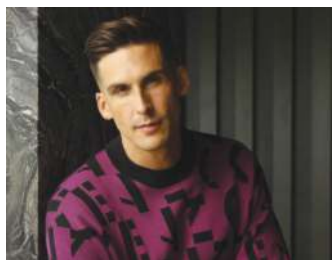


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AFGHANISTAN

PHOTOS BY AHMAD HALABISAZ/AP

A Taliban fighter checks documents after an explosion Tuesday in Kabul, Afghanistan. An explosion went off at the entrance of a military hospital, killing several people and wounding over a dozen, health officials said.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

DOD mulls penalties for vaccine refusers

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As deadlines loom for military and defense civilians to get mandated COVID-19 vaccines, senior leaders must now wrestle with the fate of those who flatly refuse the shots or are seeking exemptions, and how to make sure they are treated fairly and equally.

The vast majority of the active duty force has received at least one shot, but tens of thousands have not. For some, it may be a career-ending decision. Others could face transfers, travel restrictions, limits on deployments and requirements to repay bonuses.

Exemption decisions for medical, religious and administrative reasons will be made by unit commanders around the world, on what the Pentagon says will be a “case-by-case” basis. That raises a vexing issue for military leaders who are pushing a vaccine mandate seen as critical to maintaining a healthy force, but want to avoid a haphazard, inconsistent approach with those who refuse.

Brig. Gen. Darrin Cox, surgeon general at Army Forces Command, said commanders want to ensure they are following the rules.

SEE PENALTIES ON PAGE 6

RELATED
Air Force cans 40 recruits who refused vaccine
Page 6

Deadly blast rocks Kabul hospital

Islamic State militants responsible for attack

From wire reports

KABUL, Afghanistan — Islamic State militants set off an explosion at the entrance to a military hospital in the Afghan capital on Tuesday, killing at least seven people, a senior Taliban official said. It was one of the most brazen ISIS attacks yet since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in the summer.

Among those killed were three women, a child and three Taliban guards, said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. Five attack-



A man rushes away with a child after Tuesday's explosion in Kabul.

ers were also killed, he said, adding that Taliban guards prevented them from getting into the hospital. He said the attack was over within 15 minutes.

A doctor at Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan military hospital, Habib Rahman, said in a Washington Post report that at least 20 people had been killed and more than 37 wounded, but added he expected the toll to rise because the first explosion at the entrance also hit many people.

The Post report also said a local Taliban commander said that gunmen moved inside the medical

SEE BLAST ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Yahoo leaves China amid 'challenging' situation

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Yahoo Inc. on Tuesday said that it plans to pull out of China, citing an "increasingly challenging business and legal environment."

The company said in a statement that its services will no longer be accessible from mainland China as of Nov. 1.

"Yahoo remains committed to the rights of our users and a free and open internet. We thank our users for their support," the statement read.

Yahoo is the second large U.S. technology firm in recent weeks to reduce its operations in China. Last month, Microsoft's professional networking platform LinkedIn said it would shutter its Chinese site, replacing it with a jobs board instead.

Yahoo had previously down-sized operations in China, and shuttered its Beijing office in 2015. Its withdrawal from China is largely symbolic as at least some of Yahoo's services, including its web portal, have been blocked in

the country.

Chinese authorities maintain a firm grip on internet censorship in the country, and require companies operating in China to censor content and keywords deemed politically sensitive or inappropriate.

China has also blocked most international social media sites and search engines, such as Facebook and Google. Users in China who wish to access these services circumvent the block by using a virtual private network (VPN).

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 3)	\$1.13
Dollar buys (Nov. 3)	0.8406
British pound (Nov. 3)	\$1.33
Japanese yen (Nov. 3)	111.00
South Korean won (Nov. 3)	1,145.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.3633
Canada (Dollar)	1.2401
China (Yuan)	6.3983
Denmark (Krone)	6.4188
Egypt (Pound)	15.7102
Euro	.8627
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7819
Hungary (Forint)	310.27
Israel (Shekel)	3.1430
Japan (Yen)	113.77
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3017
Norway (Krone)	8.4704
Philippines (Peso)	50.52
Poland (Zloty)	3.98
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3483

South Korea (Won)	1,177.16
Switzerland (Franc)	.9134
Thailand (Baht)	33.26
Turkey (New Lira)	9.5661

(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	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	1.97

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

US warships in Black Sea draw Putin's ire

BY ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The arrival of U.S. warships in the Black Sea in support of NATO allies has once again sparked the anger of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said one of the ships was in the “crosshairs” of the Russian military.

Putin made the comment to military leaders on Monday in emphasizing Russia's need to bolster its air defenses. He cited the deployment of NATO's U.S.-led missile defense system in Eastern Europe and missions by alliance ships in the Baltic and Black seas, The Associated Press reported.

“Even now, a U.S. warship has entered the Black Sea and we can see it in binoculars or crosshairs of our defense systems,” Putin said during the meeting in the southern Russian city of Sochi.

Meanwhile, Russia's Black Sea Fleet said Tuesday that its warships had practiced destroying enemy targets, Reuters reported.

The destroyer USS Porter entered the Black Sea on Saturday for a routine patrol after participating in NATO exercises in the Aegean Sea, U.S. 6th Fleet said in a statement.

“The crew of USS Porter looks forward to entering the Black Sea to maintain safety and stability throughout the region,” said Cmdr. Christopher Petro, the destroyer's commanding officer. “Our ability to work alongside our NATO allies and



Yoruk Isik

The USS Porter sails by Istanbul on Saturday. The destroyer is on a routine patrol in the Black Sea after finishing participation in NATO exercises in the Aegean Sea, Navy officials said.

partners enhances our collective readiness and overall maritime security.”

The USS Mount Whitney, the flagship of the U.S. 6th Fleet, arrived Monday for a port visit in Istanbul and will soon join Porter, U.S. 6th Fleet said in a separate statement.

Mount Whitney remained in port Tuesday, said Lt. Cmdr. Karl Schonberg, a fleet spokesman. The port is considered to be the entrance of the Black Sea.

The destroyer USS Arleigh Burke also recently completed NATO ex-

ercises in the Baltic Sea, the Navy said.

Russia has long complained about NATO and U.S. warships in the Black Sea, especially when they sail near the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014. The international community still considers Crimea a part of Ukraine.

Six nations border the Black Sea, including several that hold training exercises with the United States or participate in patrols in its international waters.

In June, tensions increased just

before an annual NATO military exercise in the Black Sea, with a Russian ship reportedly firing warning shots at a British destroyer traveling near Crimea. Some analysts characterized that and other actions, such as low overflights of a Dutch frigate by Russian warplanes, as an escalation in Moscow's efforts to control the region.

Still, some analysts said Putin's latest comments appeared less hostile than previous ones.

“Remember, Moscow threatened to attack NATO warships that

pass within 12 nautical miles of Crimea, even legally as part of an innocent passage,” said James R. Holmes, the J.C. Wylie Chair of Maritime Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. “Putin did have a cutesy line about being able to see USS Mount Whitney through the crosshairs, but that's less over the top.”

Holmes said U.S. strategy is to “fly, sail, and operate” wherever the law of the sea permits, in order to preserve the right of way in waters such as the Black Sea.”

Secondary objectives include contesting Russian claims to sovereignty over Crimea, although freedom-of-navigation cruises may not be as effective for that, he said.

“We are showing support for Ukraine and making a statement that we can project power from the sea, even (near) Russia,” Holmes said.

Jorge Benitez, an expert on European security with the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank, warned that Russia's behavior shows an escalatory pattern that “will lead to more provocations and perhaps even a confrontation with NATO.”

“I believe that Putin's direct threats to U.S. naval vessels are proof that Russia's military aggression against NATO ships is approved at the highest levels in Moscow,” Benitez said.

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US Marines train on Israeli beach with CENTCOM now in control

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

Some 500 U.S. Marines staged a beach-storming exercise in Israel during some of the first bilateral military drills since a major Pentagon realignment for the long-time allies.

On Monday, the Israeli Defense Force and the Bahrain-based U.S. Naval Forces Central Command launched the amphibious assault in Eilat, a Red Sea port town near Jordan, the 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade said in a statement.

“This exercise is part of the next chapter in the U.S. Navy's and Marine Corps' long-standing relationship with Israel that is so vital to stability and security in the region,” said Brig. Gen. Farrell Sullivan, commander of the Marine task force.

The three-week training also involves urban combat exercises, bomb disposal drills and firing the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

The exercise began days after Israeli fighters escorted a U.S. Air Force bomber on a patrol flight.

In September, U.S. Central Command took control over American military relations with Israel. For decades, this had been covered by U.S. European Command, based in Stuttgart, Germany.

The transfer of responsibilities to

CENTCOM was touted by the military as a means of ensuring better coordination between the U.S., Israel and the Arab Gulf states.

The realignment was brought about in part by a 2020 diplomatic breakthrough brokered by the U.S. known as the Abraham Accords, which resulted in the normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Historically, the adversarial relationship between Israel and U.S. partners in the Gulf region was seen as an obstacle to aligning CENTCOM with Israel.

But some security analysts have long argued that CENTCOM is the better strategic fit for Israel, given that Iran is the main security threat in its area, while EUCOM's principal focus is countering Russia.

Some of that expected coordination among the U.S., Israel and various Arab states was on display Saturday, when a U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer conducted a “presence patrol” with fighter plane escorts from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The five-hour, nonstop patrol originated in the Indian Ocean and flew over various strategic waterways.

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US, S. Korea kick off ‘low-key’ joint air drills with little fanfare

BY DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A five-day air exercise between the United States and South Korea kicked off Monday with little fanfare amid increased speculation about the resumption of inter-Korean relations.

The “low-key” joint drills consist of South Korean F-15K Slam Eagle and KF-16 fighter jets, a Korean air force officer told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday on the customary condition of anonymity. About 100 aircraft are involved from both countries, according to a Monday report by the Yonhap News Agency.

A 7th Air Force spokesman at Osan Air Base described the training as “routine” in an email Tuesday. Lt. Col. Kelley Jeter declined to provide further details, including the U.S. aircraft involved, citing the military's policy against commenting on the joint exercises.

Previous air exercises in South Korea, such as 2017's Vigilant Ace, mobilized more than 230 aircraft, including the fifth-generation F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter. The joint exercise reaffirmed “mutual support procedures” and improved “understanding and trust between the two nations,” according to a statement from the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan.

U.S. personnel and aircraft were jointly featured at last month's annual Seoul Inter-

national Aerospace and Defense Exhibition. Flyovers of U.S. F-16 Fighting Falcons and C-17 Globemaster III airlifters demonstrated their capabilities at the largest military exhibition in Northeast Asia, in addition to aircraft from other countries.

Joint military drills between the allies have been scaled back in recent years and publicizing them has nearly ceased amid the ebb and flow of North Korean relations. The North frequently rails against the drills in propaganda statements that describe them precursors to an invasion of the country.

U.S. and South Korean forces teamed up for a computer-simulated military exercise in August, despite Pyongyang's protests. Prior to that training, senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol described it as an “unfavorable prelude further beclouding the future of the inter-Korean relations.”

Senior officials from the U.S. and South Korea have traveled between the two countries in recent weeks to discuss the resumption of dialogue with the North. South Korean President Moon Jae-in's administration has pushed to declare a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, and the U.S. has called ongoing discussions on that topic “very productive.”

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

Navy: Nuclear sub struck uncharted undersea mountain

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

Navy investigators said a nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine was damaged last month after running into an uncharted undersea mountain.

Monday's findings follow a nearly monthlong investigation into the Oct. 2 incident in which the USS Connecticut struck what the Navy at the time referred to as an "unidentified object."

The collision injured several crewmembers and damaged the submarine, although the Navy has not disclosed how many or to what extent.

Navy investigators determined the Connecticut struck an "uncharted seamount," or undersea mountain, while it was operating in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region, according to a U.S. 7th Fleet news release.

The investigation is being referred to 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Karl Thomas to determine whether additional action or discipline is warranted.

No additional information regarding the investigation was immediately available, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Nicholas Lingo told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

The exact location of the incident was not disclosed, but an unnamed defense official said it occurred in the South China Sea, according to an Oct. 8 report from U.S. Naval Institute News.

One of three Seawolf-class submarines, the Connecticut can support a crew of 140. Of those, nine suffered minor injuries and two

suffered moderate injuries, according to a Navy official who spoke on condition of anonymity to the Japan Times. The same official reported that the sub arrived in Guam on Oct. 8.

The collision happened the same weekend an armada of 17 warships, including the aircraft carriers USS Ronald Reagan, USS Carl Vinson and HMS Queen Elizabeth, trained together in the Philippine Sea near Taiwan.

Meanwhile, nearly 150 Chinese warplanes flew into Taiwan's air defense identification zone over a four-day period beginning Oct. 1.

The Navy's disclosure of the Connecticut collision on Oct. 7 prompted criticism from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs the next day. In addition to accusing the United States of concealing details of the incident, spokesperson Zhao Lijian called it another example of the U.S. "making trouble in the South China Sea in the name of 'freedom of navigation.'"

Lingo declined to comment on the Connecticut's current location, although various outlets have continued to report its presence in Guam.

The incident closely mirrors that of the USS San Francisco, which struck an undersea seamount 350 nautical miles south of its homeport on Guam in 2005. The collision resulted in 23 injuries and one death, as well as significant damage to its sonar dome and bow structure.

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TIMOTHY AGUIRRE/U.S. Navy

The nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut, pictured here in 2011, was damaged after striking an uncharted undersea mountain last month, according to Navy investigators.



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

The Veterans Breakfast Club started in 2008 as a monthly get-together for World War II veterans in Pittsburgh but became a series of online Zoom meetings as the coronavirus pandemic spread last year.

Young people are tuning in via Zoom to talk with America's oldest veterans

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

An online forum is connecting some of America's oldest veterans with youngsters interested in their stories.

The Veterans Breakfast Club started in 2008 as a monthly get-together for World War II veterans in Pittsburgh but became a series of online Zoom meetings as the coronavirus pandemic spread last year.

Most of those who join are military veterans, but some young people have begun tuning in, giving their elders a chance to pass on stories and wisdom acquired from their time in uniform.

One of the youths, Trey Burman, 14, of Annapolis, Md., participated in dozens of Zoom calls with the veterans this year after his grandfather recommended them.

His first meeting, which featured World War II triple fighter ace Clarence "Bud" Anderson, piqued the youngster's interest, he said in a Zoom interview Friday.

Anderson, 99, flew P-51 Mustangs and racked up 16 1/2 kills during two tours against the German Luftwaffe in Europe.

"After that I kept going to the Zooms," Trey said. "No matter the topic, it's very humbling to see these people who have done the impossible and come back."

It's inspiring to see the camaraderie of veterans of all ages, genders and ethnicities on the Zoom

calls, he said.

One veteran interacting with the youngsters is Donald Nemchick, 70, of Pittsburgh. The former Navy petty officer served from 1970-74 at naval communication stations on Guam, Subic Bay in the Philippines and Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam.

He deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation, which launched the final combat sorties over Vietnam and Laos in July 1973, he said Friday via Zoom.

"Every veteran has a story," is the Veterans Breakfast Club tagline, he said.

During the Vietnam War, Nemchick's job involved communication with aviators and submarines on missions across the Pacific.

"We had jets launching every four to five seconds by steam catapult," the veteran told the youngster of his time on the carrier. "The danger of that is so evident."

He recalled night landings on a pitch-black sea where aircraft were caught by a tail hook on a cable across the deck.

"It's important to give motivation and inspiration and some leadership to these young men," Nemchick said of his interaction with young people during Zoom meetings. "It's inspiring to me as a veteran to see young men doing what they should be doing."

The son of a civilian sailing coach at the U.S. Naval Academy, Trey said the meetings have

firmed up his resolve to serve. His goal is to become a Navy nuclear engineer aboard a submarine and eventually work in the civilian nuclear power industry.

Henry Schoepke, 14, of Madison, Wis., collects veterans' autographs and found the Veterans Breakfast Club online. He has tuned in regularly over the past year, he said in a Zoom interview Saturday.

A prized autograph in his collection came from Julia Parsons, 100, of Forest Hills, Pa., who served with the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during World War II and helped crack secret codes sent using the Nazi's Enigma machine.

"She helped intercept messages from German U-boats," Henry said.

Henry's interactions with the veterans have got him thinking about a career in military history, he said.

The move online during the pandemic has massively increased engagement for the veterans who are talking to people all over the world, Nemchick said.

The Veterans Breakfast Club has a Zoom meeting that starts every Monday at 7 p.m. Eastern Time. Tune in through the group's website at: veteransbreakfastclub.org.

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MILITARY



NATIONAL FIRE AGENCY

South Korean firefighters respond to a vehicle collision near Camp Humphreys on Monday. A U.S. service member, his wife and their child were killed when their vehicle collided with a tow truck, officials said.

Vehicle collision kills US military family in S. Korea

BY DAVID CHOI
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A U.S. service member, his wife and their child were killed Monday night when their vehicle collided with a tow truck in Pyeongtaek City, law enforcement and fire officials told Stars and Stripes.

The collision occurred around 11 p.m. on the outskirts of Camp Humphreys, the largest U.S. military base overseas, a police investigator said Tuesday on the customary condition of anonymity.

The service member's vehicle and the tow truck collided at a curve in a one-lane road, according

to investigators from a local police department. A fire ensued, and the three family members died before firefighters arrived.

The truck driver, a 27-year-old Korean man, survived the crash and is being treated at a hospital, police said.

Cars in South Korea typically contain a "black box," or camera recorder. Officials say footage from a witness' car, as well as DNA from those involved, were being analyzed as part of the ongoing investigation.

Eighth Army said details of the incident, including the names of those involved, are being withheld pending notification of their family

members.

"On the evening of November 1, we had an incident that involved the death of members of our community," the command said in a statement Tuesday. "We will release further comment and details after the next-of-kin notification process is complete for all involved."

About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, the majority of them at Camp Humphreys. The base is home to Eighth Army, the 2nd Infantry Division and U.S. Forces Korea.

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Rheinland-Pfalz relaxes its restrictions in time for popular Christmas markets

BY ALEXANDER RIEDEL
Stars and Stripes

The German state of Rheinland-Pfalz's latest relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions gives a green light for beloved holiday celebrations that traditionally draw throngs of people.

Local outdoor Christmas markets and St. Martin marches, which are popular with German children, can proceed without attendance limitations and mask requirements.

Under the new rules, which take effect Monday, open-air events will no longer be limited to 25,000 people, and restrictions will apply only if attendees need tickets and will be seated at the event.

The limit of one person per 54 square feet in public and commer-

cial spaces will also be removed.

Indoor restaurants, athletic facilities and cultural event spaces will continue to adhere to the "2G-plus rule," a reference to the first letter of the German words "geimpft, genesen, getestet," meaning "vaccinated, recovered or tested."

The policy often requires customers to present proof that they meet one of those three statuses.

"We've again adjusted the guardrails to get safely through the winter," Rheinland-Pfalz governor Malu Dreyer said in a statement. "We'll continue to need protective measures, like masks, distancing and 2G rules."

