine’s cohort of volunteers,

said of the new female conscripts. “Some will probably be surprised and like it a lot more than they think they would.”

The duration of service is also being extended, from four to 11 months. Conscripts will first spend five months in basic training, followed by six months of operational service, plus additional lessons.

The move is part of a broader military buildup by the Nordic nation.

In February, Denmark’s government announced plans to bolster its military by setting up a \$7 billion fund that it said would raise the country’s defense spending to more than 3% of gross domestic product this year. Parts of the conscript program are being financed by the so-called Acceleration Fund.

“We see a sharpened security situation in Europe. We have the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We have focus on the Baltic countries, where Denmark is contributing a lot of soldiers. So, I think it’s a general effort to strengthen the Danish defense,” said researcher Rikke Haugegaard from the Royal Danish Defense College.

But Haugegaard notes there are many challenges, from ill-fitting equipment and a lack of additional barracks, to potential cases of sexual harassment.

“For the next year or two, we will be building a lot of new buildings to accommodate all these people. So, it will be a gradual process,” she added.

In 2017, neighboring Sweden instituted a military draft for both men and women after its government spoke of a deteriorating security environment in Europe. Norway introduced its own law applying military conscription to both sexes in 2013.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ex-campaign treasurer admits to embezzlement

**VA** ALEXANDRIA — A former campaign treasurer for Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner of Virginia and other Democrats pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$840,000 in political contributions to finance a trip to Italy, a private suite for an Elton John concert, a chartered yacht tour and other luxury expenses.

Katherine Buchanan, 59, was the campaign treasurer for the two senators and former U.S. representative Stephanie Murphy of Florida and held the same job at several political-action committees supporting the three Democrats' electoral efforts. She pleaded guilty to embezzling funds from those entities and evading taxes.

Court records detailed how Buchanan, who had been a campaign consultant for more than two decades and worked primarily from her home in Alexandria, Va., bilked her clients with sham wire transfers and credit-card charges from 2020 to 2024 and then filed doctored reports with the Federal Election Commission to hide her tracks.

## Woman's swim turns fatal despite bystanders' aid

**HI** HONOLULU — A California woman died after floundering off the Hawaii coast, despite the efforts of bystanders to rescue and resuscitate her, police said.

Stacy Coon, a 59-year-old from Oroville, Calif., in Butte County, went for a swim Sunday afternoon at Whittington Beach Park, an area of the Big Island known for its potentially dangerous water conditions.

Police responded around 2:40 p.m. to help a distressed Coon, who yelled for help after she found herself 40 yards away from the shoreline, where she was initially swimming. Coon was brought to shore by several bystanders who administered CPR after she remained unresponsive, according to the Hawaii Police Department.

Coon was taken to Ka'u Hospital, about 10 miles away, where she was later pronounced dead. Her autopsy is still pending, police said, but the death is being investigated as a possible drowning.

## 4 new measles cases reported in state

**KY** LEXINGTON — Four new cases of measles have been reported in Kentucky, including three in one household in Woodford County.

The fourth case is in Todd County and is not related to the other three cases, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services said. That person was exposed to someone with measles while traveling internationally.

The state said none of the four



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

## Rain delay

**Fans arrive in the rain before a weather-delayed baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo.**

people had been vaccinated for measles.

"Health officials are working to identify others who may have been exposed to those infected while they were contagious," the news release stated.

## Police official criticizes Pride ban on uniform cops

**NY** NEW YORK — Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch on Saturday doubled down in her criticism of the Pride March organizer's decision to ban the NYPD's Gay Officers Action League from participating in the annual event in New York City.

In a strongly worded letter to the event's organizer, Heritage of Pride, calling the group hypocrites, Tisch demanded that it change its stance on the officers' exclusion from the celebratory procession. The top cop slammed the new reason given for not letting the gay officers march — namely, that it would violate the event's no-weapons policy — calling it a "PR

stunt" and "Not a solution."

Heritage of Pride, about two weeks ago, informed the New York Police Department, including the Gay Officers Action League, or GOAL, that it was continuing its ban for the fourth straight year against allowing police officers to march.

"Though the NYPD remains a partner in monitoring and addressing security threats, the NYPD response is to be called upon only when absolutely necessary," an internal memo from Heritage of Pride states. "Additionally, the guidelines for our March were updated to clarify that no participating contingent could march with weapons."

## City's partial ambulance takeover boosts response

**CA** SAN DIEGO — Ambulance response times in San Diego have improved significantly since the city switched to a new partnership where private ambulances transport patients

while the city handles deployment, staffing and billing.

City officials revealed response-time comparisons for the first time since the October 2023 launch of the new partnership, which has also generated millions in profits the city is using to address a budget crisis.

Under the new partnership, the city is failing much less often to meet its response-time standard of arriving at emergencies within 10 minutes at least 90% of the time.

But the boost in response times may be coming at a cost to the city's paramedics and emergency medical technicians, who say they feel overworked and want the city to add more ambulances.

## Chrysler recalls some vehicles in airbag issue

**NY** NEW YORK — Chrysler is voluntarily recalling some of its 2022-25 Pacifica and Voyager vehicles to replace side curtain airbags, if needed.

The recall potentially affects

250,651 vehicles, and it's because some side curtain airbags may not hold enough pressure during deployment to limit the risk for passengers during certain types of crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The administration said it's due to improperly sealed seams, and dealers will inspect and replace the side curtain airbags, as necessary, free of charge.

Chrysler's parent company said it's not aware of any related injuries or accidents, but it's urging customers to follow the instructions on their recall notices.

## Protests continue over Everglade migrant center

**FL** MIAMI — Hundreds of people gathered in the heart of the Everglades on Saturday — signs raised and chants echoing — to protest "Alligator Alcatraz," a migrant detention center being built on a former airstrip in Big Cypress National Preserve.

Demonstrators lined both sides of the narrow two-way road leading to the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport, a remote landing strip just north of Tamiami Trail. The site, located in Miami-Dade County, is where Attorney General James Uthmeier and Gov. Ron DeSantis have expedited construction of the controversial facility. According to officials, supply trucks have been arriving daily to have the center operational by next week.

Described by authorities as "temporary," the 1,000-bed facility will primarily consist of large tents and trailers, designed to detain undocumented immigrants apprehended in Florida and beyond.

## County eyes legal action after violent ICE arrests

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Citing a recent arrest by immigration agents that bloodied a man in the unincorporated area of Valinda, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis said she wants the county to explore a legal counterattack against what she described as the federal government's "unconstitutional immigration enforcement practices."

In a statement Saturday, Solis said that she plans to co-sponsor a motion at Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting asking the county's attorney to explore "all legal remedies available to the County to protect the civil rights of our residents and prevent federal law enforcement personnel from engaging in any unconstitutional or unlawful immigration enforcement."

Such conduct, the motion says, includes the "unlawfully stopping, questioning or detaining individuals without reasonable suspicion, or arresting individuals without probable cause or a valid warrant."

From wire reports

## STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher

Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer

Lt. Col. Katie R. Fidler, Europe commander

John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff

Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Pacific commander

## EDITORIAL

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.comAnn Pinson, Digital Managing Editor  
pinson.ann@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erik Slaviv, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slaviv.erik@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com

+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

## Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com

(+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CIRCULATION

## Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager  
schultz.david@stripes.com  
xsscirculation@stripes.com

+49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

## Europe

Carlo Aquino, Circulation Manager  
aquino.carlo@stripes.com  
memberservices@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583.9136

## Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003

633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

## OMBUDSMAN

Jacqueline Smith

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at [ombudsman@stripes.com](mailto:ombudsman@stripes.com), or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) published daily (except Saturday, Sunday, 25 December and 1 January) for 50 cents (Monday through Thursday) and one dollar on Friday by Stars and Stripes Pacific, OPC 706 BOX 7, APO AP 96301-9001. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, OPC 706 BOX 7, AP 96301-9001.

The Stars and Stripes newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense (DoD) for the overseas U.S. military community. As an authorized newspaper, Stars and Stripes publications may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DoD personnel are located. The content printed in this newspaper is not classified as command information and is neither endorsed by nor represents the official views of the U.S. government.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Stars and Stripes, and or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2025

stripes.com

## OPINION

## Tesla's \$800B robotaxi dream is facing reality

By LIAM DENNING

Bloomberg Opinion

Unlike us mere mortals, time is usually on Tesla's side. The launch of its robotaxi service last week has inverted that, and at a moment of particular weakness for the company.

When it comes to Tesla's push for dominance in autonomous vehicles, the handful of Model Y robotaxis now offering paid rides in Austin, Texas, represents a milestone. But it is also a millstone because of how Tesla is doing autonomy and Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk's long history of overpromising on its capabilities. Tesla's pitch is that the vehicles it sells already have the hardware needed to be robotaxis and that its self-driving software, trained on a vast fleet of existing cars driven by unpaid beta testers, can handle virtually any situation. Yet the Austin launch has been defined less by its boundless potential and more by its boundaries, operating in a limited area, with invite-only customers and a "safety monitor" in each vehicle.

Pledging robotaxis everywhere and delivering, late, a vehicle that plies the streets of just south Austin with a free human doesn't do much for credibility. But it also corrodes the thin justification for Tesla's high stock price.

