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Overseas & under the poverty line



US Marines and sailors arrive in Middle East

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — More than 3,000 Marines and sailors sent to reinforce the U.S. presence in the Middle East are now in the region as part of a stepped-up push to counter Iran's interference with commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf.

The Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived Sunday after transiting the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean Sea, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet said in a statement the same day.

The Bataan group includes the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan, which can carry more than 24 rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft, including MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and AV-8B Harrier attack jets, 5th Fleet said. It also can carry several amphibious landing vessels.

The group includes Amphibious Squadron 8, Fleet Surgical Team 8, Tactical Air Control Squadron 21, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26, Assault

SEE ARRIVE ON PAGE 3



NAYELLY NIEVES-NIEVES/U.S. Marine Corps
A Navy sailor stands watch on the USS Bataan as it transits the Suez Canal with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit on Saturday.

Military families struggle due to rules that block spouse employment

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — For thousands of U.S. military families, an overseas assignment means living on the edge of poverty.

In Europe, nearly 7,000 U.S. service members or their spouses or children were in danger in the past year of not having enough to eat, Defense Department data show.

Those military families qualified for a low-income program designed to ensure that pregnant women, babies and toddlers don't go hungry.

The reason for that hardship after being sent to Europe is rooted in a loss of income resulting from U.S. and NATO country prohibitions that keep military spouses from working overseas, program administrators say.

But the harm to military families doesn't end there. The rules have created a pipeline of highly skilled, cheap — and in many cases free — labor exploited by military hospitals and other base organizations, a yearlong Stars and Stripes investigation shows.

For example, military spouses who are nurses, physical therapists or other medical profes-

sionals told Stars and Stripes they were encouraged to give as much as 40 hours a week to the American Red Cross or other organizations in the hope that doing so could lead to an eventual paid position.

In Germany, those professionals saved the DOD's largest hospital overseas nearly \$600,000 in unpaid labor, according to Red Cross figures.

Other military spouses who found jobs on base in retail, food service or other areas

SEE POVERTY ON PAGE 6

ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Oil giant says profits down nearly 40% from last year

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi state-run oil giant Aramco said Monday that it made \$30 billion in profit in the second quarter, a nearly 40% decline from the same period the previous year that it attributed to lower oil prices. Total sales stood at just over \$106 billion, down from \$150 billion in the second quarter of 2022. In an earnings report filed with the Saudi stock exchange, Aramco said the decrease “mainly reflected the impact of lower crude oil

prices and weakening refining and chemicals margins.”

The company reported net income of \$30 billion compared to \$48 billion in the second quarter of 2022, a decline of 37.8%.

Aramco nevertheless raised its dividend paid out to investors to \$29.38 billion, compared to \$18.8 billion in the second quarter of 2022. The performance-based dividend is partly based on the company’s record earnings last year, it said.

“Our strong results reflect our

resilience and ability to adapt through market cycles,” Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said in a statement accompanying the report.

Last week, Fortune magazine ranked Aramco, officially known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the second biggest company in the world by revenue, behind only Walmart and ahead of Amazon and Apple. The ranking came after the oil company reported a profit of over \$160 billion in 2022, the largest ever recorded by a publicly traded firm.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 8)	\$1.07	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound (Aug. 8)	\$1.25	Britain (Pound)	1.2761
Japanese yen (Aug. 8)	140.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.3383
South Korean won (Aug. 8)	1271.00	China (Yuan)	7.1881
		Denmark (Krone)	6.7793
		Egypt (Pound)	30.9000
		Euro	1.0990
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8061
		Hungary (Forint)	354.42
		Israel (Shekel)	3.6692
		Japan (Yen)	142.13
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3074
		Norway (Krone)	10.1632
		Philippines (Peso)	56.12
		Poland (Zloty)	4.03
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7514
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3413
		South Korea (Won)	1308.04
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8752		
Thailand (Baht)	34.83		
Turkey (NewLira)	26.9971		

(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	8.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
Federal funds market rate	5.33
3-month bill	5.43
30-year bond	4.17

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY 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

USAF implements mental health care policy

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force is the latest service to implement a new congressionally mandated policy that allows members of the military to request a confidential, expedited referral for mental health support through a commanding officer or supervisor.

Intended to make it easier for military personnel to seek help by reducing stigma and prioritizing mental health care, the policy stems from federal legislation known as the Brandon Act.

It was named for Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Caserta, an aviation electrician who died by suicide June 25, 2018, on the flight line at Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

A command investigation found that abusive and toxic leadership in his helicopter squadron contributed to his suicide. His parents, Patrick and Teri Caserta, subsequently pushed Congress for legislation to expand mental health services for military personnel.

The services have been slow to roll out their respective policies despite a deadline set by the Pentagon.

In early May, the Defense Department officially implemented its policy, directing the services to establish the guidance for its active-duty force within 45 days. The Navy implemented the new policy for itself and the Marine Corps on July 10.

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall signed the measure for airmen and guardians on July 28. The memo first was shared on the unofficial Air Force amn/nc/snco Facebook page. The Army has not announced an implementation date for its policy.

Kendall called the Casertas last week, the



JACK SANDERS/U.S. Air Force

Pentagon official Gilbert Cisneros, right, shakes hands with Patrick and Teri Caserta, parents of Brandon Caserta, in May 5. Brandon Caserta's suicide prompted his parents to seek congressional legislation making it easier for service members to seek mental health services.

parents said on their "The Brandon Act" Facebook page on Friday.

"He was very sympathetic and understood why The Brandon Act was created and why we fought so hard to get it implemented," they wrote.

The new Air Force policy allows airmen or guardians to seek a referral for a mental health evaluation from a commander or supervisor with the rank of E-6 or above "on any basis, at any time, and in any environment," according to the Air Force guidance

signed by Kendall.

Among the allowable reasons are personal distress or concerns and "trouble performing duties and functioning in activities" that could be attributed to mental health reasons, the Air Force policy says.

Commanders and supervisors in turn are directed to refer a service member seeking help for an evaluation as soon as practical and protect their privacy as much as possible.

Leadership won't be notified of the eval-

uation's results unless there is a safety, readiness or duty concern.

Airmen and guardians still may request a mental health referral through their military provider or an off-base treatment facility without going through their leadership.

The new guidance also applies to guardsmen and reservists with orders of more than 30 days. A second phase for guardsmen and reservists on orders of 30 days or fewer will be introduced later, the Air Force memo said.

The Pentagon also is required to annually train personnel in recognizing signs that service members may need a mental health evaluation.

The shortage of mental health providers across the military, where at some bases appointments may take months to get, could provide a barrier to expediting evaluations for personnel.

When Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass announced the Air Force policy Sunday on her official Facebook page, one person asked how the Air Force will address manning for mental health.

"There isn't one single program, solution or change that will fix the challenges we face when it comes to mental health," Bass replied, adding that she is encouraged by the latest changes to improve access to care.

Since President Joe Biden signed the Brandon Act into law in December 2021, the number of suicides among active-duty personnel increased from 75 in the first quarter of 2022 to 94 in the first three months of 2023, according to military data.

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Arrive: Units will travel briefly aboard commercial vessels

FROM PAGE 1

Craft Unit 4, Beach Master Unit 2 and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., according to the statement.

The dock-landing ship USS Carter Hall also is part of the group. It supports operations for various rotary-wing aircraft, tactical vehicles and amphibious landing craft, the Navy said.

About 100 Marines already are training in Bahrain for specialized defense units that will provide security aboard oil tankers and other commercial ships, Stars and Stripes reported Friday.

The units will travel briefly aboard commercial vessels through sensitive areas, such as the Strait of Hormuz, at the request of shippers, among other criteria.

The step is unprecedented in the post-World War II era and clearly shows American commitment to ensuring that travel through the strait and nearby waters remains unrestricted, officials say.

On Saturday, Iranian news out-

lets said the country's Revolutionary Guard Corps navy had been equipped with drones as well as cruise missiles and ballistic missiles with a range of about 186 to 621 miles, Reuters reported the same day.

An Iranian official said the U.S. wasn't needed to provide security in the region, according to Reuters.

Last month, the Defense Department announced the deployment of additional forces to the Middle East to counter Iranian aggression in the Gulf region.

That came on the heels of Iran's attempted seizures of two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman in early July. Iranian naval forces fired on one of the ships. Those two attempts were the latest in a string of Iranian actions to harass oil tankers.

In late April, a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker headed to Texas was seized. Iran has harassed, attacked or seized 20 commercial ships since 2021, the Navy has said.

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NAYELLY NIEVES-NIEVES/U.S. Marine Corps

The amphibious assault ship USS Bataan passes under a bridge as it transits the Suez Canal with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit on Sunday.

MILITARY

Russian-Chinese flotilla tracked off Alaska

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Pacific Fleet over the weekend continued to track a flotilla of Russian and Chinese warships steaming through international waters off the coast of Alaska, a Navy spokeswoman said Monday.

The 11 warships cruised near the Alaskan coast and the Aleutian Islands in southeast Alaska last week, according to a joint statement from U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, Alaska Republicans, on Saturday. They said they received “detailed classified briefings” about the matter. The statement did not disclose how close the ships came to U.S. shores.

“This is a stark reminder of Alaska’s proximity to both China and Russia, as well as the essential role our state plays in our national

defense and territorial sovereignty,” Murkowski said in the statement.

Neither senator’s office responded to phone calls from Stars and Stripes on Sunday.

The ships never entered U.S. territorial waters and were shadowed by four U.S. guided-missile destroyers — the USS John S. McCain, USS Benfold, USS John Finn and USS Chung-Hoon — and a P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.

The flotilla on Friday steamed through the southwestern portion of the Bering Sea, where it conducted an anti-submarine exercise that included the destruction of a mock enemy submarine, according to a news release that day from the Russian Defense Ministry.

The U.S. Pacific Fleet has a

“myriad of joint capabilities to monitor” foreign operations in the region, said U.S. Pacific Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Christina Hough. She did not verify the Wall Street Journal report identifying the U.S. ships involved in tracking the flotilla.

The U.S. expects the Russian and Chinese navies to “operate within the region in accordance with international law” and plans to “continue to track them through the duration of their time in the region,” she told Stars and Stripes by email Sunday.

Beijing announced the “third joint maritime patrol in the western and northern waters of the Pacific Ocean” between China and Russia, according to a July 26 news release from the state-sponsored China Military Online. The operation “does not target any third party and has nothing to do

with the current international and regional situation,” the release states.

The flotilla has traveled more than 2,300 nautical miles since the patrol began, according to the Russian Defense Ministry, and carried out included joint maneuvering drills and helicopter landing and take-off practice.

Sullivan called the flotilla an “incursion” and indicated the beginning of a “new era of authoritarian aggression led by the dictators in Beijing and Moscow,” according to the statement.

He compared its presence to a similar China-Russia operation last year and said the U.S. responding with four destroyers would send “a strong message to Xi Jinping and (Russian President Vladimir) Putin that the United States will not hesitate to protect and defend our vital national interests in

Alaska.”

The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Kimball on Sept. 19 spotted three Chinese naval vessels and four Russian naval vessels — including a Chinese guided-missile cruiser and a Russian destroyer — operating as a “combined surface action group” within the United States’ exclusive economic zone near Kiska Island in the Aleutian Islands.