The rule adjustments anticipate an increase in outdoor activity during the holiday season in various cities' historic downtowns,

which often contain narrow alleys and draw large crowds of visitors.

Restrictions were relaxed again despite a sustained rise in COVID-19 infections in Rheinland-Pfalz.

Officials acknowledged the increase, especially in vulnerable demographics, and noted the growing workload for local hospitals. With 628 new infections this week alone, the state has registered 194,440 total cases since the beginning of the pandemic.

Rheinland-Pfalz is home to the largest U.S. military community in Europe, with a population of 50,000 spread between Ramstein Air Base and several other Army and Air Force installations in the state.

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Army to promote NCOs not done with coursework

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Army noncommissioned officers who have yet to complete mandatory pre-promotion education courses but are otherwise qualified will be allowed to advance to their next rank next year in an expansion of the service's temporary promotions policy, the top enlisted soldier said Monday.

The new policy will begin Jan. 1 and applies to all soldiers eligible for promotion to the ranks of sergeant through master sergeant who have been unable to complete required professional military education courses for a variety of reasons, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston said. The soldiers would have to complete the required courses — for example the Basic Leader Course for promotion to sergeant or the Advanced Leader Course for promotion to staff sergeant — within the next year or they would revert back to their prior rank, he added.

"This is about talent management and promoting the best soldiers available," Grinston said. "Like a highly qualified individual who through no fault of their own ... didn't get a chance to go to that [professional military education] course."

The Army has more eligible soldiers trying to attend such courses than it can accommodate in its schools, Grinston told reporters. That leads to some top performing soldiers missing their promotions for reasons beyond their control. The Army underestimated how many soldiers that it would need to send to those schools during its last planning cycle, roughly four years ago, he said.

Other soldiers have been unable to attend mandatory schooling because of deployments and other issues.

The Army announced a temporary promotion policy last year that authorized promotions for otherwise qualified soldiers to advance in rank without finishing pre-promotion training because they were deployed in a combat zone or other hostile area. The temporary promotion policy also applied to those who missed education courses because of a pregnancy.

In developing the new policy, Grinston said top service officials were thinking about soldiers deployed to noncombat zones in places such as South Korea or Europe, where they spend months training away from home and cannot attend mandatory schooling.

"We're trying to ensure we get those individuals to school but not disadvantage them for doing those things we ask them to do as a soldier," Grinston said.

For now, the new policy expansion will last for one year, Grinston said, announcing it is set to expire Dec. 31, 2022. However, the Army will revisit the policy in September to determine if it should be extended. The Army will also spend the coming months determining if it should add more instructors and classes to its mandatory schools, he said.

Last month, the Army approved a similar temporary promotion policy for master sergeants to be promoted to sergeants major before completing the required Master Leader Course. Beginning Monday, the Army will not consider whether master sergeants have finished that course before promoting them to sergeant major, however they must then complete the Master Leader Course within one year to retain that top rank, officials said.

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2 airmen killed in car crash

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Two Wyoming-based airmen died early Saturday morning on a northern Colorado highway when their car was hit head-on by another vehicle that crossed into their lane, according to Air Force officials and law enforcement.

Senior Airman Yasmin Evans, 22, and Senior Airman Taylor Ashley, 24, were assigned to F.E. Warren Air Force Base near Cheyenne, which is about 15 miles from the Wyoming

border with Colorado. The accident occurred along Highway 85 about 3 miles into Colorado's Weld County, according to Colorado State Patrol.

"This is a horrible loss that impacts many members of our team," said Col. Catherine Barrington, commander of the 90th Missile Wing at Warren Air Force Base. "As a wing, we will focus on mourning, remembering our friends and healing with our teammates."

Two 30-year-old men also died in the accident, the state patrol said.

MILITARY

USAF dismisses 40 recruits, trainees who denied vaccine

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force announced 40 recruits have been kicked out of the service for refusing the coronavirus vaccine ahead of the service's Nov. 2 deadline to get the shots, service spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said Monday.

About 23 of the 40 were in basic training, while the others had completed basic training and were undergoing their technical training when they were separated from the service, Stefanek said. The recruits received entry-level discharges, meaning they may re-enlist if they choose to get the vaccine in the future.

Entry-level discharges can be given to troops who have served less than 180 days and typically carry no discharge designations, such as good, bad or other-than-honorable characterizations, according to the service.

The discharges came a day before the vaccination deadline looms for the Air Force and Space Force. As of Tuesday, all active-duty airmen were required to be fully vaccinated or potentially face separation.

About 94.6% of the active-duty force in the Air Force and Space Force were fully vaccinated as of the Air Force's last update Oct. 26.

About 98.2% had received at least one dose of the vaccine. The Pentagon does not consider a person fully vaccinated until two weeks have passed since their final dose.

That means about 1.8% of the active-duty troops in the Air Force and Space Force — or up to about 5,950 airmen and 115 guardians — continue to decline the vaccine. There were 330,678 active-duty troops in the Air Force and 6,434 in the Space Force as of Sept. 30, according to the services.

Chief Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said Monday, however, that about 97% of active-duty airmen and guardians are fully vaccinated, which would put the number of unvaccinated troops at about 10,000.

Across the services, about 97% of active-duty troops have received at least one dose of the vaccine, though a fraction have submitted exemption requests for religious, medical or other administrative reasons.

By service, about 92% of the Marine Corps, 93% of the Army and 99% of the Navy are at least partially vaccinated, according to the services' latest data.

The Air Force's active-duty deadline is the earliest of the service branches. Active-duty troops in the Marine Corps and Navy must be vaccinated by Nov. 28,



TORY PATTERSON/59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Kevin White, a doctor who coordinates coronavirus vaccines for the 59th Medical Wing, discusses the vaccination process in May with a basic trainee from the 37th Training Wing at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

and soldiers have until by Dec. 15, according to the services.

The Tuesday deadline only affects active-duty airmen. Those in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard have until Dec. 2 to become fully vaccinated.

While the Air Force does not break down vaccination rates for Guard and Reserve units, about 88.9% of the entire department were fully vaccinated as of Oct. 25.

Civilian employees of the federal government have until Nov. 22 to reach full vaccination status, and contractors have until Dec. 8, according to an executive order signed Sept. 9 by President Joe Biden.

While Air Force officials have said active-duty airmen and guardians who decline the vac-

cine after Tuesday will be booted from the service, it's unclear what will happen to those who are partially vaccinated and planning to receive their final shots.

"Military commanders retain the full range of disciplinary options available to them under Article 92 of the [Uniform Code of Military Justice]," Stefanek said, referring to the provision of military law that governs the failure to obey an order.

Penalties for failing to obey an order can include dishonorable discharge, pay forfeiture or up to two years of jail time, according to the UCMJ.

"Our goal is to ensure as many airmen and guardians as possible receive the vaccine. Military commanders have a range of options

available to encourage their service members to receive the vaccine," Stefanek said. "This is about force health protection — not punishment."

Some who have refused the shots might have submitted requests to exempt themselves from the vaccine mandate for health, religious or other administrative reasons.

The Air Force has declined to say how many requests have been received, but spokeswoman Rose Riley said last week that the service was "working toward providing the total number of exemption approvals" issued.

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Penalties: Up to 7% of active forces remain unvaccinated

FROM PAGE 1

"Because of some of the sensitivities of this particular vaccine, I think that we just wanted to ensure that we were consistent and equitable" in meting out a punishment that would be "a repercussion of continuing to refuse a valid order."

Military vaccination rates are higher than those of the general population in the United States and the reasons for objecting to the shots — often based on misinformation — are similar to those typically heard throughout the country. But unlike most civilians, military personnel are routinely required to get as many as 17 vaccines, and face penalties for refusing.

The military services are reporting that between 1%-7% remain unvaccinated. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has called for compassion in dealings with those troops, which totals nearly 60,000 active duty service members, ac-

ording to data released last week. Officials have said the numbers change daily, and include those who may have gotten or requested an exemption. They have declined to say how many troops are still seeking an exemption or refused the vaccine.

Asked about possible variations in the treatment of those seeking exemptions or refusing the vaccine, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said it's up to the services.

"Each case is going to be treated specifically and individually as it ought to be," he said.

Kirby said Monday that the secretary doesn't want to tell commanders how to resolve the punitive measures, and instead trusts that they will do what is best for their units.

"So can we promise you that there will be absolute uniformity across the board? No. And we wouldn't want to promise that because it wouldn't be the same way

we handle the orders violations for other offenses as well," said Kirby.

It unclear how widely religious exemptions will be granted. Under military rules, commanders can take into account the potential impact on a unit's mission, and reject a religious exemption if it puts performance at risk.

Commanders can also move service members into another job, deny them overseas deployment or limit unit access if they get an exemption or while a request is being reviewed. Those steps may be more common in smaller units such as special operations forces, who usually deploy in small numbers.

The Navy has warned that sailors who refuse the shot and don't get an exemption may have to refund bonuses and other financial payments, based on existing military justice procedures for disobeying a lawful order. The other services are expected to follow

similar procedures.

Unvaccinated troops will also be subject to routine testing, distancing guidelines and possibly travel restrictions.

The Air Force may be the test case in some instances, because they are the first to hit a deadline. The more than 335,000 airmen and Space Force guardians must be fully vaccinated by Tuesday, and the Air Guard and Reserve by Dec. 2.

According to Air Force data, as many as 12,000 active duty airmen and guardians were still unvaccinated as of late last week. Some of them have requested or gotten exemptions, while others have refused outright.

Air Force Col. Robert Corby, commander of the 28th Medical Group at Ellsworth Air Force Base, said that after the vaccine became mandatory in late August, appointments for shots at the base clinic doubled.

He said troops have an array of

questions and concerns, and commanders, chaplains and medical personnel are providing information.

"I think you also have a segment of the population that probably does not feel that they are really at risk for COVID-19," he added.

Air Force Capt. Molly Lawlor, 28th Bomb Wing chaplain, said a "very small percentage" are seeking a religious exemption at the base.

"People are just trying to figure out how this new requirement fits into their belief system and the decisions that they want to make," she said.

The more than 765,000 Defense Department civilians will be close behind the Air Force, with a mandated vaccine date of Nov. 22. Supervisors are grappling with the complex task of checking and recording the vaccine status of their workers, and determining who will be the final exemption arbiter.

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban trying to woo Shiites with Hazara emissary

By **SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN**
The Washington Post

KABUL — As a military commander, Maulavi Mahdi never captured territory or killed Americans in battle. Yet the Taliban considers the 33-year-old ethnic Hazara a godsend.

Last year, the militants made Mahdi a shadow district governor in his birthplace. Then they showcased a video of him on their website to glorify his credentials. On a recent trip to Kabul, he was housed in a large villa with a garden, which the Taliban typically reserves for its most senior leaders. Mahdi knows why.

“I am a bridge between the Taliban and the Hazara community,” he said.

Of all the history the Taliban has with other Afghan groups, none is more tortured than the one with the country’s Hazara minority. When they first rose to power in the mid-1990s, the hard-line Sunni militants massacred, kidnapped and uprooted thousands of Shiite Hazaras, declaring them infidels. They destroyed Hazara cultural heritage sites and extended their political and economic marginalization by different Afghan regimes. Tens of thousands of Hazaras have fled the country.



LORENZO TUGNOLI/The Washington Post

Maulavi Mahdi, a Shiite cleric from the Hazara ethnic group and the Taliban’s intelligence chief for Bamian province, poses for a portrait in Kabul last month.

How the Taliban treats Hazaras in its new regime will serve as an essential barometer to gauge the militants’ claim that they have changed and deserve international recognition and financial support.

On one level, Mahdi’s elevation represents a change from the past — one based on strategic calculations to attract local support in minority communities and create the semblance of diversity within the militants’ ranks. To that end,

the Taliban has dispatched Mahdi to Hazara areas as an emissary and set up informal Shiite courts for the first time to attract more Hazaras.

“This new Islamic Emirate is not the same as the old Islamic Emirate,” said Mahdi, wearing a black turban as he squeezed a string of yellow prayer beads. “It is dominated by religious scholars who do not act based on ethnicity, but only on establishing an Islamic system.”

Yet Mahdi is also a stark reminder of the limits of the Taliban’s professed intentions. In peace talks this year, the predominantly ethnic Pashtun militants promised Afghans and the international community that the rights and aspirations of Hazaras and other ethnic and tribal groups would be enshrined in an inclusive Afghanistan.

But in the Taliban’s interim government, none of the 33 cabinet members are Hazara. Last month, Taliban officials in five provinces forcibly evicted hundreds of Hazara families from their homes and farms, according to Human Rights Watch. And recently, senior Taliban officials met families of suicide bombers to hand them cash and promises of land. Many had killed hundreds of

Hazaras in attacks.

Mahdi holds a minor post inside the Taliban: He is now the Taliban’s intelligence chief in Bamian province, a mostly Hazara region. Skeptics have said he’s a foil to prevent a full-fledged Hazara uprising, rather than a serious agent of reconciliation.

“He’s not the kind of national figure that could appeal to the Hazara community,” said Ali Adili, an Afghan researcher focusing on the Hazara community who recently fled to Northern Virginia. “He’s young and also not well educated.”

The Taliban also has yet to properly investigate or discipline any of its fighters or loyalists for crimes they’ve committed against Hazaras, community leaders and analysts said.

“That would have sent a much stronger message,” said Ashley Jackson, an expert on the Taliban at the Overseas Development Institute. “That kind of accountability would have been more meaningful to a lot of people, both in the Hazara community and the international community, as opposed to trotting out a symbolic Hazara.”

Mahdi, she added, is a “a public relations attempt,” at best. “It feels very cosmetic.”

Blast: At least 16 wounded in ISIS attack on Kabul hospital

FROM PAGE 1

facility where clashes broke out as two blasts struck. Another doctor there also said he heard gunfire. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The Taliban’s deputy spokes-

man, Bilal Karimi, told The Washington Post that two suicide bombs targeted the hospital in central Kabul, but did not comment on reports of gunmen entering the building.

“No one was killed inside the hospital,” the Taliban spokesman

said. He said Taliban guards thwarted ISIS plans to target medical staff and patients in the 400-bed facility.

He said Taliban special forces were subsequently deployed and searched the hospital and that a helicopter was used in the oper-

ation.

Health officials said 16 people were wounded in the attack on the Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan hospital in Kabul’s 10th district. Mujahid said five Taliban fighters were among the wounded.

Earlier, another Taliban official had said the attack was carried out by six men, and that two of them were captured.

During the attack, city residents had reported two explosions in the area, along with the sound of gunfire.

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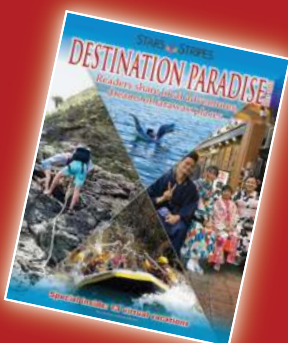


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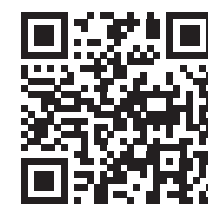


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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Vaccine for younger kids already being packed and shipped

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anticipating a green light from vaccine advisers, the Biden administration is assembling and shipping millions of COVID-19 shots for children ages 5-11, the White House said Monday. The first could go into kids' arms by midweek.

"We are not waiting on the operations and logistics," said coronavirus coordinator Jeff Zients.

By vaccinating children, the United States hopes to head off another coronavirus wave during the cold-weather months when people spend more time indoors and respiratory illnesses can spread more easily. Cases have been declining for weeks, but the virus has repeatedly shown its ability to stage a comeback and more easily transmissible mutations are a persistent threat.

On Tuesday, a special advisory panel to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will meet to consider detailed recommendations for administering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to younger children. The Food and Drug Administration already cleared the shots, which deliver about one-third of the vaccine given to adults. After CDC advisers make their recommendations, agency director Dr. Rochelle Walensky will give the final order.

Zients said the government has enough of the Pfizer vaccine for all 28 million children in the 5-11 age group. "We're in great shape on supply," Zients said during the White House coronavirus briefing.

The children's vaccination drive is expected to start later this week and go into full swing by next week. Parents will be able to go to vaccines.gov and filter on vaccines for children 5-11 to find a lo-

"We are not waiting on the operations and logistics."

Jeff Zients

White House coronavirus coordinator

cation near them that is offering the shot.

Pfizer's vaccine already has been authorized for use in older children.

After the FDA gave its authorization for younger children, the Biden administration asked states, territories and other jurisdictions to place their initial orders. Workers at the drug company and at distribution centers began the process of preparing and packing 15 million doses, said Zients.

"More doses will be packed and shipped and delivered," he added. "More and more vaccine will come on line as we ramp up."

The goal is for parents to have a range of options for getting children vaccinated, from pediatricians' offices to clinics and pharmacies.

Walensky acknowledged both a sense of urgency and concern about getting children vaccinated. She stressed that clinical trials of the Pfizer vaccine for children have found it highly effective in preventing serious disease, with no severe adverse reactions in safety and efficacy trials.

"There has been a great deal of anticipation from parents," Walensky said. "I encourage parents to ask questions."

Separately, Zients announced that about 70% of U.S. adults are now fully vaccinated, while 80% have received at least one vaccine dose.



JEENAH MOON/AP

A U.S. flag flies outside FDNY Firehouse, Engine 307, Ladder 154 on Monday in New York.

9K NYC workers on leave as vaccine mandate takes effect

Associated Press

NEW YORK — About 9,000 New York City municipal workers were put on unpaid leave for refusing to comply with a COVID-19 vaccine mandate that took effect Monday and thousands of city firefighters have called out sick in an apparent protest over the requirement, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

About 9 in 10 city workers covered by the mandate have gotten vaccinated and there have been no disruptions to city services as a result of staffing shortages, de Blasio told reporters at his daily news briefing. New York has more than 300,000 city employees.

Firehouses remained open, but 18 of the department's 350 units were out of service and "many units are understaffed," Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said. Sanitation workers made an extra pickup on Sunday to ensure trash wouldn't pile up, the mayor said.

"I want to thank everyone who got vaccinated," de Blasio said.

"Thank you for getting vaccinated. Thank you for doing the right thing. Thank you for moving us forward."

City officials have been battling fierce resistance among a minority of workers in some critical public safety jobs, including police officers and firefighters, as well as a pending legal challenge to the mandate by the city's largest police union.

As of Sunday, 1 in 4 of the city's uniformed firefighters still hadn't gotten a first dose of the vaccine, as required. About 1 in 6 police personnel and 1 in 6 sanitation workers were still unvaccinated.

Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said the vast majority of unvaccinated workers in his department have applied for religious or medical exemptions to the vaccine mandate. So far, just 34 police officers and 40 civilian police employees have been placed on unpaid leave, he said.

More than 3,500 city workers

were vaccinated over the weekend. That was after a 5 p.m. Friday deadline to collect a \$500 bonus for showing proof they'd gotten a dose of the vaccine but before they were to be put on unpaid leave.

About 12,000 workers have applied for religious or medical exemptions. They can remain on the job while city officials review those applications.