On generous assumptions, Tesla's core EV business, generating 75% of gross profit but with falling sales, might be worth roughly \$50 per share, only 15% of the current price. (Large auto manufacturers typically trade on single-digit multiples and even BYD Co., Tesla's fast-growing Chinese rival, trades at only about 20 times. Let's be generous and assume Tesla can restart growth in EV deliveries, plus fix its brand, and assume 30 times. Applying that to 75%

of the consensus forecast for earnings over the next four quarters of \$2.12, the EV bit is worth about \$48. Tesla's energy business accounts for most of the rest of the earnings. Putting that on a multiple of 20 to 40 times implies a valuation of about \$10-20 per share.) Much of the remainder relates to expectations around self driving. RBC Capital, for example, ascribes 59% of its price target, or \$181 per share, to robotaxis and a further \$53 to monetizing Full Self Driving technology. Combined, that is a cool \$815 billion based on double-digit multiples ascribed to modeled revenue — not earnings — 10 to 15 years from now because, after all, it relates to businesses that barely make money today.

Subject to revision, then, but that works to Tesla's advantage. Consider: Over the past two years, Tesla's EV business has stalled, its Cybertruck launch has flopped, a promised low-cost model remains elusive and earnings have slumped. Yet since Musk pivoted hard toward robotaxis and robots in early 2024, its multiple has more than doubled to around 140 times forward earnings. Multiples are numeric manifestations of faith. It has not mattered that Musk touted incoming robotaxis for years without delivering. With nearly two billion passenger vehicles on the world's roads, the potential market for robotaxis is gargantuan and Tesla is bound to be a leader at some indeterminate, but undoubtedly lucrative, point in the future.

Faith doesn't cope too well with reality, however, and that's what last week's robotaxi launch delivered. It is obvious that, having mocked rival Waymo's cautious, city-by-city approach, Tesla is now emulating that as it begins its own operation. As of writing this, there is only one reported incident of a "safety concern" pertaining to a Tesla

robotaxi on the City of Austin's online dashboard. But federal regulators are already looking into instances where Tesla robotaxis appeared to violate traffic laws, captured on video.

Teething troubles, perhaps, but \$800 billion-odd of notional value doesn't leave much room for teething. In launching, Tesla has started the clock on demonstrating progress. The critical issue is how quickly it can grow this business; not just to bring in revenue but to prove underlying assumptions.

For example, one of Tesla's main purported advantages is that its sensor-lite approach, eschewing systems like LiDAR, makes its robotaxis cheaper than the tricked-out cars operated by Waymo. But that only holds if Tesla scales up quickly since Waymo, now providing more than 250,000 rides per week, can depreciate its higher vehicle costs over many more paid miles. Meanwhile, the longer Tesla takes, the more time other competitors, like Amazon's Zoox, have to establish themselves. In a market this new and dynamic, the range of potential outcomes is dizzying. A recent attempt by analysts at Goldman Sachs, modeling various fleet sizes and margins on a hypothetical Tesla robotaxi fleet in 2040, spat out values from \$2.50 per share up to \$81.75. Place your bets.

Above all, Tesla's prior delays were forgiven on the premise that when its robotaxis did arrive, they would conquer all. Granted, a year from now, we may all be wowed at Tesla's progress and thousands of robotaxis may be rolling around multiple cities. Yet the launch has done little to inspire confidence in that. More importantly, Tesla now no longer has the luxury of simply deferring the dream.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Liam Denning covers energy.

## Mamdani's victory is bad for NYC and his party

Washington Post Editorial Board

Zohran Mamdani, the charismatic 33-year-old who is now the front-runner to be the next mayor of New York, might seem like a breath of fresh air for a Democratic Party struggling to move past its aging establishment. In fact, New Yorkers should be worried that he would lead Gotham back to the bad old days of civic dysfunction, and Democrats should fear that he will discredit their next generation of party leaders, almost all of whom are better than this democratic socialist.

Adept at social media and voter mobilization, Mamdani claimed the most first-pick votes in the New York Democratic mayoral primary as the leading alternative to Andrew Cuomo. The contest became a referendum on the disgraced ex-governor as he sought a comeback four years after resigning amid allegations of sexual harassment. Cuomo, a throwback to a bygone era of machine politics, should have stayed retired instead of clearing the field of potentially more appealing center-left candidates — and opening the way for Mamdani to nab disillusioned voters.

Now, a man who believes that capitalism is "theft" is in line to lead the country's biggest city and the world's financial capital. His signature ideas are "city-owned grocery stores," no bus fares, freezing rent on 1 million regulated apartments and increasing the minimum wage to \$30 an hour. No doubt these might strike some voters as tempting

ideas. But, as with so many proposals from America's far left, the trade-offs would hurt the people they are supposed to help.

A massive minimum wage would depress low-skilled employment. His rent freeze would reduce the housing supply and decrease its quality. Cutting bus fares would leave a transit funding hole that, unless somehow filled, would erode service. Meanwhile, the grocery business operates on thin margins, and his plan for city-run stores would likely lead to fewer options, poor service and shortages, as privately-run stores closed rather than try to compete with city-subsidized shops.

Mamdani previously called for defunding and dismantling the police and, even though he has toned that down, he still opposes hiring more officers.

The candidate does acknowledge at least one trade-off: even higher taxes in a city where they are already hefty. He wants to impose a 2% annual wealth tax on the richest 1% of New Yorkers and increase the state's corporate tax rate from 7.25% to 11.5%. The Big Apple already suffers from capital flight. Hedge funds and others with means have relocated to more business-friendly climates, such as Florida. Mamdani's tax plans would spur a corporate exodus and drive more rich people out of town, undermining the tax base and making existing services harder to maintain.

New York already endured a version of this

in the 1970s. The city saw a humiliating fiscal crisis, as its government promised overgenerous public services even as its tax base fled. Decades of reform and better governance revived New York, creating once again a dynamic hub of business and culture where many people want to live.

New York cannot take for granted its premier status among world cities. No mighty metropolis can. History is full of the stories of great concentrations of people and wealth that decayed due to misfortune or misrule. In recent times, the world has seen Hong Kong's sad decline despite its once-unmatched status in East Asia.

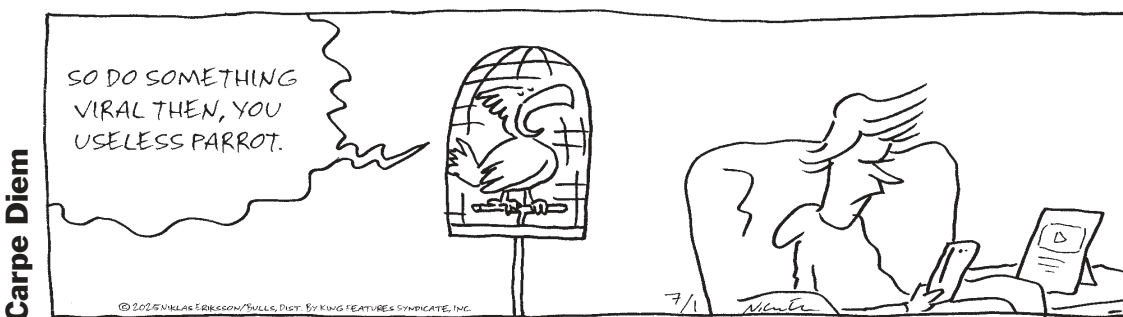
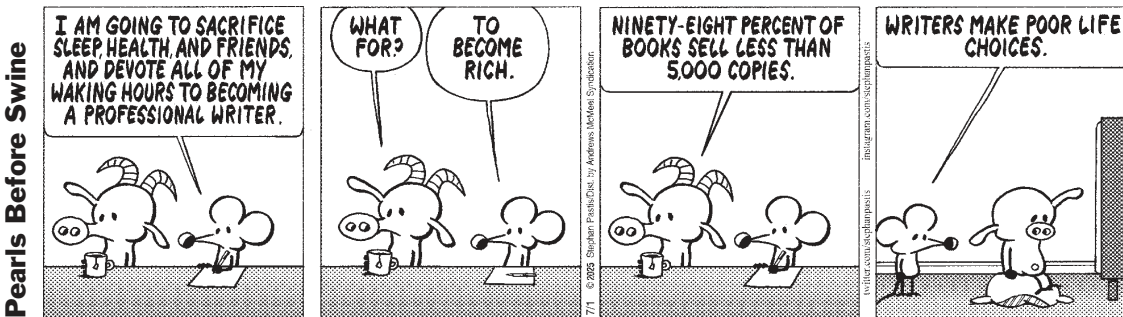
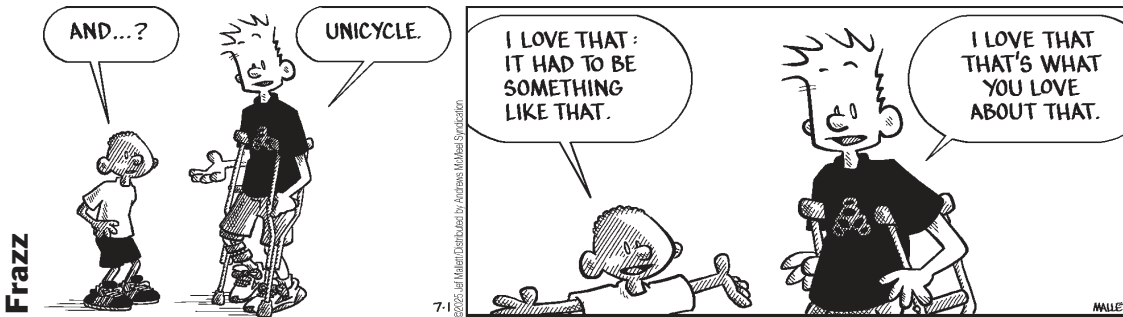
And while New York's assets and challenges are very different, its leaders must still manage them with policies that sustain vibrancy and growth, rather than ones that assume prosperity. Many New Yorkers rationalized voting for Mamdani by noting the city council and the state government would constrain him. Let's hope he is allowed to do damage only on the margins.