The Kimball, a 418-foot Legend-class national security cutter, monitored the ships’ activities.

The Chinese and Russian militaries over the past several years have deepened their ties, with frequent joint patrols and exercises, although China has neither endorsed nor condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

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Philippines summons Chinese envoy over water cannon incident

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government summoned the Chinese ambassador on Monday to convey a diplomatic protest over the Chinese coast guard’s use of a water cannon against a Filipino supply boat in the disputed South China Sea, a Philippine official said.

The Philippine military on Sunday condemned the Chinese coast guard ship’s “excessive and offensive” use of a water cannon to block a Filipino supply boat from delivering a new batch of troops, food, water and fuel to the Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal in the disputed waters.

The United States, the European Union and their key allies including Australia and Japan expressed support to the Philippines and concern over the Chinese ship’s actions. Washington renewed a warning

that it is obliged to defend its long-time treaty ally if Filipino public vessels and forces come under an armed attack including in the South China Sea.

The tense confrontation on Saturday was the latest flare-up in the long-seething territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

One of several top Philippine officials dealing with the incident told The Associated Press that the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian on Monday morning to convey a strongly worded diplomatic protest.

The protest would underscore how the Chinese coast guard ship’s action violated international regulations aimed at avoiding collisions at sea and the 1982 U.N. Convention



Philippine Coast Guard/AP

A Chinese coast guard ship uses water cannon on a Philippine Coast Guard ship near the Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea during a re-supply mission on Saturday.

on the Law of the Sea, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the government’s actions before they are publicly disclosed.

The disputes in the South China

Sea, one of the world’s busiest sea lanes, have long been regarded as an Asian flashpoint and a delicate fault line in the rivalry between the United States and China in the region. China claims ownership over virtually the entire strategic water-

way despite international rulings that invalidated Beijing’s vast territorial claims, such as that in 2016 by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, an international body based in The Hague. China rejects that ruling.

China releases TV documentary showcasing ability to attack Taiwan

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China has released a new documentary about the army’s preparation to attack Taiwan and showcasing soldiers pledging to give up their lives if needed as Beijing continues to ramp up its rhetoric against the self-ruled island.

“Chasing Dreams,” an eight-part docuseries aired by state broadcaster CCTV last week to mark the People Liberation Army’s 96th anniversary, features military drills and testimonials

by dozens of soldiers, of which several express their willingness to die in a potential attack against Taiwan.

China claims Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy, as its own territory, to be conquered by force if necessary.

State media and the PLA frequently release propaganda materials promoting the army’s modernization as well as sleek videos of military drills.

The materials serve to fan rising Chinese nationalism and dis-

play military confidence against Taiwan and, implicitly, its ties with the United States. While the U.S. doesn’t recognize Taiwan as a sovereign country, it has pledged to help the island defend itself in case of an invasion.

Last month, the White House announced a \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan. The move, which experts said drew on lessons from the U.S. military assistance to Ukraine, was criticized by Beijing.

The “Chasing Dreams” docu-

mentary showcased, among other things, the PLA’s “Joint Sword” drills, which simulated precision strikes against Taiwan. The exercises were undertaken around the self-governed island in April after a visit by Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen to the U.S.

Among the more dramatic parts of the program are pledges by PLA soldiers from various divisions to relinquish life in a potential attack on Taiwan.

“If war broke out and the con-

ditions were too difficult to safely remove the naval mines in actual combat, we would use our own bodies to clear a safe pathway for our (landing) forces,” Zuo Feng, a frogman with the PLA Navy’s minesweeper unit, said in a testimonial.

Li Peng, a pilot from Wang Hai Squadron under the PLA Air Force, echoed his statement, saying his “fighter jet would be the last missile rushing towards the enemy if in a real battle, I had used up all my ammunition.”

PACIFIC

Typhoon Khanun moves on after 2nd Okinawa hit

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Tropical Storm Khanun rumbled toward Japan and South Korea on Monday after a second pass of Okinawa left roads there littered with debris and thousands still without power.

The storm wreaked havoc on Japan's southern island chain for nearly five days, coming within 60 miles of Kadena Air Base on Wednesday morning before curving back and returning, weaker, to about 100 miles north-northwest of Kadena on Saturday afternoon.

Khanun was forecast to pass just west of Sasebo Naval Base on Kyushu, southernmost of Japan's four main islands, overnight Wednesday into Thursday, and make landfall near Chinhae Naval Base in southeastern South Korea around midday Thursday, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center said Monday.

The storm was 375 miles south of Sasebo and 513 miles south-southeast of Pusan, South Korea, on Monday morning and tracking east-southeast at 5 mph, accord-

ing to the warning center. Its winds at the center were sustained at 63 mph with 81 mph gusts.

Sasebo on Monday afternoon entered Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 2, which means destructive winds of 57 mph or greater are anticipated within 24 hours, according to a post on the base Facebook page. People were advised to secure outdoor items.

Khanun, which means jackfruit in Thai, slammed into Okinawa on Tuesday night, the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane with wind gusts as high as 145 mph, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. At Naha, the capital of Okinawa, 26 inches of rain have fallen since Aug. 1, more than double the average August rainfall since 1991.

The storm injured 68 people, according to the prefecture's Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Division website. Two deaths are being investigated as possibly being typhoon-related, a division spokesman said by phone Monday.

Several Marines received minor injuries, Capt. Brett Dornhege-Lazaroff, spokesman for the

III Marine Expeditionary Force, said by phone Monday. He said he had no further details.

"Readiness was not impacted by the storm," Dornhege-Lazaroff said.

An Air Force weather radar in Uruma city was damaged by the storm, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK. The 18th Wing did not immediately respond to a request seeking further information Monday afternoon.

Khanun on its first pass knocked out power to over 200,000 homes across the Ryukyu Islands, Okinawa Electric Power Co. said on its website. During its second pass, over 33,000 homes went or remained dark. Just over 4,000 were still without power Monday afternoon, the utility said. Khanun was downgraded to a tropical storm on Friday.

NEXCO-West, which operates Okinawa's expressway, on Monday reopened the stretch of highway between Naha and Ishikawa, a spokeswoman said by phone Monday. NEXCO-West requires spokespeople to speak on the condition of anonymity.

Flights at Naha Airport, ground-



FRANK ANDREWS/Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Joseph Green, left, and Staff Sgt Skyler Cunningham, from Kadena Air Base, on Okinawa, discard branches at Kadena High School, on Sunday.

ed for two days, resumed Monday, according to the airport's Twitter account Sunday.

Kadena experienced some outages and flooding but no injuries, wing spokesman Lt. Col. Raymond Geoffroy said by email earlier Monday. Engineers are work-

ing to restore power to a few remaining facilities around the base and the wing is preparing to resume "normal flying operations."

Stars and Stripes reporters Frank Andrews and Dave Ornaier contributed to this report. burke.matt@stripes.com

Boy Scouts seek heat wave relief at Camp Humphreys

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Hundreds of Boy Scouts arrived at this Army base over the weekend, driven from the World Scout Jamboree nearby by an extreme heat wave, according to the Boy Scouts of America.

The Scouts organization announced Friday that its contingent would leave the jamboree site at Saemangeum, near Busan, and move to Camp Humphreys, roughly 85 miles away, until departing for the United States on Aug. 11, the organization said in an email to parents and staff that day.

The decision to leave early was due to the "ongoing extreme weather and resulting conditions at the jamboree site," according to the email.

Over 600 people were shuttled from the jamboree to Humphreys on Sunday, Eighth Army spokeswoman Maj. Mayra Nañez told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday. The command did not immediately respond to request for comment Monday.

Roughly 4,500 people from the British contingent and 60 people from the Singaporean contingent were relocated to hotels in Seoul, according to a Sunday report from South Korean newspaper JoongAng Daily.

"While we regret the need for the early departure, the move ensures the safety of our Scouts and alleviates pressure on the jamboree site services and infrastructure," the Scouts email said.

The 25th World Scout Jamboree — 40,000 Scouts ages 14 to 17 from 150 countries — kicked off in South Korea on Aug. 1, according to the organization's site.



CHRISTOPHER GREEN/Stars and Stripes

Boy Scouts that fled the heat-stricken world jamboree set up camp at the Boy Scouts of America, Asia West District Headquarters, at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Sunday.

South Korean government agencies and companies provided aid to the campsite following reports of Scouts falling ill from the 90 degrees Fahrenheit heat.

Around 240 air-conditioned buses were dispatched to the site by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; the Ministry of National Defense erected 64 canopies; 700 government personnel were sent to clean bathrooms and other buildings; and numerous companies donated drinks, portable fans and repair equipment for facilities, according to a World Scout Jamboree news release Saturday.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday directed the government to "make every effort" to provide aid for the jamboree participants during the heat wave, according to a written briefing from the presidential office that day.

Pyeongtaek Mayor Jung Jang-seon in a news release Saturday said his city will work with jamboree organizers to hold community events for the Scouts and to "make a good impression on our country."

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Train hits power pole near Tokyo, 4 hurt

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A train scheduled to accommodate a fireworks display near Tokyo crashed over the weekend, trapping hundreds of passengers without air conditioning for hours, according to the East Japan Railway Co.

The Tokaido Line train traveling between Ofuna and Fujisawa stations in Kanagawa prefecture, south of Tokyo, hit a concrete power pole at 9:24 p.m. Saturday, according to a release on the JR East website Sunday.

Three passengers and the driver of the train sustained minor injuries, such as cuts, and nine people felt sick, some suffering heatstroke, JR East CEO Hitoshi Suzuki said during a televised news conference on Sunday.

Another 150,000 riders were affected by delays caused by the crash on a busy night for travel, according to the company. The trapped passengers eventually walked to nearby stations, Suzuki said.

Another train passed the site about 10 minutes before the accident, but the driver saw no problem; a regular inspection on

Wednesday found no issues.

On Saturday night, "the driver of the train suddenly saw an electrification pole in front and then (the train) crashed," Suzuki said.

"We are investigating into why that electrification pole was there," he said.

The accident damaged the train, breaking the front glass window on the first car and causing the ceiling to fall, according to the release.

The accident caused a power outage, trapping passengers in the train cars without air conditioning for hours, according to Suzuki. The accident also suspended operations on other lines until 4:17 a.m. Sunday. The Tokaido line resumed service at 8 a.m. Sunday, the release stated.

The train that crashed was operating Saturday night to serve additional passengers anticipated from a nearby fireworks festival and other events, Suzuki said during the news conference.

The end of COVID-19 restrictions in Japan earlier this year means more people are riding the trains, he said.

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MILITARY

Poverty: Spouses say they often get inaccurate info on policies

FROM PAGE 1

earned as little as \$10 an hour without paid holidays or leave.

Sometimes those spouses worked alongside local nationals who were paid considerably more for a similar job under union contracts.

Meanwhile, many spouses who hold U.S. green cards are effectively shut out of overseas base employment because of rules that require U.S. citizenship for most jobs.

Even lower-paying jobs in fields with critical shortages, like child care positions at bases in Europe, are open only to citizens of NATO member countries, leaving spouses with U.S. green cards who hail from allies like Australia, Japan, South Korea and elsewhere ineligible.

Other military spouses seeking to continue their home-based businesses must contend with confusing and inconsistently applied regulations that, among other restrictions, bar them from competing with base services and businesses, like the Army and Air Force Exchange Service — which took in \$8.5 billion in worldwide revenue last year.