About 2,300 firefighters were out sick, up from what's normally about 1,000 per day, in what Nigro said appeared to be a protest against the vaccine mandate. The fire department's medical office normally sees about 200 people a day, Nigro said. The past week, it has been 700 a day, the majority unvaccinated.

"I've asked them to rethink this, to remember their oath of office," Nigro said. "It's not only affecting the people they serve, it's affecting their brothers and sisters in the department who are forced to fill their spots."

US will make large firms give paid time off for vaccinations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government will require companies with at least 100 workers to provide paid time off for employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and paid sick leave to recover from effects of the shots, a Biden administration official said Monday.

Those requirements will be part of a pending federal rule that will spell out how large employers will meet a requirement that workers be vaccinated or tested regularly

for the virus.

The White House budget office has completed its review of the rule being written by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is expected to be released this week.

The rule — issued under emergency standards to respond to the pandemic — will cover firms with 100 or more employees, regardless of how many are located in any particular spot.

"Covered employers must devel-

op, implement and enforce a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy, unless they adopt a policy requiring employees to choose either to get vaccinated or to undergo regular COVID-19 testing and wear a face covering at work," a Labor Department spokesperson said Monday. The rule "also requires employers to provide paid time to workers to get vaccinated and paid sick leave to recover from any side effects."

The official said that the Office of

Management and Budget completed its review of the OSHA rule on Monday, and the rule will be published in the Federal Register "in the coming days."

The spokesperson declined to give further details, saying that the administration "will provide further updates when we have more information."

Separately, the administration will give federal contractors broad authority on how to treat employees who refuse to be vaccinated, ac-

cording to guidelines that the White House issued Monday.

Under an executive order that President Joe Biden issued in September, contractors have until Dec. 8 to ensure that employees are fully vaccinated. The order has met resistance from some workers at large employers with federal contracts, including American Airlines and Southwest Airlines. The CEO of Southwest said his airline would not fire anybody for refusing to get the shots.

NATION

Elections showcase security, new laws

BY CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
AND ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Voters began casting ballots across the U.S. early Tuesday in the first wave of elections to test new Republican restrictions on the ballot and give elections officials a chance to counter a year's worth of misinformation about voting security.

Officials said demonstrating secure, consistent and fair practices could help reassure those who still have doubts about last year's presidential election as they begin preparations for next year's midterms.

"It is a great dress rehearsal for 2022," said Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon.

Much of the attention will be on Virginia and New Jersey, where voters are casting ballots for governor and other statewide races. For the rest of the country, voters were making selections on a variety of local races, ranging from mayor and city council to school board and bond measures. Voters in Maine, New York, Texas and a few other few states were considering ballot initiatives on a wide array of topics.

For some, the voting experience will be different from last year, when officials implemented pandemic-related changes to make it easier for voters to avoid crowded polling places. Some states have made those changes permanent,

while others have rolled some of them back.

In Virginia, lawmakers last year expanded absentee voting permanently by no longer requiring an excuse. But a requirement for a witness signature on absentee ballots that was waived last year is back, and officials have been working to contact voters who have been turning in ballots without them. Those voters will have until Friday to fix the issue or their ballots will not be counted.

In a few states, voters were encountering tighter voting rules because of laws enacted in states controlled politically by Republicans. Among them are Florida and Georgia, where voters face new ID requirements for using mail ballots.

Republicans have said their changes were needed to improve security and public confidence following the 2020 presidential election. They acted as former President Donald Trump continued his false claims that the election was stolen despite no evidence of widespread fraud.

These claims were rejected by judges and election officials of both parties who certified the results and Trump's own attorney general, who said federal law enforcement had not seen fraud "on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election."

Voting rights groups said various hotlines would be available to



DAVID SANTIAGO, MIAMI HERALD/AP

Poll workers assist voters Tuesday in Miami Beach, Fla. Officials said demonstrating secure, consistent and fair voting practices could help reassure those who have doubts about last year's presidential election.

assist voters who have questions or encounter problems at the polls or with their mail ballots. Damon Hewitt, whose group the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law leads the effort, said Tuesday presented an important test.

"It's a test of voters to run the gauntlet, to figure out these new rules and restrictions," Hewitt said. "And frankly, it's also a test of our democracy: How strong can it

be, and are we willing to tolerate these efforts to make it harder for people to vote."

Tuesday also will be an opportunity for election officials to educate voters about how the system works and counter the misinformation that still surrounds the 2020 presidential vote. False claims have led to harassment and even death threats against state and local election officials.

"We have to do more to combat it, get in front of it and frankly educate the public about the voting process," said Amber McReynolds, former Denver elections clerk and CEO of the National Vote at Home Institute. "Because part of the reason that there is disinformation and it has been able to flow as it has, is that the vast majority of Americans don't understand how the election process works."

Drug firms win Calif. suit seeking recovery of costs of opioid crisis

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A California judge has ruled for top drug manufacturers as local governments seek billions of dollars to cover their costs from the nation's opioid epidemic.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Peter Wilson issued a tentative ruling on Monday that said the governments hadn't proven the pharmaceutical companies used deceptive marketing to increase unnecessary opioid prescriptions and create a public nuisance.

"There is simply no evidence to show that the rise in prescriptions was not the result of the medically appropriate provision of pain medications to patients in need," Wilson wrote in a ruling of more than 40 pages.

"Any adverse downstream consequences flowing from medically appropriate prescriptions cannot constitute an actionable public nuisance," the ruling said.

Los Angeles, Orange and Santa Clara counties and the city of Oakland argued that the pharmaceutical companies misled both doctors

and patients by downplaying the risks of addictions, overdoses, deaths and other health complications while overstating the benefits for long-term health conditions.

The plaintiffs said they were disappointed by the ruling but planned to appeal to "ensure no opioid manufacturer can engage in reckless corporate practices that compromise public health in the state for their own profit."

The lawsuit names Johnson & Johnson, along with AbbVie Inc.'s Allergan subsidiary, Endo International, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and others. The companies had argued in court filings "that opioid medications are an appropriate treatment for many chronic-pain patients" and that much of their marketing mimicked approved warnings by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Historically, the local jurisdictions say, the powerful drugs had been used only immediately after surgeries or for other acute, short-term pain, or for cancer or palliative care. The drugmakers "successful-

ly transformed the way doctors treat chronic pain, opening the floodgates of opioid prescribing and use," the lawsuit contended. "This explosion in opioid prescriptions and use has padded Defendants' profit margins at the expense of chronic pain patients."

The federal government says nearly a half-million Americans have died from opioid abuse since 2001.

All sides have acknowledged that there is an opioid abuse epidemic.

Wilson said drug abuse hospitalizations and overdose deaths "starkly demonstrate the enormity of the ongoing problem."

In a statement, Johnson & Johnson said the "crisis is a tremendously complex public health issue," but the decision showed it engaged in "appropriate and responsible" marketing of its prescription painkillers.

The plaintiffs projected that, based on experts' estimates, it could cost \$50 billion to provide comprehensive opioid abatement programs in the four jurisdictions that filed the lawsuit.

Poll: Amid inflation woes, Americans sour on economy

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Americans' opinions on the U.S. economy have soured noticeably in the past month, a new poll finds, with nearly half expecting economic conditions to worsen in the next year.

Just 35% of Americans now call the national economy good, while 65% call it poor, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's a dip since September, when 45% of Americans called the economy good, and a return to about where views of the nation's economy stood in January and February, when the pandemic was raging across the nation.

The deterioration in Americans' economic sentiments comes as the cost of goods is rising nationwide, particularly gas prices, and bottlenecks in the global supply chain have made purchasing more difficult. The Labor Department recently reported that consumer prices in September rose 5.4% from a year earlier, the largest one-year increase since 2008.

Nadine Christian, 56, said she's

been concerned about the rising cost of living the past year.

"I grew up in the 1970s and I remember it was hard for my parents to make ends meet," Christian said, referring to the last time the U.S. economy was severely impacted by high inflation. "It's not quite as bad as it was back then but I feel like any day we could go off the rails."

Roughly half of Americans—47%—now say they expect the economy to get worse in the next year, compared with just 30% who think it will get better. In an AP-NORC poll conducted in February and March, the situation was reversed: 44% expected the economy to get better in the year ahead and just 32% said it would get worse.

Earlier this year, 70% of Democrats said they expected the economy to get better. Now, 51% do. And the share of Republicans who think the economy will get worse has grown to 74% from 59% in that span.

About half of Americans, 49%, now say they're highly confident they could pay an unexpected bill of \$1,000, up from 36% in March of 2020 and 40% in June of 2019.

NATION

Sequoia seedlings rise from wildfire ashes

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

SEQUOIA CREST, Calif. — Ashtyn Perry was barely as tall as the shovel she stomped into barren ground where a wildfire last year ravaged the California mountain community of Sequoia Crest and destroyed dozens of its signature behemoth trees.

The 13-year-old with a broad smile and a braid running to her waist had a higher purpose that — if successful — she'll never live to see: to plant a baby sequoia that could grow into a giant and live for millennia.

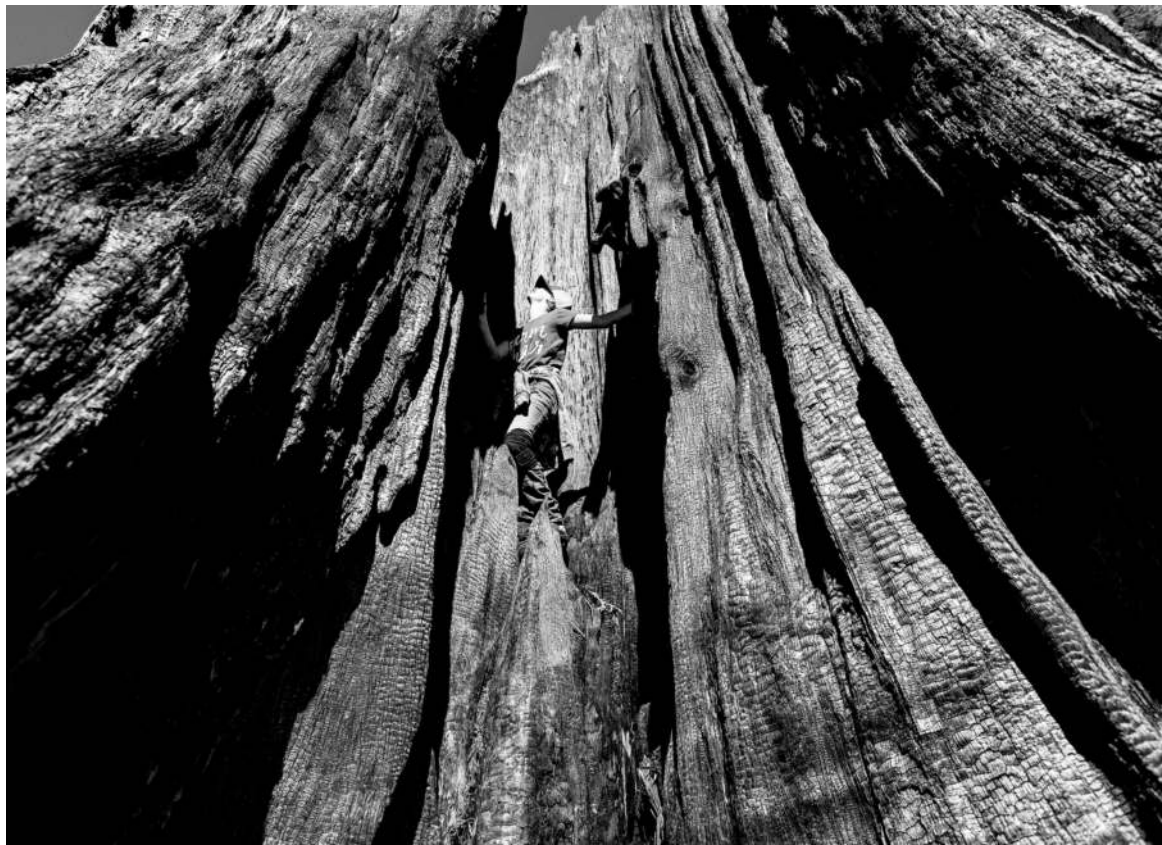
"It's really cool knowing it could be a big tree in like a thousand years," she said.

The bright green seedling that barely reached Perry's knees is part of an unusual project to plant offspring from some of the largest and oldest trees on the planet to see if genes that allowed the parent to survive so long will protect new growth from the perils of climate change.

The effort led by the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, a Michigan nonprofit that preserves the genetics of old-growth trees, is one of many extraordinary measures being taken to save giant sequoias that were once considered nearly fire-proof but are at risk of being wiped out by more intense wildfires.

The giant sequoia is the world's largest tree by volume and closely related to the redwood, the world's tallest. Sequoias grow naturally only in a 260-mile belt of forest on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountains. They have a massive trunk and can grow over 300 feet tall. The coast redwood is more slender and is native near the Pacific Ocean in Northern California.

Giant sequoias — and redwoods — are some of the best fire-adapted plants. Thick bark protects their trunks, and their canopies can be so high they are out of reach of flames. Sequoias even rely on fire to help open their cones to disperse seeds, and flames clear undergrowth so seedlings can take root and get sunlight.



NOAH BERGER/AP

Ashtyn Perry, 13, climbs a scorched sequoia tree during an Archangel Ancient Tree Archive expedition to plant sequoia trees Oct. 27 in Sequoia Crest, Calif.

In recorded history, large sequoias had never incinerated before 2015. Destruction of the majestic trees hit unprecedented levels last year when 10% to 14% of the estimated 75,000 trees larger than 4 feet in diameter burned. Thousands more potentially were lost this year during fires that burned into 27 groves — about a third of all groves — in Sequoia National Park and the adjacent Sequoia National Forest. Scientists are still tallying the damage.

Climate change and a century of policies emphasizing extinguishing wildland blazes rather than letting some burn to prevent bigger future fires are to blame, said Christy Brigham, chief of resource management and science at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Hotter droughts have led to more intense fires that have burned through fuels accumulated through fire suppression.

Last year's destruction to the sequoias brought Brigham to

tears.

"They're so big and so old and so individual and iconic and quirky that even people who don't love trees, love them. They speak for all the trees," Brigham said. "The fact that we've now created fires that they can't survive is very heartbreaking."

To save the trees this year, extreme measures were taken, including wrapping trunks of the largest trees in a fire-resistant foil, setting up sprinklers, raking the flammable matter from around the trees and even using gel in the canopies to repel flames.

But those labor-intensive measures are not practical, Brigham said. More needs to be done before fire approaches, including thinning vegetation and using prescribed burns to reduce the buildup of vegetation. They are also thinking about replanting.

One of the areas that burned intensely last year was the Alder Creek grove, where the Sequoia

Crest community has stood since the middle of last century. Half the 100 homes and cabins were destroyed, leaving empty concrete foundations next to charred tree stumps. Some blackened giants still stand sentry on steep hillsides in the area, 150 miles north of Los Angeles.

It was in that grove, one of the few privately owned, that Archangel had gathered cones and taken clippings over the past decade to clone and preserve the genes of two of the oldest and largest trees. One of those trees, named Stagg, the world's fifth-largest, survived while the fire killed one named Waterfall.

"Talk about divine providence," said David Milarch, co-founder of Archangel. "Little did we know that Waterfall would burn down two years ago and we'd have the only seedlings of that tree."

Milarch's mission is to archive the genetics of ancient trees, breed them and replant them. He

believes the oldest trees have superior genes that enabled them to live through drought, disease and fire and will give their offspring a better chance of survival.

When Milarch took clippings and cones from Stagg and Waterfall, the grove was still privately owned. But it was bought two years ago by Save the Redwoods League.

The league is already replanting in the grove to study if seedlings can survive where high-severity fire destroyed any ability for trees to naturally reproduce, said Joanna Nelson, science director for the organization.

While Nelson wouldn't rule out using seedlings from Stagg, estimated to be 3,000 years old, the project is designed to find the best genetic diversity to increase their survival.

"That genetic makeup served that tree very well for the past 3,000 years," Nelson said. "However, we know that the next 3,000 years are going to be more difficult — in terms of warming and drying land and air and bigger wildfires that are more frequent. We have conditions coming that these trees haven't experienced."

Nelson applauded the effort by Sequoia Crest to replant.

Residents who lost homes and those who were spared banded together to excavate water pipes to provide irrigation for the seedlings and, along with Archangel workers and volunteers, dug holes under a thin coat of snow last week and planted small green flags to mark planting locations.

Uta Kogelsberger, whose cabin was destroyed, said she doesn't plan to rebuild but wants to leave a legacy she will probably never see.

"We are all in some ways responsible for these fires — the way we've been treating our planet," Kogelsberger said. "The loss of the cabin was absolutely devastating, but the loss of the amazing ecosystem that surrounds it is just beyond compare. You know, you can replace a house, but you cannot replace a 2,000 to 3,000-year-old sequoia tree."

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will return to pre-pandemic shape

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will return to its pre-pandemic form this year, with its route restored through Manhattan, high-flying helium balloons once again pulled by handlers and crowds welcomed back to cheer them on.

This year's parade — the 95th annual — will snap back to form after bowing to pandemic restrictions last year. It will feature 15 giant character balloons, 28 floats,

36 novelty and heritage inflatables, more than 800 clowns, 10 marching bands and nine performance groups and, of course, Santa Claus.

New balloon giants joining the line-up on Nov. 25 include Ada Twist, Scientist and the Pokémon characters Pikachu and Eevee. Broadway will be represented by the casts of "Six," "Moulin Rouge! The Musical" and "Wicked." The Rockettes will be there, as will the cast of the upcoming NBC live

production of "Annie."

"For our 95th celebration, Macy's has created a spectacle to remember featuring a dazzling array of high-flying balloons, animated floats and incredible performers. We can't wait to help New York City and the nation kick-off the holiday season with the return of this cherished tradition," Will Coss, executive producer of the parade, said in a statement.

There will be new floats led by

the cast of "GirlsSeva" — Sara Bareilles, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Paula Pell and Busy Philipps — Nelly and Jordan Fisher, while Jon Batiste will be on an alligator-themed float celebrating Louisiana's music, food and culture.

Other celebrities on hand include Carrie Underwood, Jimmie Allen, Kelly Rowland, Rob Thomas, Kristin Chenoweth, Darren Criss, Foreigner, Andy Grammer, Mickey Guyton, Chris Lane, Miss America Camille Schrier, Mup-

pets from "Sesame Street" and the three past and current hosts of "Blue's Clues" — Steve Burns, Donovan Patton and Josh Dela Cruz.

Some of the returning balloons will be Astronaut Snoopy, "The Boss Baby," "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," Chase from "Paw Patrol," the Pillsbury Doughboy, Red Titan from "Ryan's World," Papa Smurf from "The Smurfs," Sonic the Hedgehog and SpongeBob SquarePants.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Court debates status of judge who shared photos

KS TOPEKA — The Kansas Supreme Court is considering whether a retired judge should be disciplined for sending nude photos of himself to an online site for swingers.

The court heard arguments in the case of former Russell County Magistrate Judge Marty Clark, who retired in May, three days before the Kansas Commission on Judicial Conduct recommended that he be disciplined.