Should Mamdani become mayor, Democrats such as New York Gov. Kathy Hochul can lead the way in containing him, not least so he does not define their party. Their gubernatorial nominees in Virginia and New Jersey, Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherrill, respectively, would be much better representatives of a Democratic brand that still needs to buff out the rough edges of its left wing.

**Bizarro**



**Loose Parts**



**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30						31				32		
33					34				35			
			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

**ACROSS**

- 1 New corp. hires
- 5 Rockies hrs.
- 8 Dutch cheese
- 12 Bassoon relative
- 13 Not 'neath
- 14 Takeout order?
- 15 Salary parity
- 17 Pet food brand
- 18 Concorde, e.g.
- 19 "Shoo!"
- 20 Country store?
- 21 Sixth sense
- 22 "Humbug!"
- 23 Expire
- 26 Fuel dispenser
- 30 Gray's subj.
- 31 Archipelago part
- 32 Mosque leader
- 33 Advil alternative
- 35 Scruffs
- 36 Enervate
- 37 U.K. military fliers
- 38 Nodded off
- 41 Former Mideast gp.
- 42 Unpaid TV ad
- 45 Old money of Rome
- 46 "Beowulf," for one
- 48 Cupid's specialty
- 49 Texter's chuckle
- 50 Popular cookie
- 51 Mardi Gras wear
- 52 Connections
- 53 Sawbucks

**DOWN**

- 1 "The Simpsons" bar
- 2 Cookouts, briefly
- 3 Summer month, in Arles
- 4 Briny expanse
- 5 Clean a spill
- 6 Plane reservation
- 7 Sample
- 8 "La Vie en Rose" singer
- 9 Bargain
- 10 Mater lead-in
- 11 Disarray
- 16 Misplace
- 20 Small batteries
- 21 Colorado resort town
- 22 Howl at the moon
- 23 Back muscle, briefly

- 24 Whatever
- 25 Bud
- 26 Actress Gadot
- 27 Diamond arbiter
- 28 West of Hollywood
- 29 Evening hrs.
- 31 Police officer
- 34 D.C. baseballer
- 35 Traffic stopper
- 37 Train tracks
- 38 Grand — (four-run homer)
- 39 Peru's capital
- 40 Cupid's alias
- 41 Atop
- 42 Skin opening
- 43 Beheld
- 44 Hebrew prophet
- 46 Quarterback Manning
- 47 Cauldron

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

M	U	M		E	G	G		C	O	A	T		
A	B	E	T		F	L	U		O	U	Z	O	
S	E	R	A		S	O	L		L	I	T	E	
T	R	E	N	D		W	A	N	D				
				G	E	M		G	O	H	O	M	E
R	E	M	O	V	E	D		R	A	D	O	N	
E	L	I	A		D	A	M		R	I	O	T	
B	A	R	N	S		L	E	N	D	E	R	S	
A	N	O	D	E	S		H	O	C				
				C	E	N	T		W	A	V	E	D
G	A	G	A		O	A	T		S	E	G	O	
U	S	E	S		B	O	A		H	E	A	R	
S	E	T	H		S	S	S		R	N	A		

**7-1**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

TN PXEJB BKMMYUU OUPSYQ  
 AJJOM OBJNYMMTJVPUS, AY  
 XJKUQ IY XJVM TQYBYQ P  
 IPMFYEIPUU FKBE.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** "SESAME STREET" SONG ABOUT A WEB-FOOTED SWIMMER WHO LIKES TO FILCH THINGS: "ROBBER DUCKIE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

## FACES

## In the fast lane

Damson Idris arrives with starring role in 'F1'

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

**D**amson Idris was trying to tune out the noise, but that's a little difficult at a Formula One race.

The British-Nigerian actor was in the zone, in character, filming the high-octane summer movie "F1" with Brad Pitt at some of the world's most famous racetracks. While Idris' profile has been rising in recent years, after six seasons starring in the FX series "Snowfall," there's nothing like being next to globally famous Formula One drivers and a Hollywood megastar to put things into perspective. He was pretty sure he was going to coast under the radar.

Then he started hearing not just his own name from fans in the crowd but "Franklin Saint," too, the name of his drug kingpin character on "Snowfall."

"It's funny, because I see myself as a young actor who nobody knows," Idris, 33, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Anonymity may already be a thing of the past for Idris, though. In May, he made a splash at the Met Gala, arriving in a full racing suit (branded with "F1's" fictional team name, APXGP) and a Swarovski crystal-studded helmet that he and two ushers removed to reveal a second look underneath. The boldness and theatricality of the stunt made it one of the most-talked-about moments at an event where everyone is trying to stand out.

And things are poised to rev up even more now that "F1" is in theaters. Director Joseph Kosinski says he's pretty sure Idris is going to start hearing people shout "Joshua Pearce" at him, too.

That's the name of Idris' character, the hotshot rookie driver of the worst team on the circuit who's desperate to prove himself and hang on to one of the coveted seats.

"I'm very excited for people to see him own this character and go toe to toe with a giant movie star," Kosinski said. "I think he can do anything. He's just super talented, and I feel like I'm lucky to see him at the beginning of what's going to be a pretty stratospheric launch."

Idris tries to seek out projects that challenge him and characters who are as different as possible — from each other and, especially, from him. Joshua Pearce fit the bill in a moment when he was preparing to say goodbye to Franklin Saint. After he read the "F1" script, the character even infiltrated his dreams.

"I said to myself, 'Man, no one's going to be able to play this part like I will.' I remember writing Joe (Kosinski) a letter and telling him that," Idris said. "When we finally jumped in the cars for the first time, I was hooked. I was like, 'Yep this movie's mine. It's no one else's, and I can't wait to give my all to it.' And that's exactly what I did."

"F1" wouldn't just require playing a part. Both he and Pitt had to learn how to drive the cars at speeds of up to 180 mph. It took months of training behind the wheel the supervision of stunt drivers Luciano Bacheta and Craig Dolby, as well as physical training to adapt to the g-forces they'd feel in the car.

When it came time to film, which they did with special cameras attached to the cars, sometimes they were driving during breaks at real races with hundreds of thousands of spectators around. Every time you see Idris' or Pitt's face in the car, Kosinski said, they're really driving that car.

There's a bit of art-meets-life symmetry wrapped up in "F1," in which an up-and-comer teams up with a veteran. In the film, it's a reluctant pairing of two alphas. The mentorship is fraught, the lessons are hard-earned and the competition is not exactly friendly. Unlike Joshua, Idris is more than willing to get advice from those around



SCOTT A GARFITT, INVISION/AP

**Damson Idris arrives at the "F1" film premiere June 23 in London. "I think he can do anything," "F1" director Joseph Kosinski said of the British-Nigerian actor. "He's just super talented."**

him, whether it's producers like Jerry Bruckheimer and Jeremy Kleiner, his director Kosinski, or his co-stars, from Pitt to Javier Bardem.

"I speak to them every day and I ask for advice," he said. "The main focus is on stories, playing charac-

ters that I can be proud of and range. That's everything I'm setting out to do in this career."

Next up, Idris will prepare to portray Miles Davis in Bill Pohlad's "Miles & Juliette," about the jazz legend's romance with French singer Juliette Gréco.

## 'F1' debuts with \$55.6M

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

Apple has its first box-office hit. "F1 The Movie" debuted with \$55.6 million in North American theaters and \$144 million globally over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, handing the tech company easily its biggest opening yet.

Though Apple Original Films has had some notable successes in its six years in Hollywood — including the 2021 Oscar-winner "CODA" — its theatrical results have been decidedly mixed. Misfires like "Argylle" and "Fly Me to the Moon" and big-budget awards plays like Ridley Scott's "Napoleon" and Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" have been better at driving viewers to Apple TV+ than movie theaters.

But "F1" was Apple's first foray into summer blockbuster territory. It won a bidding war for the project from much of the production team behind the 2022 box-office smash "Top Gun: Maverick." Apple then partnered with Warner Bros. to distribute the film, which stars Brad Pitt, Damson Idris and Kerry Condon.

With a production budget over \$200 million, "F1" still has several laps to go to turn a profit.

Universal's "M3GAN 2.0" didn't come close to matching the 2022 original's box-office launch.

"M3GAN 2.0" collected \$10.2 million. Memes and viral videos helped propel the first "M3GAN" to a \$30.4 million opening and a total haul of \$180 million, all on a \$12 million budget.

"M3GAN 2.0" ended up in fourth place. The box-office leader of the last two weekends, "How to Train Your Dragon," slid to second with \$19.4 million. The DreamWorks Animation live-action hit from Universal Pictures has surpassed \$200 million domestically in three weeks.

After a debut that marked a new low for Pixar, the studio's "Elio" gathered up \$10.7 million in sales in its second weekend. That gives the Walt Disney Co. release a disappointing two-week start of \$42.2 million.

## Pascal says his community wouldn't let him give up on acting

By ANTHONY SOLORZANO  
Los Angeles Times

If you feel like Pedro Pascal is everywhere right now, it's because he kind of is.

The 50-year-old star of such critically acclaimed shows as "The Last of Us" and "The Mandalorian" — as well as the buzzy new A24 film "Materialists" — is now on the cover of the July/August issue of Vanity Fair.

In a heartfelt interview with contributor Karen Valby, he attributed his success as an actor to the assistance he took from "angels around him": his friends, family and even his late pit bull mix, Gretta, whom he



Pascal

grieved before his big break.

"In my 30s I was supposed to have a career," Pascal said to Vanity Fair. "Past 29 without a career meant that it was over, definitely."

After the death of his mom, the Chilean American, then 24, worked in restaurants and bars while trying to make it as an actor. Pascal often contemplated changing his career but was urged by his oldest sister, Javiera Balmaceda, to

stay on course.