As a result, most military families sent overseas are forced to live on a single income, cutting expenses, digging into savings and, for some, relying on low-income government assistance to get by.

“It’s depleted our family’s savings account, forced us to lower our standard of living and affected my mental health in that I feel I’m no longer a useful contributor for my family’s well-being,” said one respondent in an informal Stars and Stripes survey posted to private Facebook groups for military spouses in Italy.

Food aid necessary

Mallory Hardgrove, a teacher, couldn’t find a job that paid enough to cover day care expenses during an assignment to U.S. Army Garrison Italy in Vicenza.

Relying solely on her active-duty husband’s income saw the family of five struggle to pay bills and buy groceries, she said.

Hardgrove and her three daughters were among 1,176 people at five bases in Italy receiving benefits from the Women, Infants and Children program, according to data from U.S. European Command spanning from Jan. 1 to Oct. 26, 2022.

In all, 6,786 people at U.S. bases in Europe qualified for the supplemental food program managed by the Defense Health Agency. More than half were assigned to bases in Germany, data from the same period show.

The DHA did not respond to multiple requests by Stars and Stripes for updated and more complete data.

Worldwide, including at bases



Blue Star Families

Members of Blue Star Families participate in a food drive benefiting military families in May 2021 at the Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center in New York. The organization provides food drives for military and veteran families in need.

in Japan and South Korea, there were 7,825 people receiving WIC Overseas vouchers for milk, cheese, eggs, peanut butter, vegetables, formula and other nutritious foods as of Jan. 5, EUCOM said in a separate statement.

“It was a bitter pill to swallow,” Hardgrove said of the first time she used WIC vouchers at the commissary. Hardgrove, who never had previously received low-income assistance, recently returned to the U.S. with her family after three years in Italy.

Sunk in the SOFA

At issue in Europe is a pact signed in 1951, when fewer women worked outside the home and well before the existence of a digital workplace. There are similar agreements between the U.S. and other countries, such as Japan.

The NATO Status of Forces Agreement sets the rules, rights and responsibilities according to which U.S. troops may live and work in allied member countries.

However, the agreement doesn’t directly address dependents’ employment, making military spouses vulnerable to U.S. and host country interpretations that often limit their job opportunities.

For example, in Italy and Belgium, spouses must give up their

SOFA status if they want to work anywhere other than on base, including remotely for an American employer.

But military spouses living in Germany can work for a German employer or telecommute to their American job without losing their SOFA status in most cases. Telework also is allowed in Japan, South Korea and Bahrain.

Various agreements also restrict on-base jobs available to military spouses, frequently limiting them to entry-level, low-paying positions regardless of their education, experience or skills.

Confusion about what is allowed is made worse by opaque diplomatic and military agreements as well as vague and misleading official interpretations of those pacts.

Many spouses don’t pursue telecommuting or other career options because they lack clear information or fear unintended consequences, advocates say.

For example, in summer 2021, military spouses attending an orientation briefing at Naval Support Activity Naples were given information implying that work anywhere but on base was illegal, according to a photograph of a presentation slide given to Stars and Stripes.

That information was false and amounted to fearmongering, said

Beth Conlin, Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce board chair and Blue Star Families research and policy team adviser.

Conlin argues that clear explanations of all employment options overseas should be made available to military spouses.

After she pointed out the error, the base made modifications to explain that off-base employment is possible, Conlin said.

The briefing slide in question is no longer used, Morgan Gilliam, a U.S. Navy Europe Africa Central spokeswoman, said in a statement.

Gilliam went on to say that the Navy periodically updates the information it offers based on questions from its community.

But confusion about overseas spouse employment persists, and the quality and accuracy of information offered varies among bases, spouses say.

For years, U.S. military installations in Italy have warned spouses that giving up their SOFA rights would result in the loss of certain privileges, such as shopping on base, visiting the commissary or using the mail system, among others.

Those fears also are expressed by spouses living in Belgium and in non-NATO countries, such as Japan.

But spouses at NSA Naples and

other naval bases in Italy learn different information.

“As long as dependents have a valid military ID, they have access to the commissary, (Navy Exchange, Morale, Welfare and Recreation) services, and emergency medical/dental services while in Italy,” Gilliam said in a separate response to Stars and Stripes questions.

That position is more in line with that of Conlin and others who say those privileges are tied to an active-duty service member’s orders, not SOFA status or an Italian residency permit.

However, NSA Naples does warn that spouses who get an Italian work permit could be taken off military orders and likely would lose some benefits, such as a NATO driver’s license, Gilliam said.

Heavy on unpaid labor

Kennedi Pettway, a registered nurse whose husband works at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, has been unemployed since moving to Belgium about a year ago.

Pettway interviewed for a nursing job several months ago and recently learned that she had been selected.

But during her job search, Pettway had considered following advice to volunteer for the American Red Cross because it would get her foot in the door, she said.

“People would know my face, and it probably would be easier for me to get a job on base,” Pettway said she was told.

She ultimately didn’t volunteer for the organization.

Faced with letting their skills and knowledge atrophy or licenses lapse, military spouses work as much as 40 hours a week for on-base organizations that pay them nothing for valuable nursing, marketing, management or other abilities.

Using nurses in volunteer positions at bases is common, said Elayne Saejung, a military spouse who couldn’t get a job in her field of health care emergency management while she was on Okinawa during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It’s good enough for volunteer service but they won’t pay them for it,” Saejung said.

At Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, about 275 Red Cross volunteers accounted for about 20,600 volunteer hours in the past year, a service worth about \$655,000, based on a \$31.80-per-hour federal estimate for volunteer work, according to the nonprofit agency.

Those volunteers performed such duties as clerical tasks, assisting patients or drawing blood for lab work. Spouses also have

SEE INACCURATE ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

Inaccurate: Volunteering overseas is a product of lack of paid work options

FROM PAGE 6

worked unpaid as obstetricians, dentists, nurses and physician assistants, among others.

“The employment opportunities just aren’t the same here, so (military spouses) are more likely to volunteer in that professional capacity,” to keep their skills or résumé current, said Samantha Wudel, program director for the Kaiserslautern Military Community American Red Cross chapter. “At home, they could get a full-time job in that area.”

Red Cross and Pentagon policies prohibit volunteers from filling paid staff billets, Wudel noted.

Cindy Gourlie, an experienced restaurant manager and trained sommelier, wanted to continue her U.S.-based catering business when her active-duty husband was assigned to a post in Belgium.

But that wasn’t possible because of SOFA-related restrictions that limited her work-from-home options.

Gourlie did find a job helping to open a coffee shop at Chievres Air Base. She also created a menu for it and ultimately became the manager. But the job paid far less than a comparable position in the U.S. and offered no paid vacation or holiday leave, she said.

“You end up having no job or selling your soul for \$10 an hour,” Gourlie said.

Even when spouses can put advanced skills to work through a home-based business, they face a daunting review process that can take months and significantly limit the products or services they offer.

Victoria Negrete Furnary wanted to offer physical therapy services in her home at Yokota Air Base near Tokyo. It took more

than four months to get the necessary approval, which came just before Furnary’s active-duty husband received early orders for a new assignment.

“You can work in Japan but it’s very limiting,” Furnary said.

Onerous rules to ensure that hairstylists, bakers and other home-based workers don’t compete with or use products from base businesses, such as the commissary or exchange, further restrict spouse employment efforts, she said.

Remote obstacles

Hardgrove and other spouses in Italy and Belgium said they understand host country concerns about protecting jobs, but they argue that working for an American employer shouldn’t be a problem.

Lan Mai, a nurse who lives at NSA Naples, said being able to work remotely would allow her family to spend more money in Italy rather than stay on base for lack of funds to eat out or travel.

“If I’m doing remote nursing for Americans, I’m not taking away from the Italian economy because I’m not taking their jobs,” said Mai, whose husband is active-duty Navy. “Everybody wins if we have more jobs. We have more money to spend on our economy and this economy.”

U.S. officials say they understand the worries and frustrations

of military families. They point to base programs that help spouses with job searches, résumé writing and education or skills acquisition as part of an effort to address the problem.

Policies that give military spouses preference over other federal job applicants in some cases also help, they say. And diplomatic efforts, such as ongoing conversations with Italy about loosening restrictions on employment and a recent agreement with Bahrain that allows military spouses there to work off base, are evidence of U.S. commitment to a resolution, they say.

For example, Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman discussed U.S. military spouse employment with Italian officials in January, a State Department spokesman said in February.

“We hope to find a solution soon,” the spokesman said.

They also are plagued by low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness and shame.

“It’s tough financially not having a second income but it’s also

“You end up having no job or selling your soul for \$10 an hour.”

Cindy Gourlie

experienced restaurant manager and trained sommelier



SHANICE WILLIAMS-JONES/U.S. Air Force

A mother helps her child sponge paint on heart-shaped paper at RAF Lakenheath, England, in February 2018, at an event hosted by the Women, Infants and Children Overseas program. Because many military spouses cannot get a job overseas, thousands turn to the WIC Overseas program to buy groceries.

hard on the morale and mental state of spouses having to sacrifice their career to support their active-duty spouse,” one Stars and Stripes survey respondent said.

Those feelings and a desire to contribute financially leave some spouses considering returning to America without their husband or wife.

Aurora Venden, whose husband is active-duty Army, volunteered for a couple of service organizations at Vicenza since arriving in January 2020.

She was fortunate enough to get a job at one for a couple of years, but the position was eliminated. She was applying for stateside employment and had planned to go home early rather than remain unemployed.

But Venden recently was hired to do part-time work for a military contractor. Although she earns less than she used to, the job has eased her worries about student loan payments and allowed her to stay in Italy.

“I have no idea how we would have afforded the move (back to the U.S.), but it was like being backed into a corner,” Venden said. “There were just no other options.”

Claire Carter, whose family recently returned to the U.S. after six years in Belgium, doesn’t want to move overseas again unless she has more control over her job opportunities.

Carter resumed her career in human resources but is earning significantly less. That’s due to years of unemployment as part of living overseas, she said.

“If my husband goes, I would not follow this time,” Carter said, adding that she knows of other spouses who are making a similar decision. “I would stay in the States, and if a job came up, I would go and then be my own sponsor.”

Stars and Stripes reporter Jennifer H. Svan contributed to this report. bath.alison@stripes.com @alisonbath_

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MILITARY

Case crumbles

Airman's defense in ammo blasts case points to gaps in Syria outpost security

By KYLE REMPFER
The Washington Post

The surveillance footage was alarming. Though grainy and inconclusive, it captured the nighttime movements of someone creeping into the ammunition storage area at a remote U.S. outpost in Syria. An hour later, twin explosions there wounded four Americans and ignited a fire that burned until daylight.

A military investigation into the April 2022 incident led to the arrest of Tech. Sgt. David W. Dezwaan, an Air Force explosives expert found alone at the second blast site. Military prosecutors would later allege that he had both the skills and access to equipment needed to stage an insider attack.

The highly unusual allegation of betrayal went to court-martial earlier this year, resulting in Dezwaan's acquittal after an eight-day trial in Utah. Prosecutors called him a saboteur, possibly disillusioned by the deployment to an outpost where some fellow troops viewed him as strange. Dezwaan's lawyers said the case was full of holes, and a jury ultimately agreed.