Todd Thompson, who argued for the commission, said Clark sent photos to the Club Foreplay site as well as “salacious” texts to a woman discussing a possible sexual encounter in the judge’s chamber, The Wichita Eagle reported.

Thompson argued Clark, who is in his 50s, should be barred from being a judge again unless he receives education on the integrity of the judicial branch.

Clark’s attorney, Chris Joseph, said punishing Clark for sending nude photos to a private channel on his own time would be setting dangerous precedent. He said morality should not be a basis for discipline unless there is a direct connection to the job.



DIEU-NALIO CHERY/AP

Woman gets no ER treatment, but \$700 bill

GA ATLANTA — A Georgia woman who left an emergency room after waiting for hours without seeing a doctor said she walked away with her injury untreated and a \$700 charge simply for showing up.

Taylor Davis told WAGA-TV she went to the Emory Decatur Hospital emergency room for a head injury and decided to leave after seeing no end in sight to her seven-hour wait for care.

A couple of weeks later, a surprise arrived in her mailbox: a \$700 bill from the hospital.

“I didn’t get my vitals taken. Nobody called my name. I wasn’t seen at all,” Davis said.

An email sent to Davis by an Emory Healthcare patient financial services employee said: “You get charged before you are seen. Not for being seen.”

Emory Healthcare told the TV station in a statement that it was “looking into this matter and will follow up directly with the individual.”

Coast Guard rescues 2 boaters off coast

NC MOREHEAD CITY — The Coast Guard said it has rescued two boaters after their small boat capsized off the North Carolina coast.

A Coast Guard news release said the rescue occurred near Cedar Island, which is northeast of Morehead City. They had received information from county dispatchers that the boaters needed help after their boat capsized

Prepping for the parade

A reveler gets her makeup done before the start of New York City’s 48th annual Greenwich Village Halloween Parade on Sunday.

after taking waves over its side.

The Coast Guard used a helicopter and boat along with a local fire department vessel and two civilian boaters to locate the people and assist with the rescue.

After the rescue, the two boaters were taken to emergency medical personnel at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal.

Police said owner lied about child in stolen car

NY NEW YORK — A Queens man who wanted to get his stolen car back told police falsely that there was a 7-year-old boy with Down syndrome in the car, police said.

The car owner made up the story about the child so that officers would work harder to find his red Ford Mustang, a police spokesperson said.

The car was stolen from in front of a house in the Hollis section.

Several news outlets reported on the missing boy, who supposedly was unable to communicate.

The car was located four hours later, and a 17-year-old suspected car thief was arrested, but there was no sign of a young boy.

County to pay \$100K for 4 cars damaged by tree

IN NOBLESVILLE — A central Indiana county’s commissioners will pay out \$100,000 to the owners of four vehicles after a tree limb fell on the

THE CENSUS

7 The number of people charged in a cockfighting and gambling operation. Federal prosecutors said seven Verbena, Ala., residents face animal cruelty and conspiracy charges in connection with a large-scale cockfighting and fighting bird breeding operation. Prosecutors said the defendants over the last three years maintained a cockfighting arena or “pit” with stadium seating for approximately 150 people and several rings to host cockfights. If convicted of conspiracy, Animal Welfare Act violations, or operating an illegal gambling business, the defendants each face a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

courthouse square, crushing their vehicles.

The 80-foot-tall red oak split during a storm, causing a large limb to crash atop a row of cars parked outside the Hamilton County courthouse in Noblesville, The Indianapolis Star reported.

A pickup truck was totaled, and three cars were badly damaged. No cars were occupied, and no one was injured when the branch weighing an estimated several thousand pounds fell.

Commissioner Christine Altman said that while the county likely was not legally liable for the accident, they would pay for repairs.

At least 8 hospitalized for carbon monoxide exposure

MA BROCKTON — Eight people were taken to the hospital in Massachusetts for carbon monoxide exposures.

The three incidents south of Boston were all related to operating generators in homes as parts of the state continue to deal with

power outages following a recent nor’easter, NBC Boston reported.

Three adults and two children from a residence in Brockton were taken to the hospital with signs of carbon monoxide poisoning, the station said.

In nearby Hanson, firefighters responded to two carbon monoxide incidents at separate residences, NBC 10 reported. At one of the homes, firefighters found elevated levels of carbon monoxide and took three residents to the hospital for evaluation.

Woman, 80, shot in face during drive-by shooting

MI PONTIAC — An 80-year-old woman has been shot in the face during an apparent drive-by shooting in southeastern Michigan.

The woman was sitting in the driver’s seat of her parked car in Pontiac when she was shot, the Oakland County sheriff’s office said.

Deputies rushed her to a hospital where she was in critical condi-

tion. She was expected to undergo surgery to remove bullet fragments from between her eyes, her relatives told the sheriff’s office.

Two men in her car were not struck.

Investigators were reviewing home security cameras in the neighborhood. No arrests have been made.

State liquor sales soared in 2020 for record year

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Sales at municipal liquor stores in Minnesota soared in 2020 for a record-breaking year.

Sales at the state’s 213 “munis” jumped 10% during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a report recently released by State Auditor Julie Blaha. In recent years, a typical sales increase has been in the range of 1% to 3%.

With many bars and restaurants either closed or operating at reduced capacity during parts of the year, people did more of their drinking at home, according to liquor store managers and employees. And the lifestyle shifts prompted by the pandemic played a major role.

According to the International Wines and Spirits Record, Americans consumed 2% more alcohol last year than in 2019. It was the biggest year-over-year increase since 2002.

WORLD

Over 100 countries vow deforestation end at COP26 talks

Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland — More than 100 countries pledged Tuesday to end deforestation in the coming decade — a promise that experts say would be critical to limiting climate change but one that has been made and broken before.

Britain hailed the commitment as the first big achievement of the U.N. climate conference known as COP26 taking place this month in the Scottish city of Glasgow. But campaigners said they need to see the details to understand its full impact.

The U.K. government said it has received commitments from leaders representing more than 85% of the world's forests to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. Among them are several countries with massive forests, including Brazil, China, Colombia, Congo, Indonesia, Russia and the United States.

More than \$19 billion in public and private funds have been pledged toward the plan.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that “with today’s unprecedented pledges, we will have a chance to end humanity’s long history as nature’s conqueror, and instead become its custodian.”

Forests are important ecosystems and provide a critical way of absorbing carbon dioxide — the main greenhouse gas — from the atmosphere. Trees are one of the world’s major so-called carbon sinks, or places where carbon is stored.

But the value of wood as a commodity and the growing demand for agricultural and pastoral land are leading to widespread and often illegal felling of forests, particularly in developing countries.

“We are delighted to see Indig-

enous Peoples mentioned in the forest deal announced today,” said Joseph Itongwa Mukumo, an Indigenous Walikale and activist from Congo.

He called for governments and businesses to recognize the effective role Indigenous communities play in preventing deforestation.

Experts cautioned that similar agreements in the past have failed to be effective.

Alison Hoare, a senior research fellow at political think tank Chatham House, said world leaders promised in 2014 to end deforestation by 2030, “but since then deforestation has accelerated across many countries.”

Still, Luciana Tellez Chavez, an environmental researcher at Human Right Watch, said the agreement contains “quite a lot of really positive elements.”

The European Union, Britain and the U.S. are making progress on restricting imports of goods linked to deforestation and human rights abuses “and it’s really interesting to see China and Brazil signing up to a statement that suggests that’s a goal,” she said. But she noted that Brazil’s public statements don’t yet line up with its domestic policies and warned that the deal could be used by some countries to “greenwash” their image.

The Brazilian government has been eager to project itself as a responsible environmental steward in the wake of surging deforestation and fires in the Amazon rainforest and Pantanal wetlands that sparked global outrage and threats of divestment in recent years. But critics cautioned that its promises should be viewed with skepticism, and the country’s president, Jair Bolsonaro, is an outspoken proponent of developing the Amazon.



People are seen in front of clouds of black smoke from fires in the aftermath at the scene of an airstrike in Mekele, the capital of the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia last month.

Ethiopia tried to limit rare UN report on Tigray war abuses

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The findings of the only human rights investigation allowed in Ethiopia’s blockaded Tigray region will be released Wednesday, a year after war began there. But people with knowledge of the probe said it has been limited by authorities who recently expelled a U.N. staffer helping to lead it.

And yet, with groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International barred from Tigray, along with foreign media, the report may be the world’s only official source of information on atrocities in the war, which began in November 2020 after a political falling-out between the Tigray forces that long dominated the national government and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s current government. The conflict has been marked by gang rapes, mass expulsions, deliberate starvation and thousands of deaths.

The joint investigation by the U.N. human rights office and the government-created Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, or EHRC, is a rare collaboration that immediately raised concerns among ethnic Tigrayans, human rights groups and other observers about impartiality and government influence.

In response to questions from The Associated Press, the U.N. human rights office in Geneva said it wouldn’t have been able to enter Tigray without the partnership with the rights commission. Although past joint investigations occurred in Afghanistan and Uganda, the United Nations said, “the current one is unique in terms of magnitude and context.”

But Ethiopia’s government has given no basis for expelling U.N. human rights officer Sonny Onyegbula last month, the U.N. added, and without an explanation “we cannot accept the allegation that our staff member ... was ‘med-

dling in the internal affairs’ of Ethiopia.”

Because of those circumstances, and the fact that the U.N. left the investigation to its less experienced regional office in Ethiopia, the new report is “automatically suspect,” said David Crane, founder of the Global Accountability Network and founding chief prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international tribunal.

“What you need when you go into an atrocity zone is a clean slate so outside investigators can look into it neutrally, dispassionately,” Crane said. “You want to do these things where you don’t build doubt, distrust from the beginning,” including among people interviewed.

The investigation might be the international community’s only chance to collect facts on the ground, he said, but because of its setup, it may disappear “in the sands of time.”

Pregnant woman’s death puts spotlight on Polish abortion law

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — A Polish hospital said Tuesday that doctors and midwives did everything they could to save the lives of a pregnant woman and her fetus in a case that has put the spotlight on a new restriction on Poland’s abortion law.

The 30-year-old woman died of septic shock in her 22nd week of pregnancy. Doctors did not perform an abortion, even though her fetus was lacking amniotic fluid,

according to a lawyer for the family.

Reproductive rights activists said she is the first person to die as a result of a recent restriction of Poland’s abortion law.

The woman, identified only as Izabela, died in September but her case was only made public Friday, triggering anger among some Poles and protests in Warsaw, Krakow and elsewhere on Monday evening. People lit candles for her in an evening vigil.

Before the new restriction, women in Poland could have abortions only in three cases: if the pregnancy results from a crime like rape, if the woman’s life is at risk or in the case of severe fetal deformities. But the Constitutional Tribunal, under the influence of Poland’s conservative ruling party, ruled last year that abortions for congenital defects were not constitutional.

Women’s rights activists said doctors in Poland now wait for a

fetus with no chance of survival to die in the womb rather than perform an abortion.

The hospital where the woman died issued a statement Tuesday saying they were “joined in pain” with her loved ones and others mourning her, and saying its staff had done everything to save her and the fetus. The family lawyer said she left behind a husband and a daughter.

“The only factor guiding the medical procedure was concern

for the health and life of the patient and the fetus. Doctors and midwives did everything in their power, they fought a difficult battle for the patient and her child,” said the statement from the County Hospital in Pszczyna in southern Poland.

The hospital added that prosecutors are investigating the case but said “all medical decisions were made taking into account the legal provisions and standards of conduct in force in Poland.”

WORLD

High rise in Nigeria collapses

Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — A 21-story apartment building under construction collapsed in an upscale area of Nigeria's largest city, killing at least three people and leaving dozens more missing, officials and witnesses said on Monday.

Lagos Police Commissioner Hakeem Odumosu confirmed the deaths, but added that three survivors had been pulled from the rubble in Ikoyi by Monday evening. Officials arriving at the scene were confronted by crowds of people venting their anger that rescue efforts started several hours after the collapse.

Olayemi Bello told The Associated Press that five of his friends were trapped in the building and he feared the worst.



SUNDAY ALAMBA/AP

Rescue workers are seen at the site of a collapsed 21-story apartment building under construction in Lagos, Nigeria, on Monday.

"When they work finish, they will come outside and they will play with us and talk about the work," he said. "Now, nobody. All of them are dead."

Construction worker Eric Teteh said that he and his brother had managed to escape. But he estimated that more than 100 people were inside the building at the time it crumbled into a pile of debris.

Workers said the high rise

apartment building had been under construction for about two years, and it was not immediately known what had caused the collapse.

However, such incidents are relatively common in Lagos because enforcement of building code regulations is weak. Other observers blame shoddy work by private developers eager to meet demand for housing in the megacity.

Electric plane crosses strait in New Zealand for first time

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — As he made history by becoming the first person to fly across New Zealand's Cook Strait in an electric plane, Gary Freedman thought it only fitting that the first thing he saw when approaching the Wellington coastline was the rotating blade of a wind turbine producing renewable energy.

Freedman's 40-minute solo flight in the small two-seater came 101 years after the first person flew a conventional aircraft over the body of water that separates the South Pacific nation's two main islands.

Monday's flight was aimed at drawing attention to the possibilities of greener flying and timed to coincide with the opening of a pivotal U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland.

Wellington International Airport officials believe it may be the longest distance flown in an electric plane across any body of water.

"It's a very exciting day for the

airport. A world-record-setting day," said spokesperson Jenna Raeburn.

Freedman said the day began badly with pouring rain at his departure point near the town of Blenheim. After delaying the flight for 15 minutes, the weather cleared just enough for takeoff and soon improved to sunny conditions over the ocean.

Freedman said he was ecstatic when he landed, and the technology worked better than he'd hoped.

"We still had 40% left in the battery," he said. "We could have almost flown back again."

Freedman, 49, who founded the company ElectricAir, said he's long been passionate about the environment and the idea came as he thought about the incongruity of driving an electric car and flying a gas-powered plane.

He took a trip to Slovenia to buy a Pipistrel Alpha Electro plane, and then jumped through various hoops with New Zealand aviation regulators to get the plane cleared.

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FACES

Rigsby goes from Peloton to pandemic star

BY MEREDITH BLAKE
Los Angeles Times

Before the pandemic, Cody Rigsby was rarely recognized on New York's Fire Island. It was a sanctuary, a place where "nobody knew my quote-unquote celebrity," says the Peloton instructor, who has been inspiring users to climb imaginary hills since 2014.

"A lot of my demographic are women in the 30-to-50 age range that live in suburbia or middle America," he says, noting that he'd sometimes get noticed while visiting his mom in North Carolina. "There are not a lot of those on a very gay island."

Things changed when COVID-19 struck. As people looked for ways to stay fit at home, Peloton grew exponentially — from 1.6 million users in early 2020 to 5.9 million in June 2021. So did Rigsby's fame: Something about his exuberant teaching style resonated with people during a period of isolation and uncertainty.

This new reality dawned on Rigsby when he returned to Fire Island this summer, after a year spent doing little besides going to the empty Peloton studio in Manhattan. Instead of the blissful anonymity he once enjoyed, people would come up to him at brunch to ask for a picture. Sometimes they were celebrities.

"I have to put a little bit more of a guard up now," he says via video conference from Los Angeles, where he's capping off a life-changing year with a stint on "Dancing with the Stars." "Because if I'm out with friends and I'm having a good time, which probably includes drinking" — he rolls his eyes for



Rigsby

comic effect — "I don't want to be too messy."

This self-deprecating candor is part of what has made Rigsby, 34, an unusually approachable fitness guru — a virtual confidant who helps distract from the pain of a grueling workout by trash-talking Justin Timberlake and sharing cute stories about his boyfriend.

According to social media metrics, he is Peloton's most popular teacher, with nearly a million Instagram followers. His 30-minute Britney Spears class has been taken 650,000 times and counting — more than any other of the same length.

Not bad for a job Rigsby took to earn a few hundred bucks while trying to make it as a professional dancer.

Like members of the boy bands that Rigsby so often talks about, each Peloton instructor has a distinct personality type and teaching style: There's the Spiritual One, the Quiet One, the Technical One. Rigsby is the Fun One, effortlessly playing the role of "everybody's gay best friend," as colleague Emma Lovewell puts it.

Tall and strapping, Rigsby has Mickey Mouse ears tattooed on his arm. While other instructors focus on form or motivational pep talks, Rigsby peppers his class with kitschy catchphrases, stray pop culture observations and rants about his personal pet peeves. He's been known to sound off on everything from Olive Garden breadsticks to the horrors of the Chuck E. Cheese ball pit. In his popular themed class XOXO Cody,

Rigsby spouts sex and love advice to a boisterous pop playlist.

Rigsby's lighthearted approach has endeared him to users, who upload his humorous diatribes to TikTok and YouTube. On Etsy, you can buy Cody Rigsby prayer candles and mugs. There's even a fan club.

Still, when Rigsby was announced as a "DWTS" cast member in September, some scoffed at the idea of a spin instructor as a bona-fide "star."

"Celebrity isn't the same celebrity it was when we started this show. It is a much bigger world than just people who are on television," says co-executive producer Deena Katz, who has increasingly cast influencers and other personalities who don't fall into traditional categories of celebrity.

Part of Rigsby's appeal is his story of triumph over adversity. His father died of a drug overdose when he was a few months old. He was raised by a single mom — first in Burbank, Calif., then in Greensboro, N.C. Money was tight, and there were periods of homelessness.

Lovewell, who bonded with Rigsby when they were hired to dance at a lavish Venetian-themed wedding in Washington, D.C., was immediately struck by his sense of humor. "He says the things you're thinking but would never say out loud, but it's not mean," she says. "It's this delicate balance."

Rigsby was working at the Box, a nightclub on the Lower East Side, when he heard about a new fitness company looking for performers interested in teaching. He sent in a headshot to Peloton, figuring it would be a good side hustle, landing the job after a 10-minute interview. Within a year, he was

teaching Peloton full time.

"They took a chance on me, and it paid off. And I took a chance on them, and it redirected my life in a big way. It feels very divine, in a way."

"DWTS," where he's competed against Melanie "Sporty Spice" Chisholm, has been the realization of a childhood dream — literally. As a kid, he used to have a recurring dream in which he was friends with the Spice Girls. "I think it stems from watching 'Spice World' so many times," he says.

Still, the "DWTS" experience has been challenging. For the first few weeks, he was flying to L.A. to tape the show, then returning to New York to teach Peloton. Worn down, Rigsby got a breakthrough case of COVID-19 and was forced to compete virtually from his apartment, dancing with partner Cheryl Burke via split screen — to Spears, no less. "I'm still gutted," he says.

The judges have not been particularly kind to Rigsby, but his scores are improving. An avid fan of "RuPaul's Drag Race," Rigsby is savvy enough about reality TV to take it in stride. "I have to remind myself not to be a victim of a television storyline," he says, "and to have fun, because that's what this is all about. To quote myself: 'It's not that deep, boo.'"

However it ends, "DWTS" has opened up opportunities beyond the bike.

Rigsby isn't the type to have a five-year plan, but he'd love to do something else on TV, maybe as a judge or host. "If RuPaul is listening, I'm completely open to doing 'Celebrity Drag Race,'" he says. "I just want whatever I do to be rooted in bringing joy and good energy into the world."