"When Pedro would say, 'I'm going to nursing school' or 'I'm going to be a theater teacher,' it was just like 'No, no, no, no! You're too good!'" Balmaceda said.

"The one thing we'd never allow Pedro to do was give up," she added.

During this time, his friends would buy him groceries, Balmaceda would give him money to make it through the week, and his college friend, actor Sarah Paulson, would let him use her sister's car and give him her per diem money from her performing jobs.

Pascal also credited his dog with giving

him the excitement he was missing.

"[Gretta] saved my life, that dog, because she gave me someone to go home to," he said.

This year, the actor reprised his role as Joel Miller in the second season of HBO's hit series "The Last of Us" and starred in Celine Song's romance film "Materialists."

Pascal will cap off his packed summer by appearing alongside Joaquin Phoenix in Ari Aster's Western "Eddington" and enter the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Reed Richards, also known as Mister Fantastic, in "The Fantastic Four: First Steps."

# SCOREBOARD/HORSE RACING

## DEALS

### Sunday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**Major League Baseball**  
**MLB** — Suspended Pittsburgh RHP Denis Santana for three games.  
**American League**  
**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Selected the contract of RHP Matt Bowman from Norfolk (IL). Optioned RHP Kade Stroud to Norfolk. Reinstated RHP Luis F. Castillo from the minor league 7-day IL and designated him for assignment.  
**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — Reinstated RHP Jonathan Cannon from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Wikelman Gonzalez to Charlotte (IL). Placed OF Luis Robert Jr. on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 26.  
**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Reinstated RHP Marcus Stroman from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Allan Winans to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).  
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** — Recalled LHP Justin Bruihl from Buffalo (IL). Placed RHP Paxton Schultz on the 15-day IL. Sent RHP Yimi Garcia to Buffalo.  
**National League**  
**ATLANTA BRAVES** — Sent RHP Dabsbel Hernandez to Gwinnett (IL) on a rehab assignment.  
**CINCINNATI REDS** — Released INF Jeimer Candelario.  
**LOS ANGELES DODGERS** — Recalled RHP Noah Davis from Oklahoma City (PCL). Designated RHP Luis Garcia for assignment. Optioned RHP Edgardo Henriquez to Oklahoma City.  
**MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Sent RHP Brandon Woodruff to Nashville (IL) on a rehab assignment.  
**NEW YORK METS** — Agreed to terms with LHP Richard Lovelady on a one-year contract. Designated LHP Colin Poche for assignment. Sent LF Jesse Winker to Brooklyn (SAL) on a rehab assignment.  
**BASKETBALL**  
**National Basketball Association**  
**CHARLOTTE HORNETS** — Acquired G Collin Sexton and a 2030 second-round pick from Utah in exchange for C Jusuf Nurkic.  
**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Re-signed F Jaylin Williams to a veteran extension.  
**WASHINGTON WIZARDS** — Released F Anthony Gill.

## GOLF

### US Senior Open

**Sunday**  
**At Colorado Springs**  
**Purse: \$4M**  
**Yardage: 7,247; Par: 70**  
**Final Round**

P. Harrington, \$800,000	67-67-68-67—269-11
Stewart Cink, \$432,000	68-66-68-68—270-10
Miguel Jimenez, \$256,867	69-70-68-64—271-9
Thomas Bjorn, \$165,012	68-69-66-72—275-5
Mark Hensby, \$165,012	67-67-68-73—275-5
Steve Fleisch, \$132,975	69-70-67-70—276-4
Steven Alker, \$119,882	69-72-66-70—277-3
Paul Stankowski, \$107,369	73-67-67-71—278-2
Jason Caron, \$85,798	71-70-73-65—279-1
Cameron Percy, \$85,798	72-71-70-66—279-1
Tim Petrovic, \$85,798	71-73-69-66—279-1
Dicky Pride, \$85,798	70-72-70-67—279-1
Billy Andrade, \$65,026	69-69-70-72—280-E
Ernie Els, \$65,026	72-69-68-71—280-E
K. Miyamoto, \$65,026	72-70-67-71—280-E
Scott Hend, \$54,727	71-69-71-70—281+1
Fredrik Jacobson, \$54,727	68-72-71-70—281+1
Greg Chalmers, \$45,564	70-72-71-69—282+2
Darren Clarke, \$45,564	71-68-73-70—282+2
Stephen Gallacher, \$45,564	68-74-72-68—282+2
Kevin Sutherland, \$45,564	70-71-71-70—282+2

### Rocket Classic

**Sunday**  
**At Detroit**  
**Purse: \$9.6 million**  
**Yardage: 7,370; Par: 72**  
**Final Round**

Aldrich Potgieter, \$1,728,000	62-70-65-69—266-22
Max Greyserman, \$854,400	63-70-66-67—266-22
Chris Kirk, \$854,400	65-65-69-67—266-22
Jake Knapp, \$432,000	72-61-66-68—267-21
M. Thorbjornsen, \$432,000	65-67-68-67—267-21
Nicolas Echavarria, \$336,000	66-67-69-66—268-20
Jackson Suber, \$336,000	66-65-69-68—268-20
Matt Fitzpatrick, \$261,600	67-67-68-67—269-19
Thriston Lawrence, \$261,600	67-66-67-69—269-19
Collin Morikawa, \$261,600	69-64-68-68—269-19
Andrew Putnam, \$261,600	64-66-69-70—269-19
Kevin Roy, \$261,600	62-71-69-67—269-19
Ben Griffin, \$172,000	66-67-69-68—270-18
Harry Hall, \$172,000	66-67-68-69—270-18
Mark Hubbard, \$172,000	63-69-67-71—270-18
Min Woo Lee, \$172,000	63-73-68-66—270-18
Hideki Matsuyama, \$172,000	67-66-70-67—270-18
Chandler Phillips, \$172,000	70-68-65-67—270-18
Cameron Champ, \$117,984	68-69-66-68—271-17
Doug Ghim, \$117,984	68-66-68-69—271-17
Chan Kim, \$117,984	70-65-68-68—271-17
Matthew McCarty, \$117,984	67-67-69-68—271-17
Sami Valimaki, \$117,984	68-68-68-67—271-17
Harry Higgs, \$88,800	68-67-72-65—272-16
Nicolai Hojgaard, \$88,800	69-65-67-71—272-16

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

Western Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	12	5	3	39	41	25
Vancouver	11	3	5	38	35	19
Minn. United	9	4	7	34	33	23
Portland	8	5	6	30	28	27
Seattle	8	6	5	29	27	25
San Jose	7	7	6	27	40	32
LAFC	7	5	5	26	30	24
Colorado	7	8	5	26	23	28
Austin FC	7	8	5	26	15	23
Houston	6	9	5	23	25	31
FC Dallas	5	8	6	21	26	35
Sporting KC	5	10	5	20	31	37
Real Salt Lake	5	10	4	19	19	26
St Louis City	3	11	6	15	19	31
LA Galaxy	1	13	6	9	19	42

Eastern Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	12	4	4	40	35	20
Cincinnati	12	5	3	39	31	26
Nashville	11	4	5	38	36	23
Columbus	10	3	7	37	33	26
Orlando City	9	5	6	33	37	26
Inter Miami CF	8	3	5	29	36	27
New York	8	7	5	29	32	24
Chicago	8	7	4	28	38	34
NYC FC	8	7	4	28	24	21
Charlotte FC	8	11	1	25	32	34
New England	6	6	6	24	24	21
D.C. United	4	10	6	18	17	39
Toronto FC	4	10	5	17	22	25
Atlanta	4	10	5	17	22	37
CF Montréal	3	12	5	14	17	36

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

### Sunday's games

Columbus 1, Philadelphia 0  
 Vancouver 1, Los Angeles FC 0

### Thursday, July 3

Toronto FC at New York City FC

### Friday, July 4

Minnesota at FC Dallas  
 Sporting Kansas City at Colorado  
 Vancouver at LA Galaxy

### Saturday, July 5

Orlando City at Charlotte FC  
 Chicago at Cincinnati  
 Atlanta at D.C. United  
 Miami at CF Montréal  
 Los Angeles FC at Austin FC  
 Philadelphia at Nashville  
 St Louis City at Real Salt Lake  
 New England at Portland  
 Houston at San Diego FC  
 New York at San Jose

### Sunday, July 6

Columbus at Seattle

### Wednesday, July 9

Miami at New England  
 Colorado at Los Angeles FC

## NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	11	2	0	33	29	10
Orlando	8	4	1	25	20	10
San Diego	7	3	3	24	25	16
Washington	7	4	2	23	21	19
Portland	6	3	4	22	19	12
Seattle	6	4	3	21	17	13
Louisville	6	5	2	20	19	22
Gotham FC	5	5	3	18	18	13
North Carolina	5	5	3	18	18	20
Bay FC	4	6	3	15	14	17
Angel City	4	6	3	15	20	24
Houston	3	8	2	11	13	22
Chicago	1	9	3	6	10	27
Utah Royals FC	1	10	2	5	11	29

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

### Friday, August 1

Kansas City at Louisville  
 Gotham FC at Chicago  
 Angel City at Seattle

## AP SPORTLIGHT

### July 1

**1859** — Amherst defeats Williams 73-32 in the first intercollegiate baseball game. The game is played by Massachusetts Rules, a wide-open form of the sport commonly known as roundball and Amherst wins by reaching the pre-established score of 65 runs. Amherst exceeds 65-run limit during a 10-run 26th inning.  
**1995** — The NBA locks out its players at 12:01 a.m., the first work stoppage in league history.  
**1997** — The Nevada Athletic Commission suspends Mike Tyson indefinitely and withholds a \$20 million purse for biting Evander Holyfield's ear during their heavyweight title fight June 28.  
**2018** — LeBron James agrees to a four-year, \$154 million deal with the Los Angeles Lakers, ending his second stint with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