An investigation case file obtained by The Washington Post through the Freedom of Information Act reveals what Dezwaan's lawyers criticized as a dearth of credible forensic proof and motive linking him to the bombings. The file also exposes how broader security concerns at the compound, which U.S. personnel share with Syrian partner forces, raised doubt among the jury members.

And so the identity of whoever slipped past the cameras, locks and guard posts may never be determined.

Dezwaan, an explosives disposal technician, remains in the military. He declined an interview request. His attorneys, Nathan Freeburg and Philip Cave, emphasized the concerns shared by some witnesses about security gaps at the outpost.

It was "easy," Cave told The Post, for members of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to access the Americans' side of the camp, known as Green Village. "It could just as easily have been someone from the SDF or even someone who had infiltrated the SDF," he said, pointing to a history of such incidents in Afghanistan that have nevertheless been rare in Syria. "And when the investigations were done, nobody was allowed to interview the SDF people. That's a big hole."

Farhad Shami, an SDF spokesman, called such a theory "entire-

ly untrue," noting that its personnel are not allowed access to the ammunition area where the explosions occurred and that the surveillance video's field of view indicated that whoever did so approached from the U.S. side.

"Yes, there is high coordination and positive cooperation between us and the coalition forces in the Green Village, but there are still privacy and security controls that we and the coalition abide by," Shami said.

An Air Force spokeswoman, Rose M. Riley, said the investigation, conducted by Army and Air Force law enforcement, did not "develop information" indicating an SDF member was responsible for the explosions.

U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, declined to comment on the alleged security lapses, citing "operational security."

Approximately 900 troops — mostly U.S. Special Operations teams — are deployed in eastern Syria supporting the SDF, a predominantly Kurdish militia, as they endeavor to prevent a resurgence of Islamic State. Green Village, in the oil-rich Deir al-Zour province near the Iraq border, has been a magnet for harassment by Iranian-backed militias and their allies in the Syrian government eager to expel the Americans.

Green Village and other U.S. outposts in Syria are routinely struck by rockets and drones. In March, a burst of deadly violence between U.S. forces and suspected Iranian proxies led President Joe Biden to warn Tehran there would be severe consequences for violent attacks on American troops.

'Doesn't sound like me'

The first blast struck the Green Village ammunition area at 1 a.m., ripping through captured enemy explosives, rockets and grenades, and shooting debris 1,000 feet into the air. A minute later, a smaller explosion hit a shower trailer, wounding Dezwaan as he approached for a late-night rinse. In addition to his toiletries, he had a knife and a butane lighter, according to his interview summary.

Explosive charges were placed at both sites, an analysis determined. Each was rigged with simple timers, like black powder fuses, and possibly ignited by a handheld lighter. Dezwaan, investigators noted, consented to a phone search where they found that a stopwatch app had been running up until the explosions. Lab tests performed around the shower re-



NICOLE TUNG/For The Washington Post

SDF members guard a prison complex in Hasakah in February 2022.

vealed traces of RDX and PETN, compounds used widely in plastic explosives.

Dezwaan was the only American missing after the blasts. He was found crawling between shower trailers wearing shorts and a T-shirt, lightly wounded but apparently stunned by the explosion, witnesses told investigators.

A medical examiner determined that Dezwaan's injuries were not consistent with blast wounds, leading prosecutors to argue that he cut himself using a charred knife found at the scene, though no DNA was recovered. Dezwaan's attorneys said he was cut crawling through debris and that an MRI showed he had a mild traumatic brain injury.

The four Americans hurt in the blast all suffered head injuries. As they boarded a helicopter for follow-on medical care in Baghdad, another explosives expert assigned to Green Village joked about Dezwaan being the culprit, witnesses told investigators. Citing a dark sense of humor, he later clarified that did not believe Dezwaan "would blow himself or anyone else up."

Other explosives experts interviewed by investigators said Dezwaan had been excited about the Syria assignment, though his team hadn't been very busy.

Some troops cast suspicion on Dezwaan, though, telling investigators he was "weird." Several described minor altercations they had with him — a disagreement over seating in a dining area and a dispute over photos he'd taken of a separate unit's living quarters. One witness said Dezwaan appeared upset to be overseas on his birthday, and at trial, prosecutors argued that he sought to go home early.

When investigators asked Dez-

waan about inconsistencies in his story — including contradictory comments he made about being inside, rather than outside, the trailer during the attack — he said his memory had been distorted by the brain injury he sustained.

The last thing Dezwaan said he remembered was working late on paperwork, which other troops said was normal, the investigation shows. But he maintained that he would not have planted bombs: "I know myself," he told investigators. "That doesn't sound like me."

A 'whodunit'

While U.S. forces and their Syrian partners have worked closely for years to dismantle ISIS' self-declared caliphate, the investigation documents some friction, distrust and frustration with perceived security lapses.

For instance, weeks before the explosions at Green Village, an SDF member who had been banned from the base was seen visiting the SDF liaison house after somehow having made his way back inside, witnesses told investigators. It's unclear why the man had been barred; that portion of the case file is redacted.

In another incident, the report says, SDF crews drove onto the outpost hauling a primed roadside bomb. The Americans hadn't expected the delivery and were surprised the SDF was able to "deliver it right to them without being stopped," an investigator wrote. "They had to evacuate the area and disarm the device."

Two Army Special Forces soldiers told investigators that they suspected the explosives were placed by a Syrian contract employee or an SDF member, possibly having been paid to do so by ISIS or a militia backed by Iran, Russia or the Syrian government.

While the U.S.-SDF relationship had been largely positive, witnesses told investigators that they suspected their Syrian liaisons had been stealing equipment, too.

Wladimir van Wilgenburg, an analyst based in Iraqi Kurdistan, said attacks against Americans by the predominantly Kurdish SDF have been exceptionally rare. He knew of only one instance: An SDF fighter shot an American in 2018 for reasons U.S. officials said were unclear.

"It is not like in Afghanistan where local police attacked U.S. soldiers," van Wilgenburg said. "The SDF needs the U.S. to stay in northeast Syria, otherwise the Syrian government or Turkey will attack."

Western intelligence reports cited in the investigation warned that, while local adversaries may have possessed the ability to carry out an attack like the one at Green Village, no one had claimed responsibility for having done so. Officials said that was unusual.

A Special Forces soldier told investigators that it seemed like intelligence officials sought to "steer" the probe away from scrutinizing the SDF and suggested that they examine the sources of those reports.

Spokespeople for the Army and Air Force investigative agencies declined to say whether that was done.

The specter of U.S. adversaries co-opting foreign workers or militiamen was bound to raise doubt among a military jury in the United States, according to Franklin D. Rosenblatt, a former Army attorney who teaches at the Mississippi College School of Law.

"Regardless of whether there is any merit to those concerns," he said, "they were likely top of mind when deciding this whodunit."

MILITARY

Vets see benefits expansion for toxic exposure

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nicole Leger always thought of the burn pits at military bases in Afghanistan as more like campfires than health hazards. Ordered to dispose of sensitive documents, she would toss the paperwork into the flames while catching up with fellow soldiers, moments of quiet bonding that provided a respite from her riskier work as a hastily trained medic for the U.S. Army.

"We really didn't see that it was dangerous at the time," she said. "It was just part of the mission. So we had to get it done."

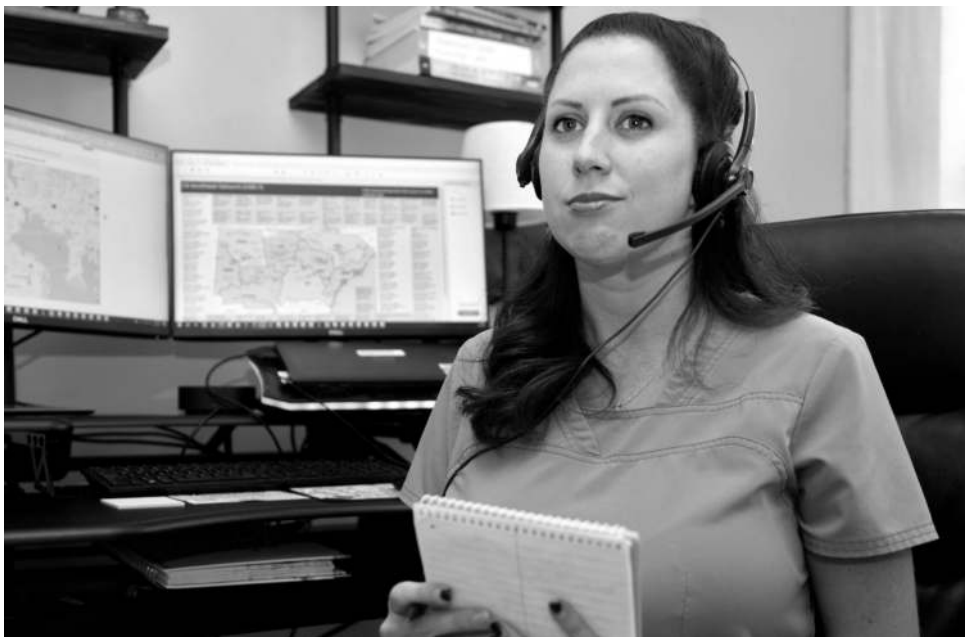
But then her sinus problems began, only worsening after she returned home, where she sometimes found herself gasping for breath at night. She remembered thinking, "This wasn't who I was before I got in."

Although Leger already received disability benefits for post-traumatic stress, migraines and a hip fracture, it wasn't until President Joe Biden signed legislation known as the PACT Act last year that her monthly payments expanded to take into account the impact of the burn pits. Now 34 years old, Leger and her fiancé have moved out of a cramped townhouse and into a larger home in a suburb of Tampa, Fla., where their four children can each have a bedroom.

"I still wake up pinching myself," she said.

Leger is one beneficiary of the largest expansion of veterans assistance in decades, and the administration is racing to sign up as many people as possible as the first anniversary of the law approaches. Although there's no deadline to apply, anyone who files a claim or simply signals the intent to do so by Wednesday could collect payments retroactive to last year if the claim is approved.

Under the law, certain cancers and ailments are presumed to be connected to the burn pits that were used to dispose of trash and potentially toxic materials. For veterans who served during the Vietnam War, hypertension and other conditions were added to the list of problems presumed to be



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Nicole Leger works from her home office Friday in Lithia, Fla.

caused by exposure to Agent Orange, which was used by the U.S. military to clear vegetation.

Biden will mark the law's anniversary at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Salt Lake City on Thursday. According to administration statistics, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received nearly 786,000 disability claims under the PACT Act, processed almost 435,000 and approved more than 348,000.

About 111,000 veterans who are believed to have toxic exposure have enrolled in VA health care since the law was enacted. In addition, more than 4.1 million veterans have completed toxic screenings, which are questionnaires to analyze their potential exposure and determine whether additional tests are required.

Implementing the legislation has proved challenging for the VA despite hiring new staff to accommodate a historic influx of claims.

The backlog is about 266,000, meaning waits of at least four months for claims to be processed, and the list is expected to grow

to 450,000 in October and 730,000 in April. During a recent oversight hearing. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., expressed concern about "bad trends."

Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough said his agency is doing better than expected based on internal projections and is using new technology to process claims faster.