New this week: 'Finch,' ABBA and 'The Harder They Fall'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ The Western gets a stylish and kinetic update in Jeymes Samuel's "The Harder They Fall." The film, co-produced by Jay-Z and featuring a starry cast, is based on real Black characters from the Old West who have generally been overlooked in the genre. Jonathan Majors stars as Nat Love, a cowboy whose gun-slinging crew faces off with the outlaw Rufus Buck (Idris Elba) who killed Love's parents years ago. The cast also includes Regina King, LaKeith Stanfield, Delroy Lindo, Zazie Beetz and Danielle Deadwyler. In her review, the AP's Jocelyn Noveck called "The Harder They Fall" a stylish and bold Western "telling a story sorely underrepresented in cinema." It lands Wednesday on Netflix.

■ Benedict Cumberbatch has drawn widespread acclaim for his leading performance in Jane Campion's upcoming gothic Western "The Power of the Dog," but he gives a very different and extremely charming performance, also, in "The Electrical Life of Louis Wain." The film, which debuts Friday on Amazon Prime Video, is a poignant and frisky biopic of the illustrator of anthropomorphized cats in Victorian England. Written and directed by Will Sharpe (creator of the British series "Flowers"), "The Electrical Life of Louis Wain" is a portrait of an eccentric mind always at work, and often misunderstood. With Claire Foy.

■ More than two decades after Tom Hanks acted primarily opposite a volleyball in "Cast Away," he has slightly more company in "Finch." In Miguel Sapochnik's film, a man, a dog and a robot take a road trip across a post-apocalyptic America. Hanks plays the last man alive on Earth, who has created an android (voiced by Caleb Landry) for



"Finch," starring Tom Hanks, premieres Friday on Apple TV+.

companionhip. The film, debuting Friday, is the second Hanks movie to land at Apple TV+ during the pandemic, following last year's WWII maritime thriller "Greyhound."

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ Swedish supergroup ABBA will be hoping to connect with a new generation when they release their new album "Voyage" on Friday, 39 years after their last new music. "They say it's foolhardy to wait more than 40 years between albums," the group joked in a statement in September. The foursome behind such

hits as "Dancing Queen" and "Take a Chance On Me" has hinted at what they sound like in 2021 with two new songs, the wistful ballad "I Still Have Faith In You" and the disco-ish "Don't Shut Me Down."

■ What does the book "Girl, Interrupted" sound like as a musical? Fans of Aimee Mann can find out when her album "Queens of the Summer Hotel" comes out Friday, via Mann's SuperEgo Records. The 15 tracks were created for a still-to-happen stage adaptation of Susannah Kayesen's memoir about her psychiatric hospitalization in the late 1960s. The songs have Mann's signature sardonic humor, wry lyrics, moody melodies and emotional resonance. One of the album's most powerful songs is "Suicide Is Murder," the narrator's monologue about her own suicide attempt.

■ Get ready for some vintage Billy Joel on Friday. The Piano Man is re-releasing his first six albums — from 1971's "Cold Spring Harbor" to 1978's "52nd Street" — as part of the nine-LP box set "The Vinyl Collection, Vol. 1" as well as on streaming platforms. Only box set owners will get "Live

at the Great American Music Hall — 1975," a previously unreleased concert recording.

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

Television

■ Apple TV+, home of the good-hearted "Ted Lasso," is introducing a preschool sibling. "Hello, Jack! The Kindness Show" features Jack McBrayer — network page Kenneth on "30 Rock" — and was co-created by McBrayer and Angela Santomero ("Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood"). The series includes tales about the cascading effect of helpful acts and aims to explain how to "solve problems with heart." Cast members and guests include Markita Prescott, Albert Kong and Paul Scheer, with original songs from the band OK Go. It debuts Friday.

■ Adam Dalgliesh, the British police detective-poet featured in more than a dozen mysteries by novelist P.D. James, is back on the small screen. This time, the cerebral crimefighter with an appreciation for fine cars is played by Bertie Carvel in "Dalgliesh," a trio of two-part mysteries debuting Monday, on the Acorn TV streaming service. "Shroud for a Nightingale," "The Black Tower" and "A Taste for Death" are the adapted books. In previous TV incarnations, Dalgliesh was played by Roy Marsden and Martin Shaw ("Inspector George Gently").

■ Gamers will be clearing the decks Saturday. Riot Games' "Arcane," a TV adaptation of the eponymous video game drawn from the "League of Legends" universe, debuts on Netflix. It's the chaser after Riot Games' annual League of Legends World Championship concludes in Iceland. The voice cast for "Arcane" includes Hailee Steinfeld and Ella Purnell as sisters Vi and Jinx, and Kevin Alejandro as Jayce. The series will be released in a trio of three-episode acts, with the first focused on the siblings' origins. Subsequent episodes will be out Nov. 13 and Nov. 20.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber

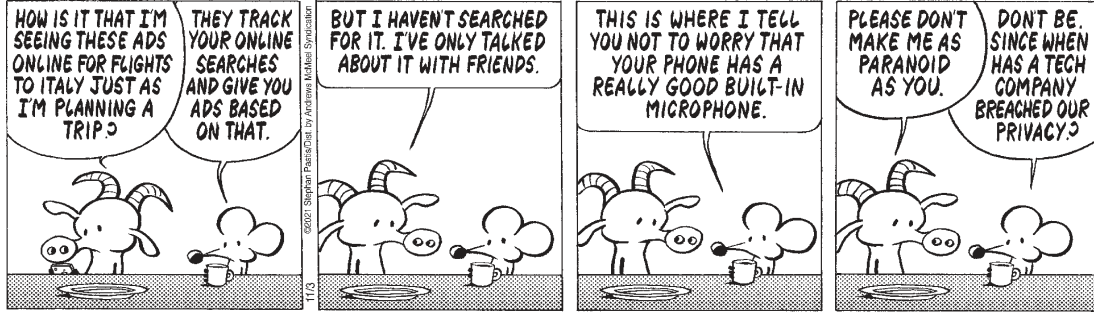
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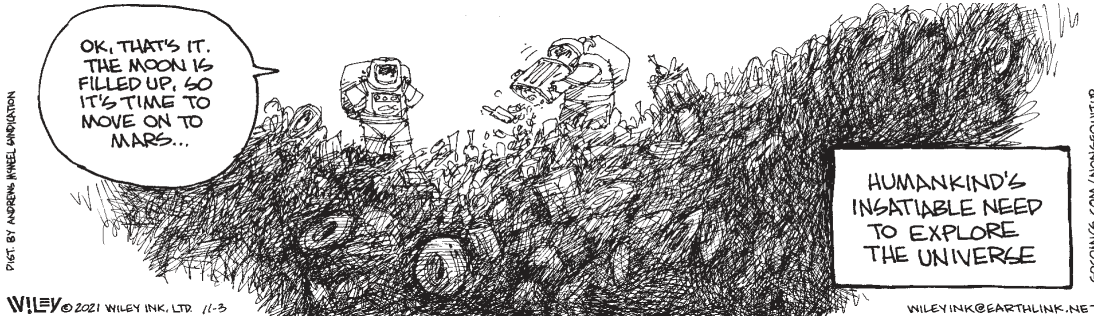
Dilbert



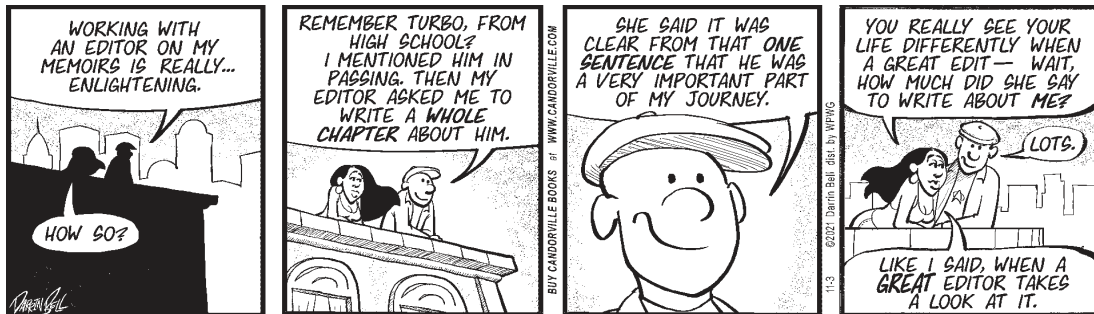
Pearls Before Swine



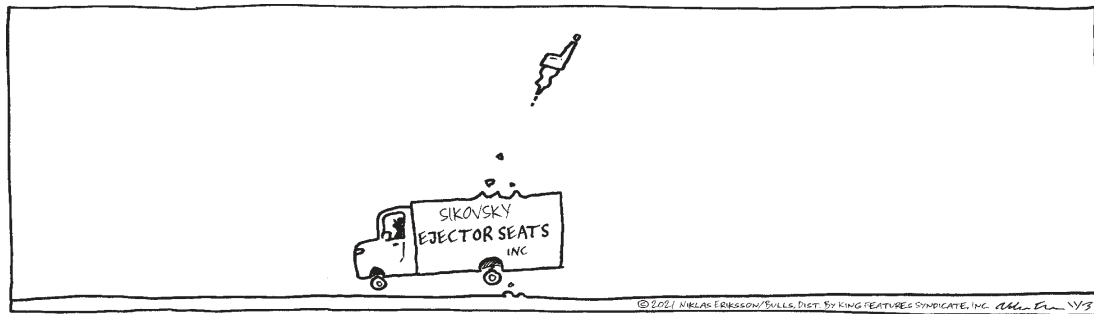
Non Sequitur



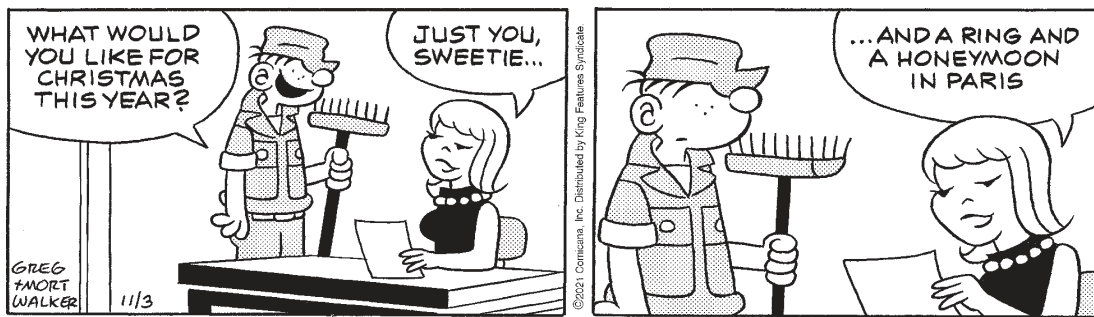
Candorville



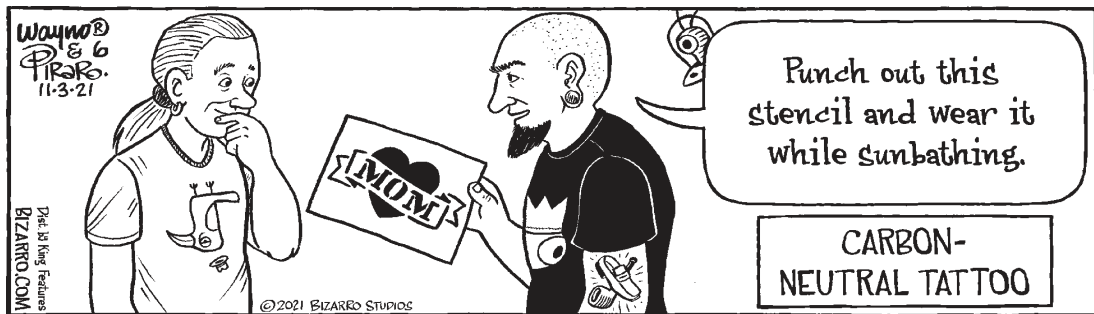
Carpe Diem



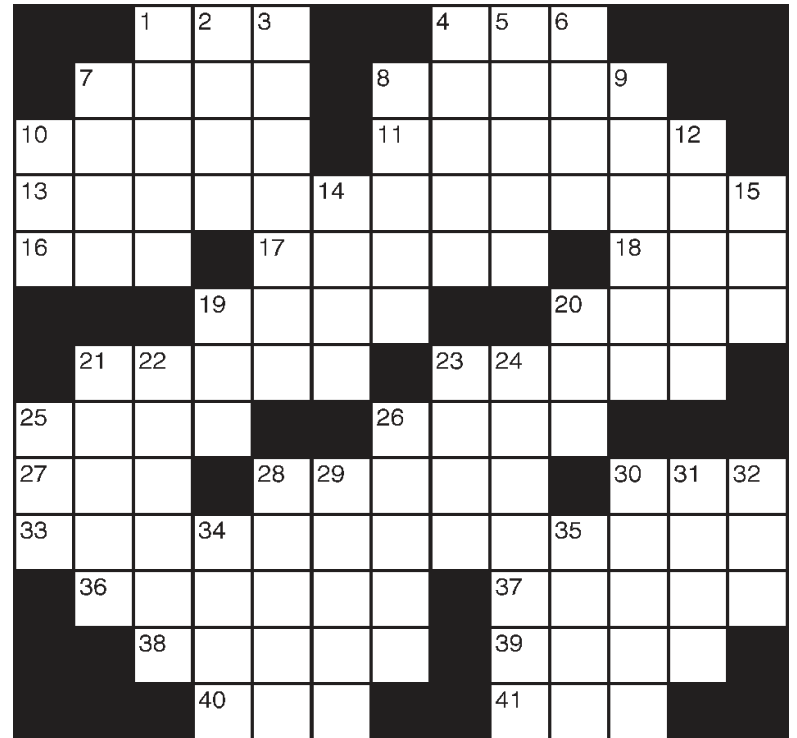
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Happy hour venue
- 4 Score units (Abbr.)
- 7 Hockey's Gordie
- 8 Seer's deck
- 10 Ersatz chocolate
- 11 Actress Clarke by John le Carré
- 13 1979 spy novel
- 16 Online chats, briefly
- 17 Fizzy drinks
- 18 Boy king
- 19 Pac-12 school
- 20 Stand-up comic Mabley
- 21 Israel's Ehud
- 23 Childhood malady
- 25 Lass
- 26 Mature
- 27 USN bigwig
- 28 Grown-up
- 30 Shock partner
- 33 Selfless-to-a-fault type
- 36 Clef variety
- 37 Ruminates
- 38 Wozniak or Jobs

- 39 Sch. for tots
- 40 Observe
- 41 Feedback bit

DOWN

- 1 Tennis star Becker
- 2 MP's quarry
- 3 Hitchcock film
- 4 Argentine grass-land
- 5 Samples
- 6 Alone
- 7 Soccer star Mia
- 8 Inventor Nikola
- 9 Excellent
- 10 Hit CBS series
- 12 Reunion crowd
- 14 Egg part
- 15 UFO engineers
- 19 Web address
- 20 French Mrs.
- 21 Fancy bathroom fixture
- 22 Knight suits
- 23 Grinder
- 24 Musically lively
- 25 Hiatus
- 26 Indian coin
- 28 "Tiny Alice" playwright
- 29 Look (into)
- 30 Plus
- 31 Seven days
- 32 Hosp. sections
- 34 Favorites
- 35 Mystique

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

11-3

CRYPTOQUIP

J P R V Z P H Z B H Y S Y O K G R P R O
 Z J K - Y K K O Q H O X V A R B W R G H A B S
 D H U Z , W U X T T K U R U P R D B R J
 Z P R Q K X T R .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE COLONEL IN "MY FAIR LADY" WERE IN A PETTY ARGUMENT, THAT WOULD BE PICKERING BICKERING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals W

STARS AND STRIPES

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Biden's Afghan blunder is endangering US security

By JOHN R. BOLTON

Special to The Washington Post

After overthrowing the Taliban government in Afghanistan in 2001, U.S. and NATO forces stayed in the country primarily to preclude the Taliban from regaining power and again providing sanctuary for terrorists threatening worldwide attacks. U.S. presidents voiced other reasons to remain, some important, some not. Mistakes were made and money wasted. The undeniable human cost was almost entirely caused by the terrorists' continued barbarity.

For 20 years, no terrorist attacks against the U.S. emanated from Afghanistan. Tragically, this central reality became obscured by simplistic political sloganeering. Presidents either didn't grasp or were unwilling to advocate a limited U.S. military presence to buttress Kabul's elected government and keep the Taliban at bay. Those advocating withdrawal simply assumed the terrorist threat was immaterial, or preventable through unproven "over the horizon" strategies.

Before Congress last week, the Biden administration conceded that one rhetorical Maginot Line supporting withdrawal had fallen. Colin Kahl, the undersecretary of defense for policy, testified that both al-Qaida and the Islamic State faction in Afghanistan known as Islamic State-Khorasan, or ISIS-K, have the "intent" to conduct terrorist attacks against the West. "We could see ISIS-K generate that capability in somewhere between six or 12 months. I think the current assessments by the intelligence community is that al-Qaida would take a year or two to reconstitute that capability." So much for the Taliban's credibility, having promised to prevent precisely this.

Did the speed of the threat's rise stem from the terrorists' resilience or erroneous U.S. es-

timates of how much damage they had incurred? The question deserves close scrutiny. Whatever the explanation, the result is the same: The United States may not face another 9/11-scale attack immediately, but the terrorist threat has not moderated, and certainly not disappeared.

The Biden administration deserves credit for surprising candor, although Kahl's testimony echoed the warnings that President Joe Biden received before proceeding to withdraw, as President Donald Trump and President Barack Obama were similarly warned. Now, however, these troubling assessments are publicly buttressed by Biden's own political appointee. Biden's long-standing over-the-horizon theory that we can mount successful counterterrorism operations from far distant platforms, with essentially no in-country presence, will now be tested. Unfortunately, this conjecture is likely to be merely a second rhetorical Maginot Line.

Without even a bare-bones U.S. counterterrorism platform in Afghanistan, intelligence on threatening activities will be enormously difficult to come by. Much of our superb technical capability for surveillance will be irrelevant. Al-Qaida and ISIS-K will not be excavating deep silos to house nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles, like China, visible from space. Nor is eavesdropping possible when terrorists transmit truly sensitive information via the ancient but durable channel of couriers. Working with human agents, the best method against tightly knit organizations, requires in-person handling, not videoconferences from Langley.

Obviously, inadequate intelligence makes long-distance strikes far more problematic, especially in remote, mountainous Afghan terrain. Pakistani help is a mixed blessing, as it has been for two decades, given the country's

Janus-like relationship with the Taliban and other terrorists. Nor is Moscow cooperating. Speaking virtually to a recent Tehran conference, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, "We call on Afghanistan's neighboring countries not to allow a military presence of U.S. and NATO forces that plan to move there after leaving Afghanistan's territory."

As we moved out, ostensibly to focus more intensely on China, China is moving in: by offering at Tehran to host next year's ministerial meeting of Kabul's neighbors, and by expanding investments and fostering mutually beneficial political understandings with the Taliban.