## AUTO RACING

### F1 Austrian Grand Prix

**Sunday**  
**At Red Bull Ring**  
**Spielberg, Austria**  
**Lap length: 4.00 kilometers**  
**(Start position in parentheses)**

- (1) Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 70 laps, 1:23:47.693, 25 points
- (3) Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 70, +2.695 seconds, 18
- (2) Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 70, +19.820, 15
- (4) Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Ferrari, 70, +29.020, 12
- (5) George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 70, +1:02.396, 10
- (6) Liam Lawson, New Zealand, Racing Bulls, 70, +1:07.754, 8
- (11) Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 69, 1L, 6
- (8) Gabriel Bortoleto, Brazil, KICK Sauber, 69, 1L, 4
- (20) Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, KICK Sauber, 69, 1L, 2
- (17) Esteban Ocon, France, Haas, 69, 1L, 1
- (15) Oliver Bearman, England, Haas, 69, 1L
- (13) Isack Hadjar, France, Racing Bulls, 69, 1L
- (10) Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine, 69, 1L
- (16) Lance Stroll, Canada, Aston Martin, 69, 1L
- (14) Franco Colapinto, Argentina, Alpine, 69, 1L
- (18) Yuki Tsunoda, Japan, Red Bull Racing, 68, 2L
- (12) Alexander Albon, Thailand, Williams, did not finish, 15
- (7) Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, did not finish, 0
- (9) Andrea Kimi Antonelli, Italy, Mercedes, did not finish, 0

### Driver standings

- Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 216 points
- Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 201
- Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 155
- George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 146
- Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 119
- Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Ferrari, 91
- Andrea Kimi Antonelli, Italy, Mercedes, 63
- Alexander Albon, Thailand, Williams, 42
- Esteban Ocon, France, Haas, 23
- Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, KICK Sauber, 22
- Isack Hadjar, France, Racing Bulls, 21
- Lance Stroll, Canada, Aston Martin, 14
- Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 14
- Carlos Sainz Jr., Spain, Williams, 13
- Liam Lawson, New Zealand, Racing Bulls, 12
- Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine, 11
- Yuki Tsunoda, Japan, Red Bull Racing, 10
- Oliver Bearman, England, Haas, 6
- Gabriel Bortoleto, Brazil, KICK Sauber, 4

### Manufacturers standings

- McLaren, 417
- Ferrari, 210
- Mercedes, 209
- Red Bull Racing, 162
- Williams, 55
- Racing Bulls, 36
- Haas, 29
- Aston Martin, 28
- KICK Sauber, 26
- Alpine, 11

## PRO BASKETBALL

### WNBA

Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	11	5	.688	—
Atlanta	11	6	.647	½
Indiana	8	8	.500	3
Washington	8	9	.471	3½
Chicago	5	11	.313	6
Connecticut	2	15	.118	9½

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	14	2	.875	—
Phoenix	12	5	.706	2½
Seattle	10	7	.588	4½
Golden State	9	7	.563	5
Las Vegas	8	8	.500	6
Los Angeles	5	12	.294	9½
Dallas	5	13	.278	10

### Sunday's games

Atlanta 90, New York 81  
 Chicago 92, Los Angeles 85  
 Las Vegas 84, Phoenix 81  
 Minnesota 102, Connecticut 63  
 Golden State 84, Seattle 57

### Monday's games

No games scheduled.

### Tuesday's game

Indiana at Minnesota



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

**Trainer D. Wayne Lukas looks on prior to his horse American Promise running in the Preakness on May 17 at Pimlico Race Course.**

# Lukas, Hall of Fame trainer, dies at 89

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
*Associated Press*

D. Wayne Lukas, the Hall of Famer who became one of the most accomplished trainers in the history of horse racing and a face of the sport for decades, has died. He was 89.

His family said Sunday that Lukas died Saturday night at his Louisville, Ky., home. Lukas had been hospitalized with a severe MRSA blood infection that caused significant damage to his heart and digestive system and worsened pre-existing chronic conditions.

“Wayne devoted his life not only to horses but to the industry — developing generations of horsemen and horsewomen and growing the game by inviting unsuspecting fans into the winner’s circle,” his family said in a statement. “Whether he was boasting about a maiden 2-year-old as the next Kentucky Derby winner or offering quiet words of advice before a big race, Wayne brought heart, grace and grit to every corner of the sport. His final days were spent at home in Kentucky, where he chose peace, family and faith.”

Lukas won 15 Triple Crown races, including the Kentucky Derby four times. Only his good friend Bob Baffert has more Triple Crown victories, and Lukas owns a record-tying 20 in the Breeders’ Cup World Championships.

“The whole secret of this game, I think, is being able to read the horse: Read what he needs, what he doesn’t need, what he can’t do, what he can do,” Lukas said in May before his 34th and final Preakness Stakes. “That’s the whole key. Everybody’s got the blacksmith, everybody’s got to the same bed available, the feed man. We all can hire a good jockey. We all can hire a pretty good exercise rider if we’ve got the means, so what the hell is the difference? The horse is the difference and

what we do with him in reading him.”

Lukas was affectionately known around the barns and the racetrack as “Coach” because he coached high school basketball before his professional career with horses began. Even with months to go before his 90th birthday, he would get up on his pony in the early morning hours and go out to the track himself, rather than letting his assistants do the day-to-day work.

Born Darnell Wayne Lukas on Sept. 2, 1935, in Wisconsin as the second of three children, he rose to prominence in the sport with quarter horses in races that are effectively sprints. He moved into thoroughbreds in the late 1970s and won his first Preakness with Codex in 1980.

Lukas has 4,967 documented victories in thoroughbred racing, with his horses earning more than \$310 million from more than 30,600 starts.

“Today we lost one of the great champions of Churchill Downs and one of the most significant figures in Thoroughbred racing over the last 50 years,” Churchill Downs Inc. CEO Bill Carstanjen said. “We will miss his humor, his wisdom and his unmatched capacity to thrill the fans with the performances of his horses on our sport’s biggest days.”

Achieving something of a career renaissance over the past decade, one he credits to finding the right owners willing to spend money on horses, Lukas won the Preakness last year with Seize the Grey. Asked what motivates him to keep doing his job well into his late 80s, he gave a pep talk fit for a locker room before a big game.

“If you have a passion, you eliminate all the excuses,” Lukas said. “That’s how it works. You get up early. You go without a meal. You drive. You go without sleep — as long as you got the passion.”

MLB

ROUNDUP

# Garver's HR in 12th lifts Mariners

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas— Mitch Garver hit a two-run homer in the 12th and drove in four runs, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Texas Rangers 6-4 on Sunday to win a series in which all three games went to extra innings.

Seattle took a 3-1 lead in the 10th on RBI singles by Donovan Solano and Garver, but Corey Seager's two-run shot pulled Texas even. The Mariners won the series opener 7-6 in 12 before dropping the middle game 3-2 in 10.

It was the first time three games in the same series for the Rangers went to extra innings since all four at Seattle in September 2002. The Mariners won the first three games of that series before Texas took the finale.

Solano put Seattle ahead 4-3 in the 12th on a groundout that third baseman Josh Jung couldn't get out of his glove, allowing automatic runner Luke Raley to score. On the next pitch from Cole Winn (0-1), Garver's fourth homer went 437 feet into the second deck in left field.

Seager's tying homer was his 10th, an opposite field shot to left center off Carlos Vargas.

Trent Thornton (2-0) gave up Seager's sacrifice fly in the 10th, striking out two in his two innings.

**Phillies 2, Braves 1:** Ranger Suárez pitched seven strong innings and visiting Philadelphia edged Atlanta to take the three-game series.

Suárez (7-2) gave up just one run on four hits. He struck out eight, walked one and lowered his ERA to 2.00.

Otto Kemp's double into the left field corner in the fifth inning scored Bryson Scott from first, and Kemp scored on Trea Turner's sacrifice fly to center to give the Phillies a 2-1 lead.

**Yankees 12, Athletics 5:** Aaron Judge homered twice to reach 30 and Jazz Chisholm Jr. also drove in four runs as Marcus Stroman won in his first start for host New York since April with a win over the Athletics.

Judge hit two-run homers in the fourth inning off Luis Severino and in the seventh against Tyler Ferguson for his 44th multi-homer game. Cody Bellinger added a three-run drive for the Yankees.

Stroman (1-1), who had been sidelined by left knee inflammation, won for the first time since last Aug. 30. He allowed three hits, including Willie MacIver's fifth-inning homer.

**Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 3:** Addison Barger and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered on consecutive pitches from Walker Buehler in the first inning and visiting Toronto capitalized on the right-hander's wildness to add two runs in the fourth in a win over Boston.

Andrés Giménez and Nathan Lukes each had an RBI single as the Blue Jays took two of three games in the weekend series and improved to 7-3 against the Red Sox this season.

Buehler (5-6), is 1-4 with a 7.80 ERA in his last six starts.

**Astros 2, Cubs 0:** Jose Altuve hit a two-run homer, Framber Valdez tossed six shutout innings and host Houston beat Chicago.

Altuve's 13th home run of the season broke a scoreless tie in the fifth inning. It was his first extra base hit in 34 at bats.

Valdez (9-4) struck out six while allowing five hits and two walks. Only one man reached third base against him.

**Reds 3, Padres 2:** Cincinnati's Will Benson hit a bases-loaded single off San Diego closer Robert Suarez in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift the Reds to a victory.



Seattle Mariners catcher Mitch Garver tosses his bat as he watches the flight of his two-run home run during the 12th inning against the Rangers in Arlington, Texas, on Sunday.