"Am I satisfied? I'm not," he said in an Associated Press interview. "Until every veteran in this country knows what is available to him or her, and has come in and filed a claim, and then we've awarded that claim for him or to her, I won't be satisfied."

Despite the growing backlog, the VA has kept up its outreach efforts. It has spent \$7.5 million on advertising, including a billboard in New York's Times Square, and hosted events around the country. Comedian Jon Stewart, who played a leading role in pushing for the PACT Act, has chipped in by posting videos on social media.

"The VA could have slow rolled it to make their job easier," said Allison Jaslow, a former Army captain who leads the advocacy

organization Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "But to their credit, they didn't."

Jaslow said the department is "doing a pretty incredible job given the influx of claims that came in."

For a moment last year, it looked like the PACT Act might not get approved. The legislation unexpectedly stalled when Republicans balked, leading some advocates to start camping outside the Capitol. Biden had contracted the coronavirus and could not visit in person, so he sent McDonough with pizza and he talked to the veterans over FaceTime.

The pressure campaign worked, and Congress passed the measure. It was a bipartisan success but also a personal victory for Biden, who has long believed that his eldest son, Beau, developed fatal brain cancer from serving near burn pits in Iraq as a captain in the Delaware Army National Guard.

McDonough sees the PACT Act as a turning point for the VA, making the nation's largest health care system more agile, robust and competitive.

"The president has been very clear to us that this new law can be the largest expansion of VA benefits and care in the history of the VA," he said.

It is not just veterans who receive benefits through the PACT Act. More than 16,000 surviving family members have submitted claims. One of those who have qualified for compensation is Ailyn Colby, 59, whose husband, Glenn, died of colon cancer six years ago.

He was 51 years old and a former major in the Rhode Island National Guard who served in Iraq.

"He never really talked to me about his experience because maybe I would worry too much about him," said Colby, who lives near Hartford, Conn.

After his death, she filed for survivor benefits and was denied, describing it as "a horrible experience."

But when she reapplied under the PACT Act in April, the claim was approved.

"I thought, they still remember the family," she said.

Marine recordings open window on Battle of Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Sometime during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, Marine Sgt. Alvin Josephy Jr. recorded a running commentary during deafening, close-quarter Marine combat with Japanese defenders.

The Japanese were ensconced behind an embankment.

"There's a concrete abutment of some sort, and they're set up behind it in a pretty nice manner," Josephy's voice says calmly. He turns his attention to Marines rushing forward to fire bazookas at the structure.

"There they go," he said. "They're going to blast them out of there, concrete and all."

Josephy's audio recording in the Marine Combat Recordings collection, hundreds of hours of audio transferred first to disc and later to magnetic tape, was discovered in the spring by Japanese public broadcaster

NHK at the Audio-Visual Conservation Center of the Library of Congress in Culpeper, Va., library spokeswoman Leah Knobel said by phone June 30.

The recordings were made on Armour wire and filmstrip, both portable audio recorders available at the time, during 14 different Pacific campaigns, Knobel said.

An NHK documentary produced from more than 30 hours of Okinawa recordings and broadcast in June has been viewed more than 143,000 times since June 30. The documentary can be viewed on YouTube in Japanese.

The Marine recording project began in late 1943 at the behest of Harold Spivacke, then chief of the library's music division, and Brig. Gen. Robert Denig, wartime director of Marine Corps public information, according to a history written by Marine Staff Sgt. Robert Bloch in 1953.

Advances in sound recording prompted

the men to request Marines to carry cumbersome devices to capture music on remote Pacific islands. The Marines quickly switched to record the sounds of combat, Bloch wrote.

The recordings include interviews with troops on the eve of battle, briefings, personal messages for loved ones back home and after-action reports, Matthew Barton, the library's curator of recorded sound, said by phone June 30.

They also include moments of levity, like when a chicken lands in a Marine trench during the battle, and the post-war occupation of Japan in 1945.

"These are unique," Barton said. "It isn't somebody summarizing what happened yesterday; it's somebody talking about what's happening right now, and you're right there with it."

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Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections

Marine Lt. Col. R.P. Ross Jr., of Frederick, Md., plants the American flag on one of the remaining ramparts of ancient Shuri castle on Okinawa.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia: War talks without Moscow are useless

BY HANNA ARHIROVA
AND JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday chided efforts by international officials meeting in Saudi Arabia to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Ukraine, saying the talks don't have "the slightest added value" because Moscow — unlike Kyiv — wasn't invited.

Senior officials from around 40 countries gathered Sunday in Jeddah for a two-day meeting that aims to agree on key principles about how to end the conflict that

has raged for more than 17 months.

But without Russia's participation and without taking into account Moscow's interests, the meeting was pointless, a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said. It repeated previous assurances that Russia is open to a diplomatic solution on its terms that ends the war and is ready to respond to serious proposals.

But Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, ruled out Moscow's previous demands that would give Russia time to dig in deeper in the parts of Ukraine it

has occupied.

He said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Russian forces must fully withdraw from the occupied areas and there would be no Kyiv compromise on that.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Security Service announced Monday it had detained an alleged Russian informant who gathered intelligence about Zelenskyy's trip to the southern Mykolaiv region last month.

It claimed the woman "was collecting data for an airstrike during Zelenskyy's visit."

The woman attempted to estab-

lish Zelenskyy's route, times and visits in the region. She was detained when she tried to pass the information to the Russians, the statement said, without providing evidence.

Zelenskyy has been a prime target for the Kremlin since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, when he refused to leave Kyiv as Moscow's forces approached.

He has been one of Ukraine's unexpected trump cards in the war, playing a key role in rallying public morale, including a nightly video address, and becoming a recognizable face across the world as he

presses allies and others to help Ukraine.

Also Monday, Russian shelling struck a nine-story residential building in the city of Kherson, killing one person and wounding four others, according to regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin. He said Kherson had endured a "tough night" as the Russians "covered the central part of the city with fire."

A 57-year-old woman was killed and four people were wounded in the Russian shelling of a village in the northeastern Kharkiv province, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said.

Christie says 'inhumanity' of war palpable during visit to Ukraine

BY VASILISA STEPANENKO
AND MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

BUCHA, Ukraine — Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has become the second 2024 Republican presidential hopeful to visit Ukraine, meeting Friday with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, touring ravaged villages and saying what he saw further impressed to him that the U.S. should continue to help the country fend off Russia's attack.

"I feel the cruelty, and you feel the inhumanity," Christie said during his trip, which included stops in the villages of Bucha and Moshchun, both on the outskirts of Kyiv. "And

you look at this, and I don't think there's anyone in our country who would come here and see this and not feel as if these are the things that America needs to stand up to prevent."

During the visit, Christie placed flowers at the memorial complex in Bucha, where there was a mass grave of civilians, and prayed for Ukrainian volunteers who were killed by Russian troops at the beginning of the war in Moshchun.

"I really suspected that if I saw this in person that it would arm me to be a better advocate for support, I think, from the stuff I saw today just now, and the meeting with the president ... I think I'm much better off,"

Christie said after his meeting with Zelenskyy.

Christie has leveled criticism over Ukraine at President Joe Biden, whose administration has provided more than \$43 billion in military aid to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022. On Friday, he said that "America needs to stand up to prevent and to work with friends like the Ukrainians to give them the means necessary for them to be able to secure once again their liberty and their freedom."

During a July town hall in Columbia, S.C., Christie called the conflict "a proxy war between the United States and China," arguing that Ukrainians "don't want American men



UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE/AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, and Republican presidential candidate former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie shake hands during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday.

and women on the ground in Ukraine, nor would I send American men and women on the ground in

Ukraine. What they want is the hardware to have a fair chance to beat the Russians."

A look at the amount of US spending powering Ukraine's defense

BY RUBY MELLEN
AND ARTUR GALOCHA
The Washington Post

The United States has committed more than \$60 billion in aid to Ukraine since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion. That includes more than \$43 billion in military aid.

That's more than the U.S. distributes in aid to any other country.

As the conflict enters its 18th month, U.S. public support for funding the war is wavering, particularly among Republicans.

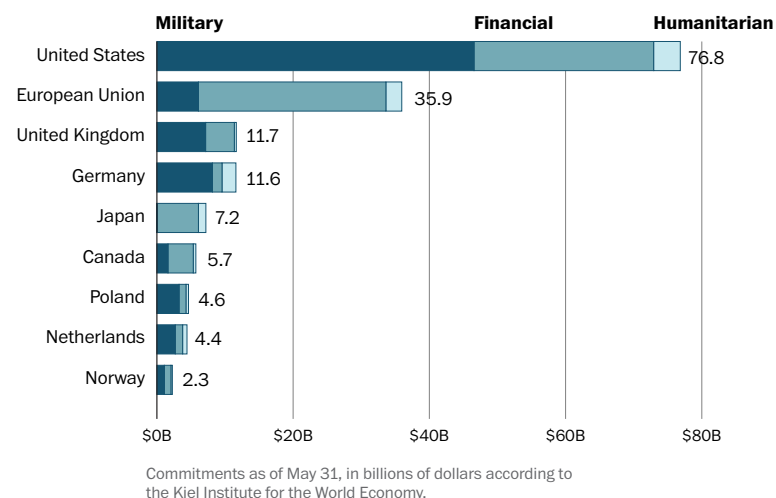
Military aid is only part of America's commitment to Ukraine. Billions of dollars in economic and humanitarian aid have also been pledged to the country.

The funding includes weapons, training, medical supplies, generators and rebuilding. And experts view the amount as a massive investment in a U.S. ally not seen since at least World War II.

"These are off-the-charts numbers," said Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He likened the figures to U.S. commitments to European coun-

How the international community is aiding Ukraine

Kiel's data differs from data from the State Department and the Defense Department, because it is adjusted so that it can be compared to other countries' spending figures.



tries at the end of World War II. The Marshall Plan, when adjusted for inflation, came to about \$150 billion over three years.

It's hard to put these numbers in context. Sixty billion dollars

sounds massive when compared with arbitrary data points such as the price of Twitter, the cost of the James Webb Space Telescope or the cost of the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness

plan.

It can be pretty small when compared with the entire U.S. defense budget.

US aid to other allies

But when compared with U.S. support for other nations, the commitment to Ukraine is singular.

The funding has eclipsed bilateral support for other U.S. allies, including Israel, Jordan and Egypt, some of the top recipients of U.S. support.

O'Hanlon also noted it has exceeded U.S. support for Taiwan, which in late July received a pledge worth more than \$300 million in military assistance from the Biden administration, as China's military presence near the island increases.

International aid

While the United States is the leading donor to Ukraine, other countries have committed a much larger percentage of their GDP to fund Kyiv's efforts.

As the conflict drags on, U.S. popular support for funding the war is wavering. A June Pew Re-

search Center survey found 44% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said the United States is giving too much aid to Ukraine.

That has become a talking point among some GOP Senate candidates, as well as two of the party's presidential front-runners.

"We could do it forever," O'Hanlon said of this rate of funding and support for Ukraine. "It's not economically unsustainable. But it's probably politically unsustainable."

Data sources: Military spending on Ukraine from the Defense Department's Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and presidential drawdown announcements as of July 25, as well as Foreign Military Financing figures from the State Department. Humanitarian and financial aid data from the State Department as of July 21. Total U.S. defense budget data from [usaspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov). U.S. bilateral aid to other allies from Congressional Research Service reports. Comparative data taken from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

NATION

In Iowa, Trump's rivals move on

BY THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Few even mentioned his name, and the new federal indictment he faces was completely ignored, as Republican candidates for president tried in Iowa on Sunday to present themselves as Donald Trump alternatives.