Nor should anyone believe that the current animosities between ISIS-K and the Taliban (joined by al-Qaida, now deeply intertwined with the Taliban), are permanent. ISIS emerged from al-Qaida, and the taxonomy of Islamist terrorists is not so rigid that alliances of convenience or even firm partnerships won't emerge against the common enemy, namely the United States. Accordingly, a notion now circulating among some in the U.S. national security community supporting the Taliban against ISIS-K should be sharply rejected. The terrorists understand their own capacity for shifting affiliations, and so should we. They are all our enemies.

Today, post-withdrawal, Americans are unmistakably more vulnerable to terrorism's threat. Adversaries and allies alike regard the abandonment of Afghanistan as a surrender, auguring how muted a U.S. response might be to crises far from Kabul. We can reverse this slide, but doing so requires recognizing that leaving Afghanistan was a strategic blunder.

John R. Bolton served as national security adviser under President Donald Trump and is the author of "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir."

Use best test to correctly diagnose sepsis in veterans

By DR. BILL MCDANIEL

Special to Stars and Stripes

The United States has a long and proud tradition of taking care of those who serve in our armed forces. The Department of Veterans Affairs traces its mission back hundreds of years, beginning with the Continental Congress providing pensions to disabled soldiers. Since its formal creation in 1930, the VA, specifically the Veterans Health Administration, has grown into one of the largest health care organizations in the country, tasked with providing the highest quality of care to millions of our nation's veterans with the latest health care technology available.

Since my retirement, I have been active in advocating for and ensuring continuing quality care to all members of our military family: active-duty personnel, dependents and veterans. Having spent many years in this world, a frustrating challenge that I continue to see is the "acceptance" of certain inferior health outcomes associated with preventable medical and diagnostic error. As a physician and longtime military leader, I find this unacceptable. I believe it's our duty to do all in our power to advance the "standard of care" with new technologies, techniques and procedures. We should always, always, strive to improve the standard of care, not simply accept it.

Delivering the best patient care possible is only achievable through proper diagnosis. In the U.S., over 70% of all patient treatment decisions are based on laboratory test results, but

in certain instances, these results can be inaccurate and/or misleading. A prime example is sepsis, a life-threatening immune reaction triggered by a severe bloodstream infection. While patients with a mild case of sepsis typically recover, in severe cases, including septic shock, an estimated 40% of patients die. According to the CDC, sepsis claims the life of an estimated 270,000 Americans each year. As a comparison, COVID-19 has a 1.8% mortality rate — over twentyfold lower than sepsis.

The challenge with diagnosing sepsis is that standard of care blood test is frequently wrong. Each year, more than 20 million Americans demonstrate symptoms of sepsis and are tested in U.S. hospitals. Of those tests that return for a positive result for bloodstream infection including sepsis, an average of 40% of positive results are false positive. These false positive results drive the improper use of powerful antibiotics, which contributes directly to antimicrobial resistance, avoidable hospital admissions and length of patient stay. Within the VHA, it's estimated that nearly 30,000 patients are affected by false-positive blood cultures annually, with more than \$125 million unnecessarily spent by the VHA each year on inappropriate and avoidable treatment associated with false positive sepsis test results.

Based on advances in technology and new clinically proven performance thresholds, it is time to reset the standard for sepsis testing accuracy and blood culture contamination rates. Today's standard of "acceptable false positive results" of 3% or below does not represent the

best practice performance level we must hold ourselves accountable to achieving. The new target performance threshold we must implement is less than 1% false positive results for sepsis testing across the entire VHA system.

We know this performance level is possible because the VHA has effectively implemented this new standard of care in over a dozen medical centers across the country. In 2018 for example, the Houston VA Medical Center reported an astounding 83% reduction in blood culture contamination and false positive results with the use of new and readily available medical device technology. The VA North Texas Health System in Dallas achieved similar results with a 68% reported reduction in false positive sepsis tests.

Last month a congressional subcommittee responsible for funding the VHA directed the VA to "prioritize the development of a specific quality measure for blood contamination based on the recommendation of less than 1% blood culture contamination rate within 6 months of enactment." Now we all need to work together to ensure each and every VA medical center executes on this directive. Every U.S. veteran deserves access to the best technologies to support their health, safety and well-being. In the case of accurate sepsis testing, the outcome benefits everyone.

Bill McDaniel, a physician, is a retired U.S. Navy rear admiral. He sits on the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of Magnolia Medical Technologies, which manufactures a device that is used — in VA centers and elsewhere — when blood is drawn to reduce the instances of false positive.

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SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

FCS coaches poll

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Sam Houston (27)	7-0	675	1
2. North Dakota State	8-0	644	2
3. James Madison	7-1	621	5
4. Montana State	7-1	579	6
5. E. Washington	7-1	566	7
6. SE Louisiana	7-1	537	8
7. UC Davis	7-1	479	9
8. Kennesaw State	7-1	464	10
9. Southern Illinois	6-2	420	3
10. Montana	6-2	413	11
11. UT Martin	7-1	384	12
12. South Dakota State	6-2	369	13
13. Villanova	6-2	352	4
14. E. Tennessee State	7-1	325	14
15. Northern Iowa	5-3	303	17
16. Princeton	7-0	257	15
17. Jackson State	7-1	221	16
18. VMI	6-2	213	18
19. Eastern Kentucky	6-2	193	19
20. Missouri State	5-3	184	20
21. South Dakota	5-3	108	22
22. Sacramento State	6-2	89	T23
23. William & Mary	6-2	83	—
24. Weber State	4-4	80	T23
25. Chattanooga	5-3	44	—

Dropped out: Harvard (21), Rhode Island (25)

Others receiving votes: Harvard, 27; Monmouth (N.J.), 21; Mercer, 16; Dartmouth, 14; Prairie View A&M, 14; Central Arkansas, 13; Florida A&M, 13; Stephen F. Austin, 12; Holy Cross, 11; Delaware, 10; UIW, 8; Maine, 6; Nicholls, 5; Davidson, 2.

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday

No. 24 Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Georgia St.

Saturday

- No. 1 Georgia vs. Missouri
- No. 2 Cincinnati vs. Tulsa
- No. 3 Alabama vs. LSU
- No. 5 Michigan St. at Purdue
- No. 6 Ohio St. at Nebraska
- No. 7 Oregon at Washington
- No. 8 Notre Dame vs. Navy
- No. 9 Michigan vs. Indiana
- No. 10 Wake Forest at North Carolina
- No. 11 Oklahoma St. at West Virginia
- No. 12 Auburn at No. 13 Texas A&M
- No. 14 Baylor at TCU
- No. 15 Mississippi vs. Liberty
- No. 16 UTSA at UTEP
- No. 17 BYU vs. Idaho St.
- No. 18 Kentucky vs. Tennessee
- No. 19 Iowa at Northwestern
- No. 20 Houston at South Florida
- No. 21 Coastal Carolina at Georgia Southern
- No. 22 Penn St. at Maryland
- No. 23 SMU at Memphis
- No. 25 Fresno St. vs. Boise St.

TENNIS

Paris Masters

Monday

At Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy

Paris

Purse: Euro 2,603,700

Surface: Hardcourt indoor

Men's Singles

Round of 64

- Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
- Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, def. Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (2).
- Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-1, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (5).
- Sebastian Korda, United States, def. Aslan Karatsev (13), Russia, 6-2, 6-7 (9), 7-6 (5).
- Cameron Norrie (10), Britain, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 6-2, 6-1.
- Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 2-6, 7-5, 7-5.
- Adrian Mannarino, France, def. Nikoloz Basilashvili, Georgia, 6-2, 6-4.
- Hugo Gaston, France, def. Arthur Rinderknech, France, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.
- Dominik Koepfer, Germany, def. Andy Murray, Britain, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (9).
- Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, def. Laslo Djere, Serbia, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
- Pablo Carreno Busta (12), Spain, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-3, 6-4.

Men's Doubles

Round of 32

- Fabrice Martin, France, and Andreas Mies, Germany, def. Jean-Julien Rojer and Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, 6-3, 7-5.
- Gonzalo Escobar, Ecuador, and Ariel Behar, Uruguay, def. Raven Klaasen, South Africa, and Ben McLachlan, Japan, 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3), 10-6.
- Novak Djokovic and Filip Krajinovic, Serbia, def. Luke Saville and Alex de Minaur, Australia, 4-6, 6-4, 10-7.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Nov. 3

1899 — Jim Jeffries beats Sailor Tom Sharkey to retain the world heavyweight title after referee George Siler stops the fight in the 25th round at the Greater New York Athletic Club.

1968 — Jim Turner of New York kicks six field goals to lead the Jets to a 25-21 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

1973 — Roosevelt Leaks rushes for 342 yards to lead Texas to a 42-14 victory over Southern Methodist.

1973 — Jay Miller sets an NCAA record

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	22	4	7	73	65	40
Philadelphia	14	8	11	53	47	34
Nashville	12	4	17	53	54	32
NYCFC	14	11	8	50	55	35
Orlando City	12	9	12	48	48	48
Atlanta	12	9	11	47	43	36
New York	13	12	7	46	38	32
D.C. United	13	15	5	44	53	53
Columbus	12	13	8	44	44	45
CF Montréal	11	11	10	43	44	42
Inter Miami CF	11	17	5	38	35	53
Chicago	9	17	7	34	36	52
Toronto FC	6	17	10	28	38	63
Cincinnati	4	21	8	20	36	72

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	17	8	8	59	52	32
Sporting KC	17	8	7	58	57	36
Colorado	16	7	10	58	46	33
Portland	15	13	4	49	50	51
Minnesota	13	11	9	48	39	41
LA Galaxy	13	12	8	47	47	51
Vancouver	12	9	11	47	43	43
Real Salt Lake	13	13	6	45	53	51
LAFc	12	12	8	44	50	45
San Jose	10	13	10	40	45	53
FC Dallas	7	15	11	32	46	55
Houston	6	15	12	30	36	52
Austin FC	8	20	4	28	32	52

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

Saturday, Oct. 30

New York City FC 3, Miami 1
San Jose 4, Real Salt Lake 3
New York 1, CF Montréal 0
Toronto FC 1, Atlanta 1, tie
Columbus 3, D.C. United 1
FC Dallas 2, Austin FC 1

Sunday, Oct. 31

Minnesota 2, Sporting Kansas City 1
Colorado 1, Houston 0
Nashville 1, Orlando City 1, tie
Philadelphia 2, Cincinnati 0

Monday's game

LA Galaxy 1, Seattle 1, tie

Tuesday's game

Vancouver at Los Angeles FC

Wednesday's games

Houston at CF Montréal
Atlanta at New York
Sporting Kansas City at Austin FC
Portland at Real Salt Lake

Sunday's games

Atlanta at Cincinnati
Chicago at Columbus
D.C. United at Toronto FC
Miami at New England
New York at Nashville
Orlando City at CF Montréal
Philadelphia at New York City FC
Austin FC at Portland
FC Dallas at San Jose
Los Angeles FC at Colorado
Minnesota at LA Galaxy
Real Salt Lake at Sporting Kansas City
Seattle at Vancouver

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Portland	13	6	5	44	33	17
x-OL Reign	13	8	3	42	37	24
x-Washington	11	7	6	39	29	26
x-Chicago	11	8	5	38	28	28
x-Gotham FC	8	5	11	35	29	21
x-N. Carolina	9	9	6	33	28	23
Houston	9	10	5	32	31	31
Orlando	7	10	7	28	27	32
Louisville	5	12	7	22	21	40
Kansas City	3	14	7	16	15	36

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

Friday, Oct. 29

Chicago 1, Orlando 0

Saturday, Oct. 30

OL Reign 3, Kansas City 0
North Carolina 0, Portland 0, tie

Sunday, Oct. 31

Washington 1, Houston 0
Louisville 1, Gotham FC 1, tie

Sunday's games

Gotham FC at Chicago
North Carolina at Washington

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Released 1B Ryan McBroom.

TEXAS RANGERS — Named Donnie Ecker major league bench coach and offensive coordinator and Josh Bonifay director of player development.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Hired Jeff Banister as bench coach.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with manager Bob Melvin on a three-year contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed RB Tavien Feaster and OL Marcus Henry to the practice squad. Released CB Lavert Hill from the practice squad.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed OL Ryan Neuzil to the practice squad. Released K Elliott Fry from the practice squad.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Released TE Eric Tomlinson. Placed LB Malik Harrison on the non-football injury list and OT Andre Smith on the practice squad injured reserve.

CHICAGO BEARS — Reinstated TE Jimmy Graham from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Designated WR Marquez Valdes-Scantling to return from injured reserve. Reinstated WR Allen Lazard from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed RB Kylin Hill and TE Robert Tonyan on injured reserve.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released QB Brett Hundley and WR J.J. Nelson. Placed DE Tyquan Lewis on injured reserve. Promoted RB Deon Jackson and S Josh Jones from the practice squad to the active roster.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed DL Jeremiah Ledbetter to the practice squad. Reinstated OL Badara Traore from the practice squad injured reserve. Released WR Josh Imatorbhebhe. Claimed RB Devine Ozigbo off waivers from New Orleans.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Promoted DE Austin Edwards and LB Darius Harris from the practice squad to the active roster.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Reinstated LB Javin White from injured reserve and S Ha Ha Clinton-Dix from the practice squad injured reserve.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Promoted LB Trent Harris and LB Berardrick McKinney to the active roster from the practice squad. Reinstated DB Steven Parker from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list. Placed DB Aaron Robinson and LB Carter Coughlin on injured reserve.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Placed RB Derrick Henry on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL — Suspended Montreal F Cedric Paquette two games, without pay, for boarding Anaheim F Trevor Zegras during Sunday's game.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled C Kevin Stenlund from Cleveland (AHL).

DALLAS STARS — Recalled D Thomas Harley from Texas (AHL).

MONTREAL CANADIENS — Sent RW Cole Caufield to Laval (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Signed D Adam Fox to a seven-year contract extension.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled C Gabriel Dumont from Syracuse (AHL). Sent D Fredrick Claesson to Syracuse.

VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Recalled D Travis Hamonic from Abbotsford (AHL). Sent D Jack Rathbone to Abbotsford.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled C Aliaksei Protas from Hershey (AHL).

AUTO RACING

NASCAR — Announced Kyle Busch will be required to complete sensitivity training before the start of the 2022 season as a result of language used during a post-race interview that is in violation of NASCAR's conduct guidelines.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

HOUSTON DYNAMO FC — Named Pat Onstad general manager.

COLLEGE

SYRACUSE — Named Ashleigh DeBoue women's basketball director of operations.

GOLF

World rankings

Through Oct. 31

1. Jon Rahm	ESP	9.94
2. Collin Morikawa	USA	8.51
3. Dustin Johnson	USA	8.43
4. Patrick Cantlay	USA	7.33
5. Xander Schauffele	USA	6.98
6. Bryson DeChambeau	USA	6.77
7. Justin Thomas	USA	6.69
8. Rory McIlroy	NIR	6.45
9. Louis Oosthuizen	SAF	5.95
10. Jordan Spieth	USA	5.44
11. Tony Finau	USA	5.38
12. Hideki Matsuyama	JPN	5.36
13. Brooks Koepka	USA	5.36
14. Abraham Ancer	MEX	5.24
15. Harris English	USA	5.22
16. Daniel Berger	USA	5.13
17. Viktor Hovland	NOR	5.04
18. Tyrrell Hatton	ENG	5.04
19. Sam Burns	USA	4.98
20. Billy Horschel	USA	4.68
21. Cameron Smith	AUS	4.58
22. Patrick Reed	USA	4.50
23. Sungjae Im	KOR	4.43
24. Scottie Scheffler	USA	4.32
25. Webb Simpson	USA	4.28

BRIEFLY

Steelers deal veteran LB Ingram to Chiefs

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers have traded veteran outside linebacker Melvin Ingram to the Kansas City Chiefs for a sixth-round pick in the 2022 draft.

The teams made the announcement Tuesday, hours before the NFL's trade deadline.

The move gives Kansas City's struggling defense some much-needed help, though Ingram did sit out Pittsburgh's win over Cleveland on Sunday with what the team called a groin injury.

Ingram spent the first nine years of his career with the Los Angeles Chargers before signing a one-year deal with Pittsburgh in July. He played a fair amount early in the season while Steelers star T.J. Watt and second-year outside linebacker Alex Highsmith dealt with injuries.

The 32-year-old Ingram had one sack and 10 tackles in six games with Pittsburgh.

Illini's Cockburn to sit 3 games for selling items

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — The NCAA has suspended Illinois center Kofi Cockburn for the first three games of the season because he sold apparel and memorabilia before new regulations that allow athletes to participate in money-making ventures went into effect.

The Associated Press pre-season All-American is set to play his first game Nov. 22 against Cincinnati in Kansas City, Mo., according to the school's announcement Monday.

The 7-foot center will miss the 11th-ranked Illini's first two home games, Nov. 9 against Jackson State and Nov. 12 against Arkansas State, as well as a Nov. 15 game against Marquette in the Gavitt Tipoff Games. He is permitted to practice with the team during the suspension.

The suspension is required as part of the reinstatement process that was triggered because Cockburn sold institutionally issued apparel and memorabilia in June, the university said. The state of Illinois and the NCAA enacted new name, image and likeness legislation on July 1 that would have made these sales permissible.

FIFA visits second set of potential host cities

SEATTLE — FIFA and CONCACAF are inching closer to making the final call on which cities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico will host matches for the 2026 World Cup, with decisions expected sometime next spring.

The FIFA and CONCACAF delegation wrapped up its second set of site visits Monday in Seattle, which is seen as one of the strongest candidates for hosting matches due to its soccer history, favorable summertime weather and as the sole city in the Pacific Northwest to bid.

FIFA chief tournaments and events officer Colin Smith said all site visits should be completed by the end of November, with a decision expected sometime toward the end of March or early April.

The 2026 World Cup will be the first with 48 teams but it also presents a logistical challenge with the largest geographic footprint of any World Cup to date. Games could be played from Edmonton, Alberta, to Mexico City and Seattle to Boston. Smith said they're currently thinking 16 cities will be selected as hosts, but that is not set.

Seattle was at the tail end of a series of site visits that included Kansas City, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Monterrey, Mexico, and San Francisco. The delegation visited Boston, Nashville, Atlanta, Orlando, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Miami and the New York-New Jersey area in September.

In other soccer news:

■ Former FIFA officials Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini were charged with fraud and other offenses by Swiss prosecutors on Tuesday after a six-year investigation into a controversial \$2 million payment.

The 85-year-old Blatter and 66-year-old Platini now face a trial at federal criminal court in Bellinzona. They could be jailed for several years if found guilty, though Swiss cases often take years to reach a conclusion.

Melvin gets 3-year contract with Padres

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres announced the hiring of Bob Melvin as manager on Monday, bringing a veteran presence to an exciting team that imploded down the stretch.

Melvin takes his 18 years of big league managerial experience to a team where his two predecessors had no experience as a major league skipper before they were hired. Melvin, 60, signed a three-year contract.