SMILEY N. POOL/AP

Cincinnati's Elly De La Cruz led off the ninth with an infield single. He scored the tying run on a one-out single by Spencer Steer, and after Jose Trevino singled to load the bases, Benson ripped a single down the right-field line for his third hit of the game to score Gavin Lux.

It was the third walk-off win of the year for the Reds and the second of their six-game homestand.

**Rockies 4, Brewers 3 (11):** Orlando Arcia hit a tying home run with two outs in the ninth inning, Kyle Farmer drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the 11th and visiting Colorado beat Milwaukee.

Arcia's solo shot off Brewers closer Trevor Megill was just his second of the season.

Farmer singled off Grant Anderson (1-3) to score automatic runner Brenton Doyle as the Rockies rallied with a run in each of the last four innings after they were shut out in the previous 16.

**Pirates 12, Mets 1:** Oneil Cruz hit a pair of two-run homers, Tommy Pham and Bryan Reynolds also went deep and host Pittsburgh beat New York to complete a three-game sweep.

Cruz ended a 14-game homerless drought and highlighted a five-run outburst off Frankie Montas (0-1) in the first inning. After strikeouts in his next two at-bats, Cruz hit his team-leading 15th homer in the seventh inning to extend the Pirates' lead to nine runs.

**Dodgers 5, Royals 1:** Kiké Hernández hit a two-run homer, Will Smith also went deep and visiting Los Angeles got a dominant performance from Justin Wroblewski and the rest of its bullpen in a rain-delayed victory over Kansas City.

Wroblewski (4-2) pitched six innings of three-hit ball, helping the Dodgers win for the sixth time in seven games.

**Nationals 7, Angels 4 (11):** CJ Abrams' two-run triple capped a three-run 11th inning, and Washington's James Wood became the sixth player in MLB history to be intentionally walked four times as the visiting Nationals beat Los Angeles.

Daylen Lile led off the 11th with a single off Connor Brogdon (1-1) and automatic runner Brady House advanced to third. Drew Miles doubled and drove in the go-ahead run before Abrams tripled, giving Washington its first series win Anaheim since 2005 — its first season after relocating from Montreal.

**Tigers 3, Twins 0:** Tarik Skubal struck out 13 in seven innings and host Detroit beat Minnesota.

Skubal (10-2) only allowed one hit — a clean single to right by Ty France in the fifth inning — as he improved to 10-0 with a 1.74 ERA in his last 15 starts. The strikeouts matched Skubal's career high.

**Cardinals 7, Guardians 0:** Nolan Gorman belted a three-run homer, Victor Scott II had a two-run shot and Matthew Liberatore won his career-high third straight start as visiting St. Louis rolled over Cleveland.

The Cardinals have won six straight on the road, their longest run under fourth-year manager Oliver Marmol. St. Louis completed its initial series sweep of the Guardians by a 21-6 margin in the three-game set.

**Orioles 5, Rays 1:** Dean Kremer allowed three singles in seven scoreless innings and host Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

Kremer (7-7) struck out six and walked one. He has surrendered just two runs in his last three starts covering 17⅓ innings and finished seven for the fourth time in 16 starts.

**White Sox 5, Giants 2:** Kyle Teel hit a go-ahead, two-run double with the bases loaded in the seventh and host Chicago beat San Francisco to keep Justin Verlander winless in 13 starts.

Jonathan Cannon and five relievers combined to strike out 11. Tyler Gilbert (2-1) struck out two in an inning for the win. Mike Vasil pitched around a walk in the ninth for his second save.

**Marlins 6, Diamondbacks 4:** Otto Lopez hit a go-ahead, two-run single and Kyle Stowers added a three-run double during an eighth-inning rally and visiting Miami completed a three-game sweep of Arizona.

The Marlins have won seven in a row.

## Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	48	35	.578	—
Tampa Bay	47	37	.560	1½
Toronto	45	38	.542	3
Boston	41	44	.482	8
Baltimore	36	47	.434	12

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	53	32	.624	—
Cleveland	40	42	.488	11½
Minnesota	40	44	.476	12½
Kansas City	39	45	.464	13½
Chicago	28	56	.333	24½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	50	34	.595	—
Seattle	43	40	.518	6½
Los Angeles	41	42	.494	8½
Texas	41	43	.488	9
Athletics	34	52	.395	17

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	49	35	.583	—
New York	48	37	.565	1½
Atlanta	38	45	.458	10½
Miami	37	45	.451	11
Washington	35	49	.417	14

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	49	35	.583	—
Milwaukee	47	37	.560	2
St. Louis	47	38	.553	2½
Cincinnati	44	40	.524	5
Pittsburgh	35	50	.412	14½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	53	32	.624	—
San Diego	45	38	.542	7
San Francisco	45	39	.536	7½
Arizona	41	42	.494	11
Colorado	19	65	.226	33½

Sunday's games	
Seattle 6, Texas 4, 12 innings	Philadelphia 2, Atlanta 1
N.Y. Yankees 12, Athletics 5	Toronto 5, Boston 3
Houston 2, Chicago Cubs 0	Cincinnati 3, San Diego 2
Colorado 4, Milwaukee 3, 11 innings	Pittsburgh 12, N.Y. Mets 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Kansas City 1	Washington 7, L.A. Angels 4, 11 innings
Detroit 3, Minnesota 0	St. Louis 7, Cleveland 0
Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 1	Chicago White Sox 5, San Francisco 2
Miami 6, Arizona 4	

Monday's games	
San Diego at Philadelphia	St. Louis at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto	Cincinnati at Boston
Athletics at Tampa Bay	Baltimore at Texas
Kansas City at Seattle	San Francisco at Arizona

Tuesday's games	
N.Y. Yankees (Fried 10-2) at Toronto (Gausman 6-6)	San Diego (Pivetta 8-2) at Philadelphia (Sanchez 6-2)
St. Louis (Pallante 5-4) at Pittsburgh (Skenes 4-7)	Minnesota (Ryan 8-3) at Miami (Cabrera 2-2)
Detroit (Flaherty 5-9) at Washington (Williams 3-9)	Athletics (Springs 6-6) at Tampa Bay (Baz 8-3)
Cincinnati (Singer 7-6) at Boston (Fitts 0-3)	Milwaukee (Peralta 8-4) at N.Y. Mets (Holmes 8-4)
L.A. Angels (Anderson 2-5) at Atlanta (Fuentes 0-2)	Cleveland (Williams 5-3) at Chicago Cubs (Boyd 7-3)
Baltimore (Morton 4-7) at Texas (deGrom 8-2)	Houston (Gordon 3-1) at Colorado (Dolander 2-8)
Kansas City (Lorenzen 4-8) at Seattle (Hancock 3-4)	San Francisco (Birdsong 3-2) at Arizona (Gallen 5-9)
Chicago White Sox (Smith 3-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 7-6)	

Calendar	
July 12	— Futures Game, Atlanta.
July 13-15	— Amateur draft, Atlanta.
July 14	— Home Run Derby, Atlanta.
July 15	— All-Star Game, Atlanta.
July 27	— Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
July 31	— Last day during the season to trade a player, 6 p.m. EDT

## NHL

# Bruins re-sign Geekie to 6-year, \$33M deal

BY JOHN WAWROW  
Associated Press

Boston forward Morgan Geekie was rewarded for his breakout season with a six-year, \$33 million contract, the team announced Sunday night.

The 26-year-old had career highs of 33 goals and 57 points in 77 games while completing the two-year contract he signed when he joined the Bruins. Geekie has five full NHL seasons of experience and was eligible to become a restricted free agent once the league's signing period opens Tuesday.

In other moves around the NHL on Sunday, veteran Senators forward Claude Giroux is staying put in Ottawa for one more season, and Blue Jackets defenseman Dante Fabbro has a new four-year contract that keeps him in Columbus.

Nashville acquired defenseman Nicolas Hague in a three-player trade that sent center Colton Sissons and defenseman Jeremy Lauzon to the Vegas Golden Knights, a person with knowledge of the deal confirmed to the Associated Press.

In completing the trade, the Predators also agreed to sign Hague to a four-year \$22 million contract, the person added and spoke on the condition of anonymity because the trade has not been announced. TSN first reported the trade taking place.

Elsewhere, forward Conor Sheary's tenure in Tampa Bay is ending after the Lightning placed him on unconditional waivers for the purpose of terminating his contract.

Geekie signed with Boston in free agency two years ago and



KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

**The Bruins' Morgan Geekie, center, celebrates his goal with teammates against the Carolina Hurricanes in Raleigh, N.C., on March 6. Boston rewarded Geekie with a six-year, \$33 million contract.**

found a niche this season playing on a line with David Pastrnak and Elias Lindholm. Geekie has 50 goals and 95 points in 153 games with the Bruins after combining for 25 goals and 67 points in 142 games for Carolina and Seattle.

Boston also re-signed center Marat Khunsnutdinov and defenseman Michael Callahan earlier Sunday.

The Senators announced resigning the 37-year-old Giroux to a one-year, \$2 million contract that features an additional \$2.75 million in incentives.

Giroux has 18 seasons of NHL experience including his first 15 in

Philadelphia, where he served as captain. Last season, he had 15 goals and 35 assists in 81 games to reach 50 points for the 13th time as he helped guide Ottawa to its first playoff appearance in eight years.

"Claude brings veteran leadership and a competitive edge to our group and has been a consistent presence on and off the ice," Senators general manager Steve Staios said.

The Blue Jackets locked up Fabbro with a four-year, \$16.5 million contract. Columbus acquired the 27-year-old by claiming him in November after Nashville placed him on waivers.

Fabbro finished the season with a career-high 26 points (nine goals, 17 assists) in 62 games with the Blue Jackets after getting no points in six games with the Predators.