Over the course of two hours, seven GOP hopefuls took their turn on stage in front of about 800 party activists in the leadoff caucus state, all invited to speak at Iowa Rep. Ashley Hinson's fundraising barbecue at a Cedar Rapids racetrack.

But in their pitches to challenge Trump for the 2024 nomination, it was as if his indictment last Tuesday on federal charges accusing him of working to overturn the 2020 election results had never happened, even from the candidate who has suggested the former president quit the race.

Instead, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who has been a vocal Trump critic, touched only on the related Republican outrage with the Department of Justice, which many conservative activists allege has been politically biased in its investigation of Trump. The former president is also facing federal charges filed in June accusing him of improperly keeping sensitive documents in his Florida home and obstructing efforts to recover them.

Hutchinson on Sunday only called for revamping the Department of Justice and in a popular applause line for GOP candidates promised to name a new head of the department.

"And yes, I would get a new attorney general that would enforce the rule of law in a way that is fair for our country," said Hutchinson, earning polite applause from the



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Audience members react during a fundraising event for Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa, on Sunday, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

audience.

Even Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has warned that Republicans will lose next year by looking backward and repeating Trump's false claims the 2020 election was stolen, came only as close as saying, "The time for excuses is over."

Trump remains very popular within the Iowa Republican caucus electorate.

A New York Times/Siena College poll of likely Iowa Republican caucus attendees, published Friday but taken before Trump's indictment was made public, showed him far ahead of his closest rival. All other would-be challengers, except DeSantis, received support in the single digits.

Still, the poll suggested Trump's position may be slightly less strong in Iowa than it is nationally.

Throughout the early months of the campaign, Republican strategists have warned against attacking Trump directly, arguing it tends to anger voters who have supported him and see the charges he faces as political persecution, even as they are open to other candidates.

"Think of everything he's been

through," said Rosie Rekers, an interior decorator from Waverly, Iowa, who attended the Hinson event. "We've got to move on from that."

DeSantis, Hutchinson, N.D., Gov. Doug Burgum, conservative radio host Larry Elder and businessman Vivek Ramaswamy made their arguments for their candidacies with no mention of Trump.

Only two candidates Sunday mentioned Trump by name.

Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, who served in the post under Trump, mentioned him in an anecdote about a report she filed to him, an illustration of her irritation about member nations who opposed U.S. policy but received foreign financial aid.

Michigan businessman Perry Johnson was the only other candidate to name Trump.

Johnson noted he had pledged to pardon Trump last spring after the former president was indicted by a grand jury in New York on charges he falsified documents related to payments made to a porn star.

"I think that it's unfair that we start picking on our candidates and letting the Democrats decide who should be running," Johnson said.

Suits target plan to cancel \$39B in student loans

BY COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

Two conservative groups are asking a federal court to block the Biden administration's plan to cancel \$39 billion in student loans for more than 800,000 borrowers.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in Michigan, the groups argue that the administration overstepped its power when it announced the forgiveness in July, just weeks after the Supreme Court struck down a broader cancellation plan pushed by President Joe Biden.

It asks a judge to rule the cancellation illegal and stop the Education Department from carrying it out while the case is decided. The suit was filed by the New Civil Liberties Alliance on behalf of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Cato Institute.

In a statement, the Education Department called the suit "a desperate attempt from right wing special interests to keep hundreds of thousands of borrowers in debt."

It's part of a wave of legal challenges Republicans have leveled at the Biden administration's efforts to reduce or eliminate student debt for millions of Americans. Biden has said he will pursue a different cancellation plan after the Supreme Court decision, and his administration is separately unrolling a more generous repayment plan that opponents call a "backdoor attempt" at cancellation.

The Biden administration announced July 14 that it would soon forgive loans for 804,000 borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans. The plans have long offered cancellation after borrowers make 20 or 25 years of payments, but "past administrative failures" resulted in inaccurate payments counts that set borrowers back on

their progress toward forgiveness, the department said.

The new action was announced as a "one-time adjustment" that would count certain periods of past non-payment as if borrowers had been making payments during that time. It moved 804,000 borrowers across the 20- or 25-year mark needed for cancellation, and it moved millions of others closer to that threshold.

It's meant to address a practice known as forbearance steering, in which student loan servicers hired by the government wrongly pushed borrowers to go into forbearance — a temporary pause on payments because of hardship — even if they would have been better served by enrolling in one of the income-driven repayment plans.

Under the one-time fix, past periods in forbearance were also counted as progress toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, a program that offers cancellation after 10 years of payments while working in a government or nonprofit job.

Biden's action was illegal, the lawsuit says, because it wasn't authorized by Congress and didn't go through a federal rulemaking process that invites public feedback.

"No authority allows the Department to count non-payments as payments," the lawsuit says. It adds that the action came in "a press release that neither identified the policy's legal authority nor considered its exorbitant price tag."

The conservative groups say Biden's plan undercuts Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The Mackinac Center and Cato Institute say they employ borrowers who are working toward student loan cancellation through the program. They say Biden's action illegally accelerates progress toward relief, diminishing the benefit for nonprofit employers.

'Of course he lost': DeSantis addresses Trump's 2020 election lies

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Republican presidential candidate Ron DeSantis said definitively that rival Donald Trump lost the 2020 election, an acknowledgement the Florida governor made after years of equivocating answers.

"Of course he lost," DeSantis said in an interview with NBC News posted Monday. "Joe Biden's the president."

DeSantis has often sidestepped questions about whether he believes the 2020 election results were legiti-

mate. But in recent days he has started publicly questioning the lies that Trump and his allies have made about the election's legitimacy.

Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general said there was no credible evidence the election's outcome was affected by fraud. The former president's allegations were also roundly rejected by courts at the time, including judges he appointed.

Last week, Trump was charged by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith with four felo-

nies related to his efforts to overturn the election results in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

DeSantis' shift in rhetoric has come as he seeks to reset his stagnant 2024 White House campaign. Trump, who remains widely popular with the Republican Party base, is the early and commanding front-runner in next year's GOP presidential primary.

DeSantis in his interview at first didn't offer a clear answer when asked if Trump lost, saying,

"Whoever puts their hand on the Bible on Jan. 20 every four years is the winner." But he gave a more direct answer when pressed again.

The governor repeated his concerns about voting methods from the 2020 election, criticizing mail voting and so-called "ballot harvesting," but like other Republicans he said he would embrace the methods he had criticized.

"We are going to do it, too. We're not going to fight with one hand tied behind our backs," DeSantis said.

Academic research has shown

that mail voting increases turnout but doesn't benefit either party. Campaigns have normally pushed for it, allowing them to lock in votes early and focus their efforts on Election Day to encourage straggling supporters to get to the polls.

"The issue is, I think, what people in the media and elsewhere, they want to act like somehow this was just like the perfect election. I don't think it was a good-run election, but I also think Republicans didn't fight back. You've got to fight back when that is happening," he said.

NATION

Ex-cop sentenced for role in Floyd's death

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Tou Thao, the last former Minneapolis police officer convicted in state court for his role in the killing of George Floyd, was sentenced Monday to 4 years and 9 months — even as he denied wrongdoing.

Thao had testified that he merely served as a “human traffic cone” when he held back concerned bystanders who gathered as former Officer Derek Chauvin, who is white, knelt on Floyd’s neck for 9½ minutes while the Black man pleaded for his life on May 25, 2020.

A bystander video captured Floyd’s fading cries of “I can’t breathe.”

At the sentencing hearing, Thao spoke at length about his growth as a Christian during his 340 days behind bars. He said he was “distressed” by Floyd’s death but denied any role in it.

“I did not commit these crimes,” Thao said. “My conscience is clear. I will not be a Judas nor join a mob in self-preservation or betray my God.”

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill responded that he was hop-

ing “for more than preaching” from Thao. “After three years of reflection, I was hoping for a little more remorse,” the judge said.

Assistant Attorney General Erin Eldridge said during the hearing that Floyd’s final words “reverberated across the globe.”

Floyd’s killing touched off protests worldwide and forced a national reckoning of police brutality and racism.

Cahill found Thao guilty in May of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

In his 177-page ruling, Cahill said Thao’s actions separated Chauvin and two other former officers from the crowd, including an emergency medical technician, allowing his colleagues to continue restraining Floyd and preventing bystanders from providing medical aid.

He concluded: “Thao’s actions were even more unreasonable in light of the fact that he was under a duty to intervene to stop the other officers’ excessive use of force and was trained to render medical aid.”

Thao had rejected a plea bargain on the state charge.

Three killed when firefighting helicopters collide in California

Associated Press

CABAZON, Calif. — Two firefighting helicopters collided while responding to a blaze in Southern California, sending one to the ground in a crash that killed all three people on board.

“Unfortunately, the second helicopter crashed and tragically all three members perished, which included one Cal Fire Division chief, one Cal Fire captain and one contract client pilot,” Cal Fire Southern Region Chief David Fulcher told a news conference early Monday.

Fulcher did not identify the victims.

Cal Fire and Riverside County Fire Department resources had been dispatched to a structure fire near the intersection of Broadway Street and South Ronda Avenue in the community of Cabazon, Fulcher said. That blaze spread into the surrounding vegetation and a full wildland fire dispatch was initiated, which included fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

While battling the blaze, the two helicopters collided. The crash caused an additional 4-acre fire,

which was extinguished.

“Although this was a tragic event, we are also thankful today that it wasn’t worse,” Fulcher said. “The individuals in the first helicopter were able to land safely without incident and no one else was hurt.”

The helicopter pilot was flying under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, fire captain and spokesman Richard Cordova said Sunday evening. The crash is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board.

8-year-old Chicago girl fatally shot by man upset with kids making noise

Associated Press

CHICAGO — An 8-year-old Chicago girl riding a scooter was fatally shot in the head by a man who was upset over noise, witnesses said.

“It just didn’t make sense. None of it made sense,” a neighbor, Megan Kelley, told the Chicago Sun-Times. “Everybody in the

community would just tell him they are just kids having fun playing. Just let them be.”

The shooting happened Saturday night in Chicago’s Portage Park neighborhood. Police were at the suspect’s apartment building Sunday, interviewing people and collecting evidence.

“Before he shot her, he had said

something about them being too loud,” Kelley said.

After the shooting, the gunman was tackled by the girl’s father and shot during a struggle, according to a police report. He was taken to a hospital.

Stuffed animals and sunflowers were placed at the base of a tree near the shooting scene.



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NATION

Attacks at hospitals show risks of health care work

By REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press

Word spread through an Oregon hospital last month that a visitor was causing trouble in the maternity ward, and nurses were warned the man might try to abduct his partner's newborn.

Hours later, the visitor opened fire, killing a security guard and sending patients, nurses and doctors scrambling for cover.

The shooting at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland was part of a wave of gun violence sweeping through U.S. hospitals and medical centers, which have struggled to adapt to the growing threats.

Such attacks have helped make health care one of the nation's most violent fields. Data shows American health care workers now suffer more nonfatal injuries from workplace violence than workers in any other profession, including law enforcement.