Melvin was hired away from the Oakland Athletics, where he was 853-764 in

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	9	8	0	1	17	36	18
Buffalo	8	5	2	1	11	25	17
Tampa Bay	9	5	3	1	11	29	30
Detroit	9	4	3	2	10	29	31
Toronto	9	4	4	1	9	21	29
Boston	7	4	3	0	8	18	20
Ottawa	8	3	5	0	6	20	25
Montreal	10	2	8	0	4	19	34

Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	8	8	0	0	16	33	12
N.Y. Rangers	9	6	2	1	13	22	19
Washington	9	5	1	3	13	32	22
Columbus	8	5	3	0	10	23	22
Philadelphia	7	4	2	1	9	25	21
New Jersey	7	4	2	1	9	21	21
N.Y. Islanders	7	3	2	2	8	17	18
Pittsburgh	8	3	3	2	8	26	25

Western Conference							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	7	6	1	0	12	29	15
Winnipeg	8	4	2	2	10	28	26
Minnesota	8	5	3	0	10	22	26
Nashville	8	4	4	0	8	23	22
Colorado	8	4	4	0	8	24	27
Dallas	8	3	4	1	7	15	22
Chicago	10	1	7	2	4	22	38
Arizona	9	0	8	1	1	13	39

Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	8	7	1	0	14	38	23
Calgary	8	6	1	1	13	29	15
San Jose	8	5	3	0	10	22	19
Anaheim	10	3	4	3	9	31	35
Vegas	8	4	4	0	8	21	26
Los Angeles	9	3	5	1	7	24	27
Vancouver	9	3	5	1	7	22	25
Seattle	10	3	6	1	7	27	37

Sunday's games	
Carolina 2, Arizona 1	
Los Angeles 4, Buffalo 2	
Anaheim 4, Montreal 2	
Columbus 4, New Jersey 3, SO	
N.Y. Rangers 3, Seattle 1	

Monday's games	
Tampa Bay 3, Washington 2	
Chicago 5, Ottawa 1	
Edmonton 5, Seattle 2	

Tuesday's games	
Arizona at Philadelphia	
Detroit at Montreal	
Vegas at Toronto	
Dallas at Winnipeg	
Ottawa at Minnesota	
Nashville at Calgary	
N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver	
New Jersey at Anaheim	
Buffalo at San Jose	

Wednesday's games	
Carolina at Chicago	
Nashville at Edmonton	
Columbus at Colorado	
St. Louis at Los Angeles	

Thursday's games	
Detroit at Boston	
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal	
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	
Tampa Bay at Toronto	
Vegas at Ottawa	
Washington at Florida	
Dallas at Calgary	
Buffalo at Seattle	
St. Louis at San Jose	

Friday's games	
Florida at Detroit	
Washington at Tampa Bay	
San Jose at Dallas	
Edmonton at Vancouver	
Seattle at Los Angeles	
Calgary at Chicago	
Arizona at St. Louis	
Minnesota at Nashville	
Winnipeg at St. Louis	
Colorado at Dallas	
San Jose at Tampa Bay	
Los Angeles at Vancouver	
Vegas at Edmonton	
Arizona at St. Louis	

Saturday's games	
Florida at Detroit	
Washington at Tampa Bay	
San Jose at Dallas	
Edmonton at Vancouver	
Seattle at Los Angeles	
Calgary at Chicago	
Arizona at St. Louis	
Minnesota at Nashville	
Winnipeg at St. Louis	
Colorado at Dallas	
San Jose at Tampa Bay	
Los Angeles at Vancouver	
Vegas at Edmonton	
Arizona at St. Louis	

Leaders	
Through Monday	
Game-winning goals	
Name	G GW

Cam Atkinson, Philadelphia	7	2
Aleksander Barkov, Florida	9	2
Sam Bennett, Florida	8	2
Tyler Bertuzzi, Detroit	7	2
Jonathan Dahlen, San Jose	7	2
Jake DeBrusk, Boston	7	2
Leon Draisaitl, Edmonton	7	2
Ryan Hartman, Minnesota	8	2
Mike Hoffman, Montreal	7	2
Jonathan Huberdeau, Florida	9	2
Alexis Lafreniere, N.Y. Rangers	9	2
Patrik Laine, Columbus	8	2
Elias Lindholm, Calgary	8	2
Andrew Mangiapane, Calgary	8	2
William Nylander, Toronto	9	2
Ondrej Palat, Tampa Bay	8	2
Brandon Tanev, Seattle	9	2
Vladimir Tarasenko, St. Louis	7	2
Dylan Larkin, Detroit	8	1
Filip Zadina, Detroit	9	1



Florida Panthers interim head coach Andrew Brunette watches against the Detroit Red Wings on Friday. The team is 8-0-1 even though coach Joel Quenneville was forced to resign.

PAUL SANCYA/AP

After an emotional week, Panthers seek normalcy

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — There was a Halloween party for the Florida Panthers players and their significant others on Sunday night, allowing them to spend a few hours enjoying each other's company while dressed up as something or someone else. Weirily, it also helped the Panthers to finally be themselves again. A wild opening stretch — exhilarating because the Panthers strung together one of the longest unbeaten runs to start a season in NHL history, but emotionally exhausting because coach Joel

Quenneville had to resign for his role in how the Chicago Blackhawks didn't properly address a player's claims of sexual assault by another coach 11 years ago — is over. Monday was simply a back-to-work day for Florida, the first real practice under interim coach Andrew Brunette. "We're just grinding through here right now," Brunette said. "Hopefully, this is a step toward getting to the new normal." The team's eight-game winning streak to start the season ended with a shootout loss in Boston on Saturday night. At 8-0-1, the Panthers have the most points in the

NHL, one ahead of Carolina — which also started 8-0-0 and goes for a ninth straight win Wednesday at Chicago. Should the Hurricanes win that game, they could match the NHL record for consecutive wins to start a season on Saturday when they visit Florida. Last Tuesday saw Quenneville's name feature prominently in the report summarizing the investigation into the Blackhawks' actions after Kyle Beach made his allegations. On Thursday, Quenneville stepped down. The next day, Brunette made his debut in Detroit and Florida won in overtime. And on Saturday, the Panthers played Boston again and lost in a shootout.

BRIEFS

Rangers, Fox agree on 7-year extension

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Adam Fox agreed to terms on a seven-year extension Tuesday with the New York Rangers, a deal that keeps the Norris Trophy-winning defenseman under contract through 2029. Fox became one of the youngest players to win the award last season after putting up 47 points in 55 games. He joined Hall of Famer Bobby Orr as the only players to win the Norris in one of his first two NHL seasons. The 23-year-old already has nine points in New York's first nine games this season. Fox has 98 points in 134 regular-season

games since making his debut with the Rangers in 2019. The contract is reportedly worth \$66.5 million with an annual salary cap hit of \$9.5 million. That's the same cap hit as Boston defenseman Charlie McAvoy, who signed for \$76 million over eight years. Penguins defensemen enter COVID protocol CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — Pittsburgh Penguins defensemen Marcus Pettersson and Chad Ruhwedel entered the COVID-19 protocol Monday after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Coach Mike Sullivan confirmed the positive tests, and said Pettersson is symptomatic while Ruhwedel is so far asymptomatic. Pettersson and Ruhwedel are the fifth and sixth members of the Penguins to enter the protocol so far this season, joining forwards Jeff Carter, Jack Guentzel and Zach Aston-Reese and defenseman Kris Letang. Letang, who was symptomatic, has been cleared to return to the team though it's still too early to say whether he'll be available Thursday when the Penguins host Philadelphia. Carter, Guentzel and Aston-Reese have returned.

ROUNDUP

Lightning end Caps' point streak

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Andrei Vasilevskiy made 31 saves, Anthony Cirelli had a goal and two assists, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat Washington 3-2 Monday night, ending the Capitals' eight-game season-opening point streak. Alex Killorn and Brayden Point also scored for Tampa Bay, and Taylor Raddysh picked up his first NHL point by assisting on Point's goal. Brett Leason got his first NHL goal and Conor Sheary also scored for Washington, which came in 5-0-3. Vitek Vanecek stopped 23 shots.

Capitals star Alex Ovechkin had his season-opening eight-game point streak (nine goals, six assists) end. He remains two goals away from tying Brett Hull (741) for fourth place all-time. Blackhawks 5, Senators 1: Patrick Kane had three goals and an assist in his return to the lineup, and host Chicago got its first win of the season.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves in another solid performance as the Blackhawks improved to 1-7-2 in front of a half-full United Center. Brandon Hagel scored twice, and captain Jonathan Toews had three assists. Kane was sidelined for the previous four games because of the NHL's COVID-19 protocol. His seventh hat trick in the regular season gave him 408 career goals, moving him ahead of Steve Larmier for third on the franchise list. Kane also jumped over Denis Savard for third on the Blackhawks' points list with 1,097. Oilers 5, Kraken 2: Leon Draisaitl had two goals and two assists, and host Edmonton extended its strong start to the season with a victory over Seattle. Duncan Keith, Kyle Turris and Kailer Yamamoto also scored for the Oilers, who improved to 7-1-0. Mikko Koskinen stopped 27 shots.



Tampa Bay's Anthony Cirelli (71) skates past Washington's John Carlson on Monday.

MIKE CARLSON/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NBA

Rankings reveal scope of playoff

Make case for future expansion

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The first College Football Playoff rankings of the season were scheduled to be unveiled Tuesday night, revealing the scope of the national championship race while also providing Exhibit A in the case for expanding the field.

The current four-team format is fine for crowning a deserving champion, but it has reduced interest in the rest of the nonplayoff bowl games among fans, players and even coaches while also narrowing the focus during the final month of the season to fewer than 10% of all major college football teams.

Both the CFP selection committee, charged with ranking teams, and the management committee, responsible for putting together a format to determine a national champion, will be in North Texas this week.

The selection committee's work finished Tuesday afternoon. The management committee, comprised of 10 conference commissioners and Notre Dame's athletic director, is scheduled to meet Wednesday and Thursday as it tries to hammer out the future structure of the CFP. There is a lot of support for a proposed

12-team format, but consensus needs to be unanimous and that is not yet the case.

When the 12-team model was made public in June, participation was touted as one of the main reasons for expansion.

"The practical effect of this will be that with four or five weeks to go in the season, there will be 25 or 30 teams that have a legitimate claim and practical opportunity to participate," Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said back in June. "That should make for an extraordinarily good October and November."

Without even seeing the committee's rankings, a glance at the AP Top 25 and seven years of CFP selections make it easy to see which teams head into November with a realistic chance to reach the final four.

Unbeaten Power Five conference teams: Georgia, Oklahoma, Michigan State, Wake Forest.

Power Five teams with one loss and a chance to win a conference: Alabama, Ohio State, Oregon, Michigan, Oklahoma State, Baylor.

History suggests that's the list. No team from a non-Power Five conference has ever made the playoff. No team with more than one loss has ever made the



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Cincinnati tight end Josh Whyte (81) celebrates his touchdown catch with quarterback Desmond Ridder during Saturday's game against Tulane. The Bearcats are undefeated and could be in the top four of the first College Football Playoff rankings.

playoff.

However, the committee has shown some signs of warming up to schools from the so-called Group of Five conferences in recent years, so slide unbeaten Cincinnati onto that pile.

There is a first time for everything, so if you want to stretch the list — and the imagination — a little further, add a couple of SEC teams that are still in position to win the conference with two losses.

Add Notre Dame with one loss, because you never know.

That's, at most, 14 of 130 FBS

teams with CFP aspirations and five weeks left to play.

If the proposed 12-team format, with automatic bids for the six highest-ranked FBS conference champions, was in place this season, a conservative count of teams that would currently have playoff hopes would be more than double that.

That would include any team from a Power Five conference with two losses or fewer, but in reality even a team with three losses entering November would still be in play to make a run.

"When we did the analysis of

this, one of the things that jumped out was in the current model ... in four of the last five years, in the initial selection, no one has moved further than from seventh to the final four, which doesn't promote the long-term interest over the season that we might like," Notre Dame AD Jack Swarbrick said.

Using past final selection committee rankings to fill out a 12-team bracket with the proposed criteria, 12 teams with at least three losses — all from Power Five conferences — would have made the playoff from 2014-19.

Mixed: League-wide stats are being affected by officiating changes

FROM PAGE 24

coach Quin Snyder said. "I'm cautiously optimistic that that'll balance itself out."

Snyder compared the current points of emphasis to a previous crackdown on flopping. The idea is to curtail certain tricks that seem to have no purpose other than drawing fouls.

"Some of the gamesmanship involved, whether it's kicking a leg into someone, stopping and going backwards and having someone run into you, grabbing someone's arm when you're not in a shooting motion," Snyder said.

Young said he agreed with targeting certain egregious examples, but he said he was frustrated with the way the game is now being called. Young averaged 8.7 free-throw attempts a game last season, and that number is down to 5.3 so far in 2021-22.

It's a similar story for some other perimeter stars. Damian Lillard's average has dipped from 7.2 to 3.9, Bradley Beal's from 7.7 to 4.2, and Luka Doncic's from 7.1 to 4.7. Star big men may not be exempt: Joel Embiid averaged 10.7 free throws last season, and that's dropped to 8.8.

And then there's James Harden, who has turned drawing fouls into an art form in which the beauty is very much in the eye of



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Damian Lillard's average number of free throws per game has dipped from 7.2 to 3.9.

the beholder. Harden dealt with injury problems last season, but in 2019-20, he averaged a whopping 11.8 free-throw attempts per game.

That figure is down to 5.3 this season. Harden attempted 19 free throws in a win

over Indiana on Friday night, but he has had four or fewer in every other game.

"I think it's difficult for the players, for the referees, and the coaches," said Steve Nash, Harden's coach with the Brooklyn Nets. "I think we're all just trying to get

through this period where we become accustomed to where the line is."

Beyond the impact on a few high-profile players, some league-wide stats are also showing a decline. The NBA average so far this season is 19.9 free throws per game, per team. That's down from 21.8 in 2020-21. Additionally, the league is shooting 45% from the field so far and 34% from three-point range, down from 47% and 37%.

"I have noticed that you're allowed to be much more physical with the driver or finisher at the rim," Nash said. "How that will maintain itself throughout the year is yet to be seen."

Detroit Pistons coach Dwane Casey said the dip in three-point shooting may be because of an increase in defensive switching.

"That's taking away some of the easy threes," he said.

Casey said there's a competition committee meeting Tuesday where these issues can be discussed.

"We talk about this idea of cause and effect, the changing of the rules, and I think you've seen it in some of the shooting percentages and attempts and everything," Casey said. "It's an adjustment for everybody."

AP sports writer Steve Megargee contributed to this report.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	5	2	.714	—
Philadelphia	5	2	.714	—
Toronto	5	3	.625	½
Brooklyn	4	3	.571	1
Boston	2	5	.286	3
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	5	1	.833	—
Washington	5	2	.714	½
Charlotte	5	3	.625	1
Atlanta	4	3	.571	1½
Orlando	2	6	.250	4
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	6	1	.857	—
Cleveland	4	4	.500	2½
Milwaukee	3	4	.429	3
Indiana	2	6	.250	4½
Detroit	1	5	.167	4½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	4	2	.667	—
Memphis	4	3	.571	½
San Antonio	2	5	.286	2½
Houston	1	5	.167	3
New Orleans	1	6	.143	3½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	5	1	.833	—
Denver	4	3	.571	1½
Minnesota	3	3	.500	2
Portland	3	4	.429	2½
Oklahoma City	1	6	.143	4½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	5	1	.833	—
L.A. Lakers	4	3	.571	1½
Sacramento	3	3	.500	2
Phoenix	2	3	.400	2½
L.A. Clippers	2	4	.333	3

Monday's games
 Indiana 131, San Antonio 118
 Philadelphia 113, Portland 103
 Cleveland 113, Charlotte 110
 Toronto 113, New York 104
 Chicago 128, Boston 114
 Atlanta 118, Washington 111
 Memphis 106, Denver 97
 Orlando 115, Minnesota 97
 L.A. Clippers 99, Oklahoma City 94

Tuesday's games
 Milwaukee at Detroit
 Miami at Dallas
 Sacramento at Utah
 New Orleans at Phoenix
 Houston at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games
 Boston at Orlando
 Chicago at Philadelphia
 New York at Indiana
 Portland at Cleveland
 Toronto at Washington
 Atlanta at Brooklyn
 Denver at Memphis
 L.A. Clippers at Minnesota
 Dallas at San Antonio
 Charlotte at Golden State
 New Orleans at Sacramento

Thursday's games
 Philadelphia at Detroit
 Boston at Miami
 Utah at Atlanta
 Houston at Phoenix
 Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers

Leaders

Through Monday Scoring					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Curry, GS	6	54	33	172	28.7
Morant, MEM	7	75	33	198	28.3
George, LAC	6	65	17	170	28.3
Durant, BKN	7	74	35	194	27.7
Antetokounmpo, MIL	7	69	44	191	27.3

Rebounds					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Gobert, UTA	6	25	78	103	17.2
Valanciunas, NO	7	33	69	102	14.6
Adebayo, MIA	5	14	56	70	14.0

Assists			
	G	AST	AVG
Paul, PHO	5	53	10.6
Young, ATL	7	66	9.4
Westbrook, LAL	7	61	8.7

DeRozan rallies Bulls past Celtics

Guard scores 37, helps Chicago erase 19-point deficit, improve to 6-1

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON — DeMar DeRozan scored 37 points and the Chicago Bulls rallied from a 19-point, second-half deficit on Monday night to beat the Boston Celtics 128-114 and improve to 6-1 for the season.

Zach LaVine scored 26 points and Nikola Vucevic had 11 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for Chicago, which outscored Boston 39-11 in the fourth quarter to turn a 14-point lead into a 14-point victory.

“It was very gratifying to see we kept the fight,” DeRozan said. “We were down big on the road, tough place to play, we didn’t get rattled.”

Jaylen Brown scored 28 for the Celtics, who have lost three in a row and left their home court to boos. Al Horford had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Jayson Tatum scored 20 for Boston.

“We got up, got comfortable, got a little bit too cute thinking the game was over in the third quarter,” said Boston coach Ime Udoka, who fell to 2-5 in his first season at the helm. “We started cele-



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Chicago's DeMar DeRozan, left, battles the Boston Celtics' Al Horford for a loose ball during the Bulls' 128-114 win Monday in Boston. DeRozan led the Bulls with 37 points.

brating early. It's a good lesson learned: You mess with the game, it will come back to bite you.”

The Celtics led 94-75 with about three minutes left in the third quarter and still had a 103-89 lead entering the fourth. But the Bulls scored the first 12 points in the

fourth to cut the deficit to two points, 103-101, with just over 8 minutes left.

Ayo Dosunmu, a second-round draft pick who had his first double-digit NBA game with 14 points, hit a three-pointer with 6:53 left to put Chicago up 106-105. Boston

briefly retook the lead before the Bulls scored 18 of the next 20 points.

“We’re running plays for our best players. Every team knows that. They do a good job of shutting that down,” Celtics guard Marcus Smart said. “We can’t allow that.”

ROUNDUP

Raptors top Knicks in 75th anniversary of first game

Associated Press

NEW YORK — OG Anunoby scored a career-high 36 points and the Toronto Raptors won their fourth straight by beating the New York Knicks 113-104 on Monday night in the 75th anniversary of the NBA’s first game.