Tampa Bay is parting ways with Sheary. The 10th-year player was limited to five games with the Lightning last season while spending most of his time in the minors because of the team's salary cap constraints. The 33-year-old Sheary had one more year left on his three-year contract and was due to make \$2 million next season.

Sheary won Stanley Cups during each of his first two NHL sea-

sons with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2016 and '17. He signed with Tampa Bay as a free agent two years ago, and finished with four goals and 15 points in 62 games with the Lightning. He also played for Buffalo and Washington, and has 124 goals and 267 points in 593 games.

If unclaimed, Sheary will become a free agent.

Avalanche forward Jonathan Drouin's agent, Allan Walsh, announced on X that his client will pursue free agency Tuesday. The 30-year-old Drouin completed his one-year contract after two seasons in Colorado, during which he combined for 30 goals and 93 points in 122 games.

The Kraken placed forward Joe Veleno on unconditional waivers to buy out the final year of his contract. Veleno was due to make \$2.275 million.

Veleno has five seasons of NHL experience and was acquired by Seattle last week in a trade that sent forward Andre Burakovsky to Chicago. The 25-year-old Veleno spent his first four-plus NHL seasons in Detroit, and has 38 goals and 81 points in 306 games.

Anaheim maintained its depth at goalie by signing Ville Husso to a two-year extension. The 30-year-old provides the Ducks insurance behind projected starter Lukas Dostal and Petr Mrazek, who was acquired in a trade that sent John Gibson to the Pistons on Saturday.

Husso has a record of 71-46-19 and went 1-1-1 in four appearances with Anaheim last season after being acquired in a trade with Detroit in February. Husso spent the rest of his time with the Ducks in the minors.

## Frenzy: Teams expecting unpredictable free agency period

FROM PAGE 24

old's rights from the Maple Leafs and sign him before anyone else gets the chance.

Beyond him, Mikael Granlund was the highest-producing player in 2024-25 with 66 points, and Nikolaj Ehlers averaged 0.91 game. Florida could re-sign Brad Marchand and Aaron Ekblad to aid in the three-peat bid, with one of them possibly departing, and Detroit Red Wings GM Steve Yzerman still hopes to bring back Patrick Kane.

Ehlers, fellow winger Brock Boeser and defensemen Vladislav Gavrikov and Ivan Provorov could be among the highest earners in a free agent class that was weakened by so many stars re-upping ahead of time.

"Anybody can go look at the list of potential free agents and see there aren't that many and players that you would think will have an

impact," Yzerman said Saturday. "There are very few this year, for whatever reason."

Do not figure Tampa Bay, with all its core players under contract, will be involved.

"I do expect us to be quiet," two-time Cup-winning Lightning GM Julien BriseBois said. "I want to manage expectations. I don't expect anything from us — certainly nothing major."

Same for the Panthers, who have to fill out some spots but have already built a consistent winner around Matthew Tkachuk, Aleksander Barkov and Sam Reinhart. Tons of teams in the Eastern Conference are trying to chase them down, while the West is wide open from Dallas and Colorado to two-time defending conference champion Edmonton looking to improve.

Grier's Sharks, the Ducks and Blue Jackets have the most cap

space available. Columbus GM Don Waddell said he and his counterparts are well aware of the cap going up, joking that just about every agent he talks to brings it up.

"There's more money in the market, obviously, this year with the cap going up like it is, and it's going to continue over the next multiple years the way the cap is structured right now," Waddell said.

It looked like Utah would be a major factor, and then the Mammoth made their big splash trading for and signing young, high-scoring winger JJ Peterka from the Buffalo Sabres. They're trying to make the playoffs in their second season in Salt Lake City without hurting the long-term future prospects of competing for a championship.

"We do have to be smart about it," GM Bill Armstrong said. "You see those teams last year that they won the summer. They crushed it.

They didn't win the winter."

Connor McDavid, the undisputed best hockey player on the planet, is eligible to sign an extension with the Oilers this summer. What he makes could set the bar for the rest of the league.

Until that happens, it's anyone's guess what the prices will be at various roles and ages.

"It feels like you call an agent, he tells you, 'This is where we're at,' and so, OK. That's the number," Washington Capitals GM Chris Patrick said with a chuckle. "I think we all have to maybe change our gauge on what a second-liner used to make in the old cap. Now it's going to be a different number."

Revenues rising and pushing the cap to new heights is a brave, new world for the NHL after only marginal increases since the pandemic. The league and union agreed to extend the collective bargaining agreement, international play is

back on a regular basis and labor peace expected through 2030 has everyone around the sport feeling good.

Those in charge of spending to build rosters are trying hard to be careful and not get caught up in the free agent frenzy.

"Every time the cap goes up, sometimes you get antsy because I really want the players, but you have to stay true to your process and knowing what value you attribute to and what cap number you attribute every player and stick to your way because a decision that was good today could hurt you down the road," New York Islanders GM Mathieu Darche said.

"You have to be smart and diligent in the signings. But of course it will be exciting. Players are excited the cap is going up. Trust me, agents are excited right now. But you still have to be disciplined in what you do."

## NBA/SOCCER

## NBA BRIEFS

## Source: Randle, Wolves finalizing 3-year deal that could reach \$100M

Associated Press

Julius Randle and the Minnesota Timberwolves are finalizing a new deal that could keep him with the club through the 2027-28 season, a person with knowledge of the agreement said Sunday.

The final year of the deal will be at Randle's option and, if it is exercised, could push the total value of the contract to \$100 million, the person said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side announced the agreement. ESPN and The Athletic first reported the agreement.

Randle had a \$30.9 million player option for next season and could have been an unrestricted free agent in 2026.

He averaged 18.7 points and 7.1 rebounds per game last season, his first with the Timberwolves, and helped the team make the Western Conference finals. Randle was one of the primary pieces in the trade last fall that sent Karl-Anthony Towns from Minnesota to New York. Randle had spent five seasons with the Knicks before that trade.

### James formally opts in for record 23rd season

LeBron James is exercising his \$52.6 million option with the Los Angeles Lakers for 2025-26, further confirming that he will become the first player in NBA history to play a 23rd season, a person with knowledge of the decision said Sunday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither James nor the team announced the decision publicly.

ESPN and The Athletic were among those to first report the decision.

James, who recently returned to on-court workouts after taking several weeks to recover after

spraining a knee ligament in the Lakers' final game of this past season's playoffs, told the AP earlier this month that he expected to be ready for training camp. That was an obvious sign he planned on returning for a 23rd year, one in which he'll break a tie with Vince Carter for longest NBA career by a player.

### Beasley reportedly probed over gambling allegations

DETROIT — NBA free agent Malik Beasley is under investigation by the U.S. District Attorney's office regarding gambling allegations tied to league games, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the matter.

"We are cooperating with the federal prosecutors' investigation," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said in a statement released to the AP and other outlets on Sunday.

ESPN was the first to report on the investigation.

"There have been no charges against Malik," Steve Haney, Beasley's attorney, told the AP. "It's just an investigation at this point. We hope people reserve judgment until he's charged — or if he's charged. It's not uncommon for there to be a federal investigation."

In other news:

■ Bobby Portis, one of the league's top reserves, declined his player option for next season and instead agreed to a three-year, \$44 million contract to remain with the Milwaukee Bucks, agent Mark Bartelstein confirmed Sunday.

■ The Charlotte Hornets acquired guard Collin Sexton from the Utah Jazz for center Jusuf Nurkic and a future second-round draft pick, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Sunday.



MATT KROHN/AP

Minnesota forward Julius Randle helped lead the Timberwolves to the Western Conference finals in his first season with the team.



JEFF WHEELER, STAR TRIBUNE/AP

United States goalkeeper Matthew Freese grabs a corner kick after Costa Rica defender Francisco Calvo (15) missed heading it in the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinals match Sunday in Minneapolis.

# US advances to Gold Cup semifinals on penalty kicks

By DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Damion Downs scored in the sixth round of a shootout after three saves by Matt Freese, sending the United States to the semifinals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup with a 4-3 penalty-kicks win over Costa Rica after a 2-2 tie Sunday night.

The U.S. advanced to a Wednesday matchup in St. Louis against Guatemala, which upset Canada on penalty kicks in the opener of the quarterfinal doubleheader.

"They showed today great character," U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino said.

Freese batted away shootout attempts by Juan Pablo Vargas, Francisco Calvo and Andy Rojas.

"Penalties are my thing," Freese said. "On the plane ride over here to Minnesota I was studying the penalties and I've been studying them all week."

Mexico plays Honduras in the other semifinal Wednesday in Santa Clara, Calif. The championship is in Houston on July 6.

The U.S. has reached the semifinals in 17 of 18 Gold Cups, including 13 straight since a penalty-kicks loss to Colombia in a 2000 quarterfinal.

Diego Luna and Max Arfsten scored in regulation for the No. 16 U.S., which faced its highest-ranked opponent of the tournament in Costa Rica (54th) after breezing through the group stage with an 8-1 goal differential.

Alonso Martinez scored the tying goal for the Ticos in the 71st minute with a left-footed shot after Carlos Mora split Luca de La Torre and Arfsten to take a shot on Freese and seize the rebound to set up Martinez.

CONCACAF changed the rules for this edition of the biennial championship for North America, Central America and the Caribbean, eliminating extra time except for the championship game.

John Tolkin had the first chance to win the shootout for the U.S. Keylor Navas knocked down his try in the fifth round.

Freese then denied Rojas with a diving hand, climbing to his feet while nodding his head and sticking out his tongue toward his cheering teammates at midfield. That set up the winner by the 20-year-old Downs.

Missing the tournament for the U.S. are regulars Christian Pulisic, Yunus Musah, Weston McKen-

nie, Tim Weah, Gio Reyna, Antonee Robinson, Folarin Balogun and Sergiño Dest, due to a variety of reasons from injuries to rest to Club World Cup commitments.