"Health care workers don't even think about that when they decide they want to be a nurse or a doctor. But as far as actual violence goes, statistically, health care is four or



MAXINE BERNSTEIN, THE OREGONIAN/AP

Portland Police respond to a shooting at the Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland, Ore., on July 22.

five times more dangerous than any other profession," said Michael D'Angelo, a former police officer who focuses on health care and workplace violence as a security consultant in Florida.

Other industries outpace health care for overall danger, including

deaths. Similar shootings have played out in hospitals across the country.

Last year, a man killed two workers at a Dallas hospital while there to watch his child's birth. In May, a man opened fire in a medical center waiting room in Atlanta, killing

one woman and wounding four. Late last month, a man shot and wounded a doctor at a health center in Dallas. In June 2022, a gunman killed his surgeon and three other people at a Tulsa, Okla., medical office because he blamed the doctor for his continuing pain after an operation.

It's not just deadly shootings: Health care workers racked up 73% of all nonfatal workplace violence injuries in 2018, the most recent year for which figures are available, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

One day before the July 22 shooting in Portland, employees throughout the hospital were warned during meetings to be prepared for a possible "code amber" announcement in case the visitor attempted to kidnap the child, according to a nurse with direct knowledge of the briefing who spoke to The Associated Press. She spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared retaliation at work.

Fifteen minutes before the shooting, someone at the hospital called 911 to report the visitor was

threatening staffers, according to a timeline provided by Portland police.

"He kind of fell through the cracks," the nurse said. "I don't know how many chances he received. It kind of got to the point where staff did not know what to do, or what they could or couldn't do with him."

Police arrived at the maternity ward within minutes, but it was too late. Bobby Smallwood, a security guard who had been called in from another Legacy hospital to cover shifts for Good Samaritan's understaffed security team, had been fatally shot. Another hospital employee was wounded by shrapnel. The suspect fled and was later killed by police in a nearby community.

The hospital declined to respond to the nurse's comments because the case is still under investigation.

"Events like these are unpredictable, but our team exhibited professionalism and a great deal of courage in the face of extraordinarily challenging circumstances that day," Legacy Health said in a statement to the AP.

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WORLD

Niger's junta shuts airspace as deadline passes

By SAM MEDNICK
Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger — Niger's mutinous soldiers closed the country's airspace and accused foreign powers of preparing an attack, as the junta defied a deadline to reinstate the ousted president.

State television announced the move Sunday night, hours before the deadline set by West African regional bloc ECOWAS, which has warned of using military force if the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum isn't returned to power.

A spokesman for the coup leaders, Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane, noted "the threat of intervention being prepared in a neighbouring country," and said Niger's airspace will be closed until further notice. The junta also claimed that two central African countries are preparing for an invasion, but did not say which ones, and called on the country's population to defend it.

The junta said any attempt to fly over the country will be met with "an energetic and immediate response."

International airlines have begun to divert flights around the airspace of Niger, which the United States and others had seen as the last major counterterrorism partner in the vast Sahel region, south of the Sahara Desert, where groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are expanding their influence.

ECOWAS leaders said Monday that they would meet Thursday in Abuja, the capital of neighboring Nigeria, to discuss next steps, according to a spokesman.

In Mali, the armed forces said Monday that it and Burkina Faso, both neighbors of Niger run by military juntas, were sending a delegation of officials to Niger to show support. Both countries have said they would consider any intervention in Niger as a "declaration of war" against them.

Regional tensions have mounted since Niger's coup nearly two weeks ago, with the mutinous soldiers detaining Bazoum and installing Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, former head of the presidential guard, as head of state. Analysts say the coup is believed to have been triggered by a power struggle between Tchiani and the president, who was about to fire him. The region is divided on a course of action. There was no sign of military forces gathering at Niger's border with Nigeria, the likely entry point by land.



SAM MEDNICK/AP

Supporters of Niger's ruling junta hold a Russian flag in Niamey, Niger, on Sunday.

On Saturday, Nigeria's Senate pushed back on the plan to invade, urging Nigeria's president, the bloc's current chair, to explore options other than the use of force. ECOWAS can still move ahead, as final decisions are made by consensus by member states.

A former British army officer who worked in Nigeria said military officials there told him Monday that President Bolu Tinubu had not given orders to use military force. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Guinea and neighboring Algeria, which is not an ECOWAS member, have come out against against the use of force. Senegal's government has said it would participate in a military operation if it went ahead, and Ivory Coast has expressed support for ECOWAS' efforts to restore constitutional order.

The junta does not appear interested in negotiation. An ECOWAS delegation sent to Niger last week for hours of talks was not allowed to leave the airport and met only with Tchiani's representatives.

At a rally on Sunday, thousands cheered junta leaders who said their loyalty would be repaid.

"We are with you against them. We will give you the Niger that you are owed," Brig. Gen. Mohamed Toumba said. After his speech, The Associated Press saw rallygoers ahead a chicken decorated in the colors of former colonizer France.

The junta is exploiting anti-French sentiments among the population to shore up its support base and has severed security ties with France, which still has 1,500 military personnel in Niger for counterterrorism efforts. On Monday, France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally discouraged any travel to Niger, Burkina Faso or Mali, and called on French nationals to be extremely vigilant.



NILS MEILVANG/AP

A tree lies on the ground close to the amusement park Tivoli after falling following a heavy storm, in Copenhagen, on Monday. Stormy weather on Monday was reported across the whole Baltic Sea region.

Stormy weather across northern Europe idles ferries, delays flights

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Stormy weather across the Baltic Sea region Monday killed at least one person and caused airport delays, suspended ferry services and a train's partial derailment.

Three people were taken to a hospital in Sweden when two of the train's passenger cars went off the tracks in Hudiksvall, a town 174 miles north of Stockholm, police said.

The derailment happened because "the embankment has been undermined by the heavy rain and landslides," they said, adding that the extent of their injuries is unclear. There had been 120 people on the train, Swedish media said.

Ferries linking Poland to Swe-

den, two German islands to mainland Germany and Norway to Denmark remained in harbor. Ferries and water taxis to the German islands of Hiddensee and Ruegen were canceled for Monday and Tuesday morning, and vacationers were asked to change their travels plans to Wednesday.

In Lithuania, a 50-year old woman was killed by falling trees near the Latvian border. The area was badly damaged with numerous roofs ripped off, and thousands remained without electricity.

In Latvia, television reported trees getting knocked over in wind gusts of up to 67 mph, and meteorologists also reported golf ball-sized hail in Apgulde, a village

southwest of Riga, the capital.

Heavy rain and hail was also reported in Estonia, the third Baltic country.

In Denmark, police in the northeastern part of the country said on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, that "the weather is still harsh."

The fire department for greater Copenhagen urged people to stay away from parks and forests, saying "the combination of rain-soaked ground and storms increases the risk of trees falling."

In southern Norway, authorities raised the extreme weather warning alert to its highest due to heavy rain, mudslides and flash floods. Flooded streets were also reported in Oslo, Norway's capital.

Migrants moved to housing barge moored in UK as government seeks to cut costs

Associated Press

LONDON — A small group of asylum-seekers has been moved to a barge moored in southern England as the U.K. government tries to cut the cost of sheltering people seeking protection in the country, British news media reported Monday.

The asylum-seekers were transferred to the Bibby Stock-

holm, a barge outfitted with temporary accommodations that will ultimately house up to 500 men moved from hotels or elsewhere in the country. More were expected to arrive later Monday.

The barge, owned by a Swedish company, was previously used to house oil field workers and migrants in other countries.

The U.K. government wants to

use barges and former military bases to house some migrants as the cost of accommodating them in hotels soars.

Home Office Minister Sarah Dines told the BBC that people arriving in in the U.K. via unauthorized means should have "basic but proper accommodation" and that they "can't expect to stay in a four-star hotel."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man goes into his garage, attacked by bear

PA DANVILLE — A Pennsylvania man said he's paying a lot more attention to his surroundings after a surprise attack by a bear in the garage of his home.

John Swartz, 60, and his wife Lori, 59, were watching TV at their home outside Danville when he remembered he had to turn off a hose he'd left running to fill an inflatable pool. So he walked into the two-car garage, where the shutoff valve was located — unaware that a bear had wandered in a minute earlier.

The next thing he knew, he said, he was thrown against shelving units, heard a growl and knew immediately it was a bear. When he turned to flee, the bear bit him on the head. Holding his injured head, he stumbled back toward the house.

At the hospital, doctors confirmed that his head injuries were superficial bite marks.

White supremacist banners appear in capital

LA BATON ROUGE — In Louisiana's predominantly Black capital city of Baton Rouge, banners promoting a white nationalist hate group seemingly appeared overnight.

Community members from Baton Rouge's NAACP chapter removed four banners, hanging above busy roads and highways in Baton Rouge. The signs bore the logo and website for Patriot Front, which is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as "a white nationalist hate group" that formed after the deadly "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017.

"It's something that is very concerning to us," Mark Armstrong, a city spokesperson, said about the banners. "It's rather disturbing, to say the least. I mean, this is clear racism being posted up on a banner in our community."

Cyberattack disrupts hospitals, health care

CT MANCHESTER — A cyberattack has disrupted hospital computer systems in several states, forcing some emergency rooms to close and ambulances to be diverted, and many primary care services remained closed on as security experts worked to determine the extent of the problem and resolve it.

The "data security incident" began at facilities operated by Prospect Medical Holdings, which is based in California and has hospitals and clinics there and in Texas, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania.

"Upon learning of this, we took our systems offline to protect them and launched an investigation with the help of third-party cybersecurity specialists," the



DON CAMPBELL, THE (ST. JOSEPH, MICH.) HERALD-PALLADIUM/AP

A group of grannies

Erik Greenawalt, of Irwin, Pa., joins artists as they work on chalk murals, Saturday, during the annual Chalk The Block in St. Joseph, Mich.

company said in a statement. "While our investigation continues, we are focused on addressing the pressing needs of our patients as we work diligently to return to normal operations as quickly as possible."

Court lets state enforce ban on minors trans care

KY FRANKFORT — A federal appeals court is allowing Kentucky to enforce a recently enacted ban on gender-affirming care for young transgender people while the issue is being litigated.

The 2-1 decision from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati is not unexpected. The same three-judge panel ruled the same way on a similar case in Tennessee.

The Kentucky law, enacted this year over the veto of Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear, prevents transgender minors from accessing puberty blockers and hormone therapy.

In Kentucky, U.S. District Judge David Hale had initially blocked Kentucky from enforcing the ban. But he lifted that injunction July 14, after the 6th Circuit issued its ruling in the Tennessee case.

Seven transgender children and their parents have sued to block the Kentucky law. They argue that it violates their constitutional

rights and interferes with parental rights to seek established medical treatment for their children.

\$44.4M plan urged to raze old state prison site

PA PITTSBURGH — A consultant has recommended that Pennsylvania spend \$44.4 million to demolish a former state prison in Pittsburgh and rehabilitate the site for industrial reuse and a riverfront park, despite the prison's popularity with television and film producers.

It wasn't clear when or if state officials would act on the recommendation made by Michael Baker International.

The consultant's plan calls for razing all 42 buildings at the former State Correctional Institution Pittsburgh, including the main penitentiary. It also said 5.2 acres of the property along the Ohio riverfront should be set aside as a public park, part of which would be integrated into the Three Rivers Heritage Trail that runs by the old prison.