Gary Trent Jr. added 26 points for the Raptors, who surged into the lead by outscoring the Knicks 38-22 in the third quarter. Fred VanVleet finished with 17 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

The Raptors took the lead for good during the period when Svi Mykhailiuk’s three-point shot made it 68-66 — the same score by which the Knicks beat the Toronto Huskies on Nov. 1, 1946, at Maple Leaf Gardens.

Mykhailiuk finished with 15 points in place of Scottie Barnes, who was leading all rookies with 18.1 points and 8.9 rebounds per game. He has a sprained right thumb.

RJ Barrett scored 27 points for the Knicks, who were trying for their first 6-1 start since 2012-13. Julius Randle had 22 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Cavaliers 113, Hornets 110: Jarrett Allen had 24 points and 16 rebounds as Cleveland held off a frantic fourth-quarter rally at Charlotte to close out a five-game trip on a positive note.

Lauri Markkanen scored 21 points, Evan Mobley added 15 points and 10 rebounds and Darius Garland had 16 points — including two clutch free throws with 14.9 seconds left — as the Cavaliers went 3-2 on the road.

76ers 113, Trail Blazers 103: Seth Curry stepped up in Joel Embiid’s absence, scoring



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Toronto's OG Anunoby drives past the Knicks' Julius Randle during the Raptors' 113-104 win Monday in New York.

23 points — including several key buckets late — to lead short-handed Philadelphia over visiting Portland.

Embiid, the team’s leading scorer and four-time All-Star, was out to rest — his first missed game of the season. The 76ers also were without Tobias Harris (health and safety protocols), who was a late scratch, and lost starter Danny Green in the third quarter due to hamstring tightness but not before he scored 11 points.

Grizzlies 106, Nuggets 97: Ja Morant had 26 points, eight assists and seven rebounds and

Tyus Jones added 17 points in Memphis’ victory over visiting Denver.

Xavier Tillman had 12 points, while Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 11 each as the Grizzlies snapped a three-game losing streak to the Nuggets.

Magic 115, Timberwolves 97: Cole Anthony scored a season-high 31 points and Wendell Carter Jr. chipped in 15 points and 14 rebounds as Orlando came from behind to win at Minnesota.

Rookie Franz Wagner had 28 points for the Magic, who snapped a four-game losing streak, while Minnesota native Jalen Suggs scored 15 points. Orlando trailed by 11 late in the third quarter before rallying with a strong night from the 3-point line by Anthony.

Hawks 118, Wizards 111: Trae Young scored 26 points and Clint Capela had 16 points and 12 rebounds to help Atlanta beat visiting Washington.

Bradley Beal scored 19 of his 24 points in the first half for the Wizards, who had their three-game win streak halted and lost their fifth in a row at State Farm Arena. A victory would’ve given 5-2 Washington its best start to a season since the 1974-75 Bullets were 7-0.

Pacers 131, Spurs 118: Domantas Sabonis had 24 points and 13 rebounds, and Myles Turner added 19 points to lead host Indiana past struggling San Antonio.

Clippers 99, Thunder 94: Paul George scored 32 points, Reggie Jackson added 15 and host Los Angeles rallied from a nine-point deficit late in the fourth quarter to beat Oklahoma City.

WORLD SERIES/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



ASHLEY LANDIS / AP

Members of the Braves watch during the ninth inning of Game 5 of World Series against the Astros on Sunday in Atlanta. Houston forced a Game 6 with 9-5 victory.

Longer games, late nights bring more calls for clock

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Late innings means late nights in the World Series, with many fans struggling to stay awake as the Braves and Astros play baseball's most important games of the year.

The first five Series games averaged 3 hours, 41 minutes, up from 3:37 for the Los Angeles Dodgers' six-game win over Tampa Bay last year. The opener took 4:06 and Game 5 lasted exactly 4 hours, both ending after midnight on the East Coast.

This year's overall postseason average of 3:38 is an increase from 3:32 last year.

Sooner or later, Major League Baseball will institute a pitch clock — with or without an agreement with the players' association.

"I want to be really clear about this," Commissioner Rob Manfred said before the Series opener. "We have rights under the agreement to do certain things with a certain process that's been followed. There's going to come a point in time where the pressure to make change is going to be sufficient. I prefer to do it by reaching an agreement with the players."

MLB has the right to unilaterally change on-field rules with one year of advance notice to the union. During the 2016-17 offseason, MLB proposed a 20-second timer in many situations, with a second violation resulting in the umpire calling a ball.

As part of a March 2019 agreement that increased active rosters from 25 to 26 players and mandated a pitcher face three batters or finish an inning, MLB agreed not to implement a pitch clock through 2021.

Scoreboard

World Series	
x-if necessary (Best-of-seven)	
Atlanta 3, Houston 2	
Atlanta 6, Houston 2	
Houston 7, Atlanta 2	
Atlanta 2, Houston 0	
Atlanta 3, Houston 2	
Houston 9, Atlanta 5	
Tuesday: at Houston AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Wednesday CET; 9 a.m. Wednesday JKT	
x-Wednesday: at Houston AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT	

Players have been reluctant to consider a clock. Union head Tony Clark, a former All-Star first baseman, didn't give a direct answer when asked whether he wanted to see a crisper product on the field.

"I'm a former player. I owe everything to the game. So do I watch it? Do I critique it? Do I analyze it? Am I willing to have a conversation about its well-being?" he said. "Always have and will continue to. That's not going to change. And I'm sure that at the end of the World Series, the dialogue that we've had to this point will continue."

Nine-inning games averaged a record 3:10:07 during the regular season, up from 3:07:46 for the pandemic-shortened 2020 season and 3:05:35 in 2019. The average was 2:49 in 1991 and 2:33 in 1981.

A pitch clock would eliminate much of the dead time caused when hitters step out of the batter's box and pitchers back off the mound and take deep breaths on the infield grass.

"I absolutely am in favor of it," broadcaster Bob Costas said. "For obvious reasons, it gets trickier with men on base."

Minor league Triple-A and Double-A games have had a 20-second pitch clock since 2015.

"It's not that hard," said Hous-

ton outfielder Kyle Tucker, who first reached the majors in 2018 and spent time at Triple-A in 2019. "You just, I don't know, speed it up a little bit, I guess."

A test was held this season at minor league Low-A West, setting the clock at 15 seconds with the bases empty, 17 seconds with runners on, 30 seconds between batters and 2:15 for half-inning breaks and pitching changes.

The 316 nine-inning games with the clock averaged 2:41, down from 3:02 for the 91 games without a clock.

"Certainly encouraging," Manfred said. "Game times in the 2:40s, which is a really sort of nice number when you think about it in comparison to where we've been. I think maybe more important than that is that people that go and watch the games feel like the pace of the game, the action in the game has really been improved, that it actually alters the requirement of moving along pitching, kind of changes the game the way it's played a little bit. And that would be a useful change for us."

Braves manager Brian Snitker and Astros manager Dusty Baker both think the primary cause of lengthy postseason games is time between innings. The break has been set at 2 minutes, 55 seconds for at least 20 years, with 2:25 for extra innings and pitching changes. That is up from 2:05 inning breaks during the regular season, except for 2:25 during nationally broadcast games.

"Commercial time pays the bills, and that's the reality of it all," Baker said. "You can cut down the commercial time, and then you've got to cut down the amount of money that's passed around."

Hartford players sticking it out as school shifts to D3

BY PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — Hartford men's basketball coach John Gallagher sat his team down last season after the school's first NCAA Tournament appearance to talk about a decision the university had just made to downgrade its athletic programs from Division I to Division III.

Though the change, which the school says will save it about \$9 million a year, won't happen right away, the coach told his returning players that he understood if they wanted to transfer.

None of them did.

"The season's a success just on that for me," Gallagher said. "What we preach about the neighborhood. What we preach about the 12 years of building this. We've succeeded, whatever happens, because we literally have a brotherhood here."

Hartford, which joined Division I in the mid-1980s, plans to submit a formal request to the NCAA for reclassification in January. It intends to stop offering athletic scholarships before the 2023-24 school year and hopes to complete the transition by Sept. 1, 2025.

Gallagher's players say there were several reasons they decided to keep playing at Hartford, including that their coach told them he wasn't going anywhere.

They also think they have a chance to have another successful season, to add another America East title and maybe even change some minds about downgrading the program.

"We're doing it for each other and we're definitely doing it for the students, so we can show them that this fight isn't over yet," said Austin Williams, a fifth-year senior who averaged 14.1 points and 6.2 rebounds last season. "We're going to keep on pushing and try to show the school that athletics are important."

Senior guard D.J. Mitchell acknowledged that he initially had some mixed feelings about putting on a jersey for a school whose leadership pulled the rug out from under the athletic department.

But he said the greater university community — the alumni, the fans and even the athletes that will come after him — deserve to get everything he has to offer on the court.

"There's people who have been supporting this school for years and we're doing this for them," he said. "That's the neighborhood that coach Gal talks about. I personally and all my teammates I know are going to do whatever we can to make sure it doesn't happen and things go back to the way we think it should be."

The team finished last season 15-9 and won its conference tournament before losing as a 16 seed, 79-55, to eventual national champion Baylor in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Hawks will raise their conference championship banner at home on Nov. 18 against Boston University.

They are picked to finish fourth in the conference this season but return a strong core from last year's team as well as several newcomers, including transfer DeJuan Clayton, who scored 1,518 points at Coppin State.

"Seven of the guys next year are going to be recruited at the SEC, Big East, Big Ten level," Gallagher predicted.

The coach said he's hopeful that a court challenge or pressure from alumni might keep his program at the Division I. But he said he has no plans to leave the school, at least not yet.

"We're a long-game program," he said. "If we stay Division I, the next 10 years will be historic here. And if we have to pack our bags and move the neighborhood somewhere else, it's going to be historic there."



MARK HUMPHREY / AP

Hartford men's basketball coach John Gallagher yells to his players during an NCAA tournament game against Baylor on March 19.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	229	109
New England	4	4	0	.500	206	164
N.Y. Jets	2	5	0	.286	114	206
Miami	1	7	0	.125	138	233

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	6	2	0	.750	227	195
Indianapolis	3	5	0	.375	200	183
Jacksonville	1	6	0	.143	123	203
Houston	1	7	0	.125	119	241

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	187	164
Cincinnati	5	3	0	.625	220	162
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	132	142
Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	183	180

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Las Vegas	5	2	0	.714	180	166
L.A. Chargers	4	3	0	.571	172	177
Denver	4	4	0	.500	157	137
Kansas City	4	4	0	.500	208	220

National Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	6	1	0	.857	225	162
Philadelphia	3	5	0	.375	203	191
N.Y. Giants	2	6	0	.250	156	200
Washington	2	6	0	.250	156	227

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	2	0	.750	260	183
New Orleans	5	2	0	.714	176	128
Carolina	4	4	0	.500	165	159
Atlanta	3	4	0	.429	148	195

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	7	1	0	.875	192	167
Minnesota	3	4	0	.429	163	157
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	123	195
Detroit	0	8	0	.000	134	244

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	7	1	0	.875	246	138
L.A. Rams	7	1	0	.875	245	168
San Francisco	3	4	0	.429	168	171
Seattle	3	5	0	.375	181	169

Thursday, Oct. 28

Green Bay 24, Arizona 21

Sunday's games

Buffalo 26, Miami 11
 Carolina 19, Atlanta 13
 L.A. Rams 38, Houston 22
 N.Y. Jets 34, Cincinnati 31
 Philadelphia 44, Detroit 6
 Pittsburgh 15, Cleveland 10
 San Francisco 33, Chicago 22
 Tennessee 34, Indianapolis 31, OT
 New England 27, L.A. Chargers 24
 Seattle 31, Jacksonville 7
 Denver 17, Washington 10
 New Orleans 36, Tampa Bay 27
 Dallas 20, Minnesota 16
Open: Baltimore, Las Vegas

Monday's game

Kansas City 20, N.Y. Giants 17

Thursday's game

N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis

Sunday, Nov. 7

Atlanta at New Orleans
 Buffalo at Jacksonville
 Cleveland at Cincinnati
 Denver at Dallas
 Houston at Miami
 Las Vegas at N.Y. Giants
 Minnesota at Baltimore
 New England at Carolina
 L.A. Chargers at Philadelphia
 Arizona at San Francisco
 Green Bay at Kansas City
 Tennessee at L.A. Rams
Open: Detroit, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Washington

Monday, Nov. 8

Chicago at Pittsburgh

Chiefs slip past Giants on late FG

Mahomes throws another INT, but scuffling KC tops New York to get to .500

By Dave Skretta
 Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes lamented two more turnovers and Chiefs coach Andy Reid a multitude of penalties, and just about everyone that stepped out of the Kansas City locker room vowed to turn around what's been a disappointing season.

It almost sounded as if they'd lost to the Giants on Monday night.

Instead, the scuffling Chiefs rallied behind two fourth-quarter field goals from Harrison Butker, including the go-ahead 34-yarder with 1:07 left, and beat downtrodden New York 20-17 to even their record after eight games.

"Listen, everything is not beautiful right now but we're fighting through it," Reid said. "Our guys battled. They didn't give up on each other. They kept working at a time you could have just thrown your hands up and say, 'Man, things are just not working the way they're supposed to work.' So we'll build on that. Let's keep going."

Mahomes threw for 275 yards with a touchdown and an interception for Kansas City, which along with two turnovers, committed 12 penalties for 103 yards. Tyreek Hill had 12 catches for 94 yards and a score, and Mecole Hardman added five catches for 63 yards, including a 24-yard catch-and-run on the final drive that set Butker up for the go-ahead kick.

"The guys are battling and trying to find ways to win," Mahomes said, "and tonight we did."

Daniel Jones had 222 yards passing with two touchdowns and a pick for the Giants (2-6), but he also was sacked three times, including twice after the Chiefs kicked off with just



Ed Zurga/AP

Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill celebrates after catching a touchdown pass as New York Giants safety Julian Love watches during the Chiefs' 20-17 win Monday in Kansas City, Mo.

10

Interceptions this season for Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, which leads the NFL. He has thrown interceptions in seven consecutive games.

SOURCE: Associated Press

over a minute left in the game.

It was just the fourth win in 15 meetings for Kansas City and their first since the 2013 season.

"We have to eliminate the mistakes we made down the stretch," New York coach Joe Judge said. "We can't allow a team like this to have extra opportunities. We can't rob ourselves a chance to have opportunities of our own."

The Chiefs actually diced up the Giants on their opening drive, but for the fourth time this season, Ma-

homes had a pass bounce off his intended target for an interception — this time, backup running back Jerick McKinnon. It was the seventh consecutive game Mahomes had thrown a pick and his league-leading 10th of the season.

It also was an ominous sign for an offense that has done little to resemble its high-flying reputation.

Kansas City did score moments later, after Jones threw the ball right back to them, but the Chiefs struggled to get into their familiar offensive rhythm. Mahomes seemed to be in a different playbook than his wide receivers, tight end Travis Kelce was rendered a non-factor by the New York defense and penalties began to pile up.

Kansas City turned almost entirely to the ground when it marched for its second touchdown. It was seldom-used Derrick Gore

that carried seven times for 43 yards before breaking the goal line for his first career score.

The Giants — hardly dynamic in their own right — were the ones that often moved the ball at will.

Without running back Saquon Barkley and wide receiver Kenny Golladay, both still sidelined with injuries, Jones was able to lean on Booker and his backup receivers to march 85 yards for an early touchdown — most of it coming when John Ross III beat safety Daniel Sorensen for a 50-yard catch that rendered his pass interference penalty moot.

New York added an 86-yard drive later in the first half that produced a field goal. And early in the fourth quarter, Evan Engram beat Sorensen to the pylon for a touchdown catch that gave the Giants a 17-14 lead.

Ravens LB Harrison shot in Cleveland

By Tom Withers
 Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Baltimore Ravens starting linebacker Malik Harrison was recovering Monday after being struck in the leg by a stray bullet while police said he was outside a Cleveland nightclub.

The Ravens released a statement saying Harrison suffered a non-life-threatening injury when he was shot in the left calf while attending a gathering Sunday night. The 23-year-old was treated at a hospital and has been in touch with team doctors.

"I don't think it's severe at all," Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said. "I'm optimistic that it's going to be OK. I feel bad for the situation. Happy that he's OK, very grateful that he's OK and not hurt worse."

The Ravens, who lead the AFC North, had their bye last week. They host the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

According to a Cleveland police report obtained by The Associated Press, Harrison told

officers, who were arresting four men involved in a shooting, that he was at a downtown club Sunday night when a fight broke out.

Harrison told police that security kicked people out of the club and he was outside with a group when they spotted someone with a firearm. Harrison said everyone began running and he heard shots fired.

Some details of the incident, as well as Harrison's medical information, is redacted in the report.

Harrison, who played at Ohio State, was drafted by Baltimore in the third round last year. He started six games as a rookie, getting 44 tackles. The 6-foot-3, 245-pounder has started five games this season.

"I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all the thoughts and prayers that you have sent my way the last 24 hours," Harrison said in a message posted on Twitter on Monday night. "I want to thank the EMS crew and the staff at the hospital for treating me."



Terrance Williams/AP

Ravens LB Malik Harrison was shot in the leg outside a Cleveland nightclub on Sunday.

SPORTS

Chiefs rally past Giants

Butker's field goal with 1:07 left lifts Kansas City » **NFL, Page 23**



JOHN BAZEMORE, ABOVE, AND NICK WASS, RIGHT/AP

Above: Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young says he's frustrated with the way the game is now being called. After averaging 8.7 free-throw attempts a game last season, he's down to 5.3 so far this season. Right: Washington Wizards forward Kyle Kuzma recently tweeted "The new rules changes to the sport are the best thing the league has done in recent history."

NBA

Mixed bag

Amid officiating changes, FTs down for some stars

BY NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

19.9

Average number of free throws so far this season per game, per team, down from 21.8 in 2020-21.

SOURCE: Associated Press

After a loss at Washington last week, Atlanta Hawks star Trae Young calmly aired some of his frustrations with the way NBA games are being officiated amid a new crackdown on non-basketball moves used to draw contact.

The 6-foot-1, 164-pound Young, who made more free throws than anybody in the NBA last season, said he agreed with some of the changes, but he was clearly concerned some fouls are now being overlooked.

A short while later, Kyle Kuzma of the Wizards weighed in on Twitter.

"The new rules changes to the sport are the best thing the league has done in recent history," Kuzma tweeted.

It's not unusual for the NBA to

tweak the way rules are enforced, and it remains to be seen how officiating might evolve throughout the season. So far, some of the game's biggest offensive stars are indeed going to the free-throw line less often, and there's some concern that the changes may be allowing more physicality in general, beyond what was intended.

"If we're sacrificing freedom of movement, that's not, in my understanding, the intent of what we're trying to do," Utah Jazz

SEE MIXED ON PAGE 20

"I think we're all just trying to get through this period where we become accustomed to where the line is."

Steve Nash
Brooklyn Nets coach



Lightning end Caps' 8-game points streak » **NHL, Page 19**