The Ticos played without four key players. Forward Manfred Ugalde, who had three goals in the tournament, and midfielder Carlos Mora were suspended for yellow-card accumulation. Defender Ariel Lassiter (broken left hand) and forward Warren Madrigal (broken left leg) were sidelined by injuries.

Three of Costa Rica's six goals during the group stage came by penalty kick, and Calvo added another one in the 12th minute after a foul by Arfsten. Calvo went low to zip the ball just out of reach of a diving Freese.

Malik Tillman put a 37th-minute penalty kick off a post and Navas knocked away Arfsten's attempt off the rebound.

Luna scored his first international goal in the 43rd by rocketing a shot off the chest of defender Alexis Gamboa. Tillman made amends for his miss early in the second half by poking a pass ahead for Arfsten, who surged in from a wing to send the ball into the opposite corner for a 2-1 lead.

## WIMBLEDON/NFL/AUTO RACING

# Alcaraz pushed to 5 sets before topping Fognini

BY HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

LONDON — Two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz needed to go through more than 4½ hours of back-and-forth shifts against a much-older and much-less-accomplished Fabio Fognini at Centre Court before emerging with a 7-5, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 victory in the first round of Wimbledon on Monday.

The No. 2-seeded Alcaraz had a much tougher time than anyone likely expected before he managed to extend his current winning streak to a career-best 19 matches.

Consider, to begin with, that Alcaraz is 22 and already a five-time Grand Slam champion, including his latest at the French Open three weeks ago.

Consider, too, that Fognini is 38, plans to retire after this season, has never been past the third round at the All England Club in 15 appearances and reached the quarterfinals at any major tournament just once — way back at the 2011 French Open. He also entered Monday ranked 138th and with an 0-6 record in 2025.

Oh, and then there's this: Only twice has the reigning men's champion at Wimbledon been beaten in the first round the following year, Lleyton Hewitt in 2003 and Manuel Santana in 1967.

There were times Monday when Alcaraz appeared to be something less than his best, far from the form he displayed during his epic five-set, 5½-hour comeback victory over No. 1 Jannik Sinner for the championship at Roland-Garros.

He double-faulted nine times. He faced a hard-to-believe 21 break points. He made more unforced errors, 62, than winners, 52.

There was a moment where Alcaraz looked toward his coach, 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, and shouted something about how Fognini looked as if he could keep playing until he's 50.

When Alcaraz pushed a forehand long to cede the fourth set, Fognini nodded toward his guest box, where a member of his entourage stood to snap a photo with a cellphone. Things were picture-perfect for Fognini at that moment.

But at the outset of the fifth — the first time the previous year's male champ was pushed that far in the first round since Roger Federer in 2010 — Alcaraz recalibrated himself.

When the Spaniard broke to lead 2-0 in the last set with a backhand volley winner, he pointed toward the stands, threw an uppercut and screamed, "Vamos!" In



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

**Carlos Alcaraz of Spain celebrates after winning the third set against Fabio Fognini of Italy during their first round singles match at Wimbledon on Monday. The defending champ needed five sets to advance.**

the next game, he saved a pair of break points, before the match was paused for more than 10 minutes because a spectator felt ill amid record-breaking high temperatures for Day 1 of Wimbledon.

When they resumed, Alcaraz continued to impose himself and outplay Fognini the rest of the way.

The heat was so bad that two-time Wimbledon runner-up Ons Jabeur retired during her first-round match because of difficulty breathing, the latest issue for her during an injury-filled season.

Jabeur, a 30-year-old from Tunisia, quit playing while trailing Viktoriya Tomova 7-6 (5), 2-0.

Jabeur was visited by a trainer for a medical timeout in the first set. At one point, she sat on her sideline seat and cried into a towel.

Also on Monday, ninth-seeded Daniil Medvedev fell out of another Grand Slam tournament in the first round after losing to 64th-ranked Benjamin Bonzi 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

A semifinalist at the All England Club the last two years, Medvedev also exited the French Open in the first round.

# Dolphins, Steelers swapping All-Pros

Pittsburgh trades CB Ramsey, TE Smith for safety Fitzpatrick

BY ALANIS THAMES  
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — The Dolphins are sending All-Pro cornerback Jalen Ramsey, Pro Bowl tight end Jonnu Smith and a 2027 seventh-round draft pick to the Pittsburgh Steelers in exchange for All-Pro safety Minkah Fitzpatrick and a 2027 fifth-round pick.

Ramsey announced the trade Monday in a post on his X account. Both his representation and Miami, where he spent the past two seasons, had mutually agreed earlier this year to part ways.

Neither Ramsey nor the Dolphins gave any insight into what went wrong. Miami general manager Chris Grier said in April that Ramsey did not ask for a trade or for more money, but after weeks of conversations with Ramsey's representation, both sides agreed it would be best to potentially move on.

A person familiar with the trade confirmed the Dolphins will get Fitzpatrick, who returns to the team that drafted him 11th overall in 2018. He had been displeased with his role in Miami and requested a trade before being sent to Pittsburgh in 2019.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the teams have not made an official announcement. The terms have been agreed upon and are pending physicals.

Smith had one of the best years of his career in his lone season with the Dolphins after signing a two-year deal as a free agent ahead of the 2024 season.

The veteran tight end hoped that his career-best 884-yard, 8-touchdown season might lead to a pay increase with Miami, where he preferred to stay.

Trading Fitzpatrick, who emerged as one of the NFL's premier safeties in his six seasons with the Steelers, likely could free up money for Pittsburgh to resign star linebacker TJ Watt, who is in the last year of his deal and skipped the offseason program as he seeks a new contract.

# Norris holds off Piastri to win Austrian GP

Associated Press

SPIELBERG, Austria — In the week when the "F1" movie hit theaters, Formula 1 delivered some real-life cinematic moments.

Teammates fought for the lead and came close to colliding as Lando Norris held off a race-long challenge from his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to win the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday and lift his title hopes.

Norris and Piastri battled for the lead early on, with the Australian briefly into the lead before Norris took the position back. A rash lunge by Piastri nearly caused a collision soon after.

Piastri lost ground at the pit stops and was run wide onto the grass by Alpine's Franco Colapinto while cutting through traffic. He soon made up ground on Norris, but couldn't get close enough to try another overtake.

Over the radio, Norris called it a "beautiful one-two" finish for the team.

"We had a great battle, that's for



DARKO BANDIC/AP

**McLaren driver Lando Norris leads the race in front of teammate Oscar Piastri during the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday.**

sure," he added later. "A lot of stress, but a lot of fun. A nice battle, so well done to Oscar."

They next head to Norris' home race July 6 in Britain, the halfway point of the season.

More than ever this season, the title fight focuses on the two

McLarens after defending champion Max Verstappen was hit by Kimi Antonelli on the opening lap, ending his race.

Overall leader Piastri leads second-placed Norris by 15 points, with Verstappen still third but now 61 off the lead. He told broad-

caster Sky Sports after the race that he hoped the incident would at least mean fewer questions about his title chances.

Two weeks after Norris apologized to McLaren for colliding with Piastri in Canada, it was Piastri's turn to say sorry to the team for a near-collision between the two drivers Sunday. The Australian also said he regretted not making more of his few seconds in the lead earlier in the race.

"I hope it was good watching because it was pretty hard work from the car," Piastri said. "I tried my absolute best and probably could have done a better job when I just got ahead momentarily."

Piastri added later that he was "probably pushing the limits a bit much from my side once or twice but we're fighting for race wins in Formula 1. It's going to be pretty tough."

Charles Leclerc was third for his third podium finish in four races, with his Ferrari teammate Lewis Hamilton fourth.

# SPORTS



## Shootout success

US men advance to Gold Cup semis on penalty kicks » Soccer, Page 22

NHL

# FREE AGENCY FRENZY



ADRIAN KRAUS/AP

Maple Leafs right wing Mitch Marner skates during the third period against the Sabres in Buffalo, N.Y., in December. Marner and the Vancouver Canucks' Brock Boeser (below) are two of the high-profile names heading into free agency, though Marner could return to Toronto before it starts.

## Salary cap jump fuels unpredictable market

BY STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

NHL teams have a whole lot of money to spend in free agency with the salary cap getting the biggest increase in its existence, and a bunch of players will cash in when the clock strikes noon Tuesday.

The cap is jumping \$7.5 million from \$88 million to \$95.5 million, with that number set to exceed \$100 million a year from now. Already back-to-back Stanley Cup champion Florida re-signed playoff MVP Sam Bennett, and 100-point scorer Mitch Marner

could also be locked up long term before hitting the market.

That sets the stage for an unpredictable free agent period, with a lack of franchise-changing talent available but plenty of competition around the league, from rivals challenging the Panthers' crown and teams trying to just make the playoffs to those looking to make the leap sometime in the coming years.

"I think it'll be busy," San Jose Sharks general manager Mike Grier said. "You have some teams that are coming out of their rebuild. You got some teams that want to take the next step as far as playoffs-

wise, stuff like that. And you have maybe a situation where it's not the strongest free agent class. So I think you have to kind of combine all these things with the cap going up."

Marner would be the headliner, leaving Toronto for a change of scenery after nearly a decade of regular season success mixed with playoff futility. He's coming off setting career highs with 75 assists and 102 points but also has just 13 goals to show for 70 career postseason games, and the Vegas Golden Knights could acquire the 28-year-

SEE FRENZY ON PAGE 21



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

### \$95.5M

The amount of the NHL salary cap, an increase of \$7.5 million from the \$88 million cap last

## Dolphins trade 2 to Steelers for Fitzpatrick » NFL, Page 23