Deal set for family of man who died in infested cell

GA ATLANTA — Georgia's Fulton County has reached a settlement with the family of a man who died in a bedbug-infested cell in the county jail's psychiatric wing, the family's lawyers said.

Lashawn Thompson, 35, died three months after he was booked into the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta. Attorneys Ben Crump and Michael Harper, who represent Thompson's family, said in a news release that the family has reached settlements with the county "and other unidentified entities."

Thompson's death gained public attention after Harper released photos of his face and body covered in insects. The U.S. Department of Justice cited Thompson's death when announcing an investigation into jail conditions in Fulton County.

The family is satisfied with the settlements, but the lawyers said in the statement that "we are nowhere near the end of this journey to full justice."

Hyundai, Kia recall nearly 92K cars due to fire risk

MA DETROIT — Hyundai and Kia are telling the owners of nearly 92,000 vehicles in the U.S. to park them outside because an electronic controller in an oil pump can overheat and cause fires.

The affiliated Korean automakers are recalling the vehicles and also are telling owners to park them away from structures until repairs are made.

The recalls cover certain 2023 and 2024 Hyundai Palisades, as

well some 2023 Tucson, Sonata, Elantra and Kona vehicles. Affected Kias include the 2023 Soul and Sportage as well as some 2023 and 2024 Seltos vehicles.

Ex-professor charged with raping 3 women

NY NEW YORK — A former City College chemistry adjunct professor was arrested and charged with coaxing three women from El Salvador to come to the United States for a better life before subjecting them to rape and sexual assault once they arrived, authorities said.

Jorge Alberto Ramos, 43, of the Bronx, was arrested on charges in an indictment returned in Manhattan federal court that alleged he carried out the scheme from 2013 through 2023, grooming the women to make the trip by expressing concern for their families and by sending them gifts and money.

According to the indictment, Ramos was born in El Salvador and maintained relationships with family, friends and others in the San Miguel area.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said in a release that Ramos preyed on vulnerable women with promises of a better life and "smuggled them to New York so that he could exploit their bodies for his own sexual gratification."

STARS AND STRIPES.

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OPINION

A provocative idea for heading off a fiscal crisis

BY GEORGE F. WILL

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON

When astrophysicist Arthur Eddington (1882-1944) was told that some people believed that only three scientists understood Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity, he quietly said: "I'm just wondering who the third might be." At the opposite end of the intelligibility spectrum, there is broad understanding of the obvious: This nation is slouching into the most predictable fiscal crisis in its history.

There is no mystery about what the crisis is; there is clarity about what broadly must be done. There is, however, fatalism about the political system's inability to do it. The fatalism is refutable, but with a mechanism that should make constitutionalists queasy: Should we protect the nation's fiscal future by further diminishing Congress, which would exacerbate the braided problems of a rampant executive and an unaccountable administrative state?

Demography is destiny for today's entitlement state, which functions primarily to transfer wealth to the elderly. America's population is aging, life expectancy is increasing, a quarter of Medicare spending is on services in the last year of life, and 40% of that 25% on the last 30 days. Furthermore, the U.S. birthrate is declining, and immigration will not be liberalized nearly enough to adequately replenish the long-term workforce that must fund entitlements.

Without politically excruciating changes, the two principal drivers of federal deficits — Social Security and, especially, Medicare — will produce ever-higher government spending and ever-larger deficits. This certainty influenced Fitch's recent lowering of the na-

tion's credit rating. Within a decade, Medicare providers and Social Security recipients are set to face 11% payment cuts and 20% benefit cuts, respectively. They will not happen. General revenue (including borrowed money) will be poured into both programs to protect incumbent legislators and prevent social upheaval.

Absent entitlement reforms, interest rates will rise, reducing private investments and economic growth, and federal revenue. What can be done to prevent risk-averse politics from producing this self-reinforcing doom loop? The Cato Institute's Romina Boccia has a suggestion: "a BRAC-like fiscal commission."

After the Cold War waned, the Base Realignment and Closure commission accomplished what the political class flinched from doing: five rounds (from 1988 to 2005) of closures of military facilities crucial to communities' prosperity. The BRAC recommendations automatically took effect unless, after approved by the president and submitted to the House and Senate, Congress passed a joint resolution disapproving the recommendations in their entirety.

Boccia proposes a similar entity, "composed of independent experts," tasked with what she mildly calls the "clear and attainable objective" of stabilizing the nation's debt at a size not exceeding gross domestic product. Leave aside the unsettling echo of progressives' (Woodrow) Wilsonian aspiration to constrict politics by expanding the sphere of "independent" expertise. Boccia has the courage of her conviction that the alternative is even worse than this aspect of her proposal: The commission's recommendations must be "self-executing upon presidential approval, without Congress having to affirmatively vote on their enactment."

With a bracing candor reminiscent of an-

other realistic child of Italy (Machiavelli, in "The Prince"), Boccia says: Making the commission's recommendations self-executing without Congress' having to endorse them is necessary to give legislators "political cover to vocally object to reforms" vital to the national interest but impossible to enact by normal procedures.

Is there a paradox of sovereignty? May a legislature, exercising its sovereign lawmaking power, enact a law that divests itself of lawmaking power? Congress frequently does essentially this by granting to executive agencies discretion so broad that it arguably violates the "nondelegation doctrine." That is, it delegates essentially legislative power, in violation of the Constitution's first substance word — the first after the preamble: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress" (emphasis added).

Boccia notes that Sen. John McCain supported the BRAC mechanism even though, he said, "Congress has probably abdicated its responsibilities." The brute fact, he said, is that Congress is "incapable of acting in any other way." And Boccia knows that the stakes in the base closings were trifling compared with those in entitlement reform, concerning which Congress' abdication of responsibility is ongoing.

Adopting Boccia's recommendation — "a new mechanism for forcing action" — would be an admirable acknowledgment by Congress of an unadmirable weakness. Call it the Odysseus measure:

Confessing his weakness regarding the temptation of the Sirens' voices, Odysseus told his ship's crew, "Bind me, to keep me upright at the mast, wound round with rope. If I beseech you and command to set me free, you must increase my bonds and chain even tighter."

US ally Australia's strategic importance is growing

BY ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

The visit to Australia by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in late July was important and deserved more attention than it received. They met with their Australian counterparts in Brisbane for focused talks on defense and related matters.

Australia, geographically distant, is increasingly central in the growing, multifaceted contest with China. The visit follows on the significant, but also little noticed, U.S. decision last year to deploy up to six B-52 strategic bombers to Northern Australia. This imposing, and enormously capable, long-range strategic bomber is one of the most durable and respected military aircraft in history. In 2011, Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced an agreement to station U.S. Marines in that country.

China represents an important, growing challenge to both nations.

The United States opposes China's access to disputed reefs and islands in the South China Sea. Beijing is an aggressively expanding presence in the area. China has protested the deployment of B-52s and other U.S. moves.

In this tense context, Australia remains a vital U.S. ally. ANZUS, the Australia-New Zealand-U.S. security alliance, was dramatically re-energized by the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Australians were targets in the 2002 terrorist bombings on the Indonesian island of

Bali. In 2004, the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, was attacked.

The American-Australian special relationship was forged in the crucible of World War II. In that war, the enormous Japanese military drive south was finally blunted just short of Australia. Knowledgeable jungle-savvy Australian troops provided vital support to generally inexperienced Americans.

The Vietnam War led to strengthening the Australia-United States partnership even while straining U.S. relations with Britain and other allies. A total of 50,000 Australian military personnel served in Vietnam; 520 were killed and 2,400 wounded. Reflecting these pressures, Australia reintroduced military conscription in 1964.

In October 1966, Lyndon B. Johnson became the first U.S. president to visit Australia, underscoring cooperation with Prime Minister Harold Holt. This characteristically dramatic LBJ expedition was undertaken to cast the Vietnam War in global terms.

Australian forces gained valuable guerrilla war experience during the Malaya Emergency from 1948 to 1960 fighting the Malayan National Liberation Army. The communist insurgency was finally suppressed, confirming the value of patience in employing sustained, carefully directed military force.

President Richard M. Nixon and national security adviser Henry Kissinger tried to apply Malaya insights to Vietnam.

Gen. Creighton Abrams, after succeeding Gen. William Westmoreland as Vietnam

commander, redirected U.S. forces away from massive search-and-destroy operations to small unit actions, reflecting the strategy successfully employed in Malaya. The war strengthened ties especially between Australia and the U.S. among military professionals.

The Afghanistan insurgency was somewhat similar to Malaya and Vietnam. David Kilcullen, a retired Australian army officer, is influential in American security circles. Australians also do humanitarian work in Pakistan and elsewhere.

Australia provides bridges between developed and developing nations, reflecting historical legacies as well as geography. Rather ironically, the nation's economy is greatly aided by proximity to China.

In September 2021, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced the AUKUS partnership. Britain, following departure from the European Union, signed a free trade agreement with Australia in December 2021. The reinvigorated Quadrilateral Security Dialogue among Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. is another example.

The steady rise of China in economic and military terms, combined with growing assertiveness abroad, especially in the immediate region, gives high priority to Pacific security planning and force profiles. The visit by two U.S. Cabinet officials symbolizes this.

Australia, Britain and the United States comprise a strong triangle.

Arthur I. Cyr is author of "After the Cold War."

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbers 1-55 indicating starting positions for across and down clues.

ACROSS

- 1 Emmy-winning Tyne
5 Sashimi fish
8 Caesar's "Behold!"
12 Jai — Anais
13 French diarist
14 Thwart
15 Buckle
16 Art form that's one of hip-hop's four elements
18 Try to deal (with)
20 Haunting
21 Shoe width
22 Catchall abbr.
23 Sea critter
26 Please
30 Whitman of "Good Girls"
31 Airline to Sweden
32 Briny expanse
33 Awards with a "Best Rap Performance" category
36 Alison Brie's "Mad Men" role
38 Oft-pierced body part
39 Japanese sash
40 "Papa" of classical music
43 Seriousness
47 Slope
49 Buffalo's lake
50 Healthy
51 — -jongg
52 Funny Fey
53 Harvard rival

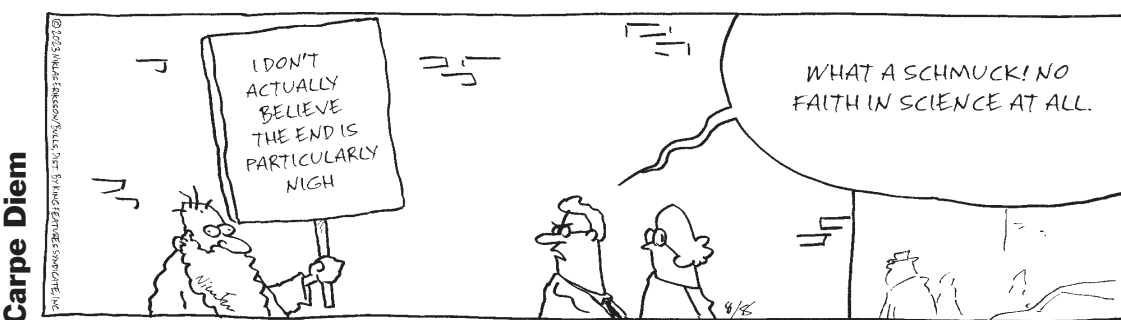
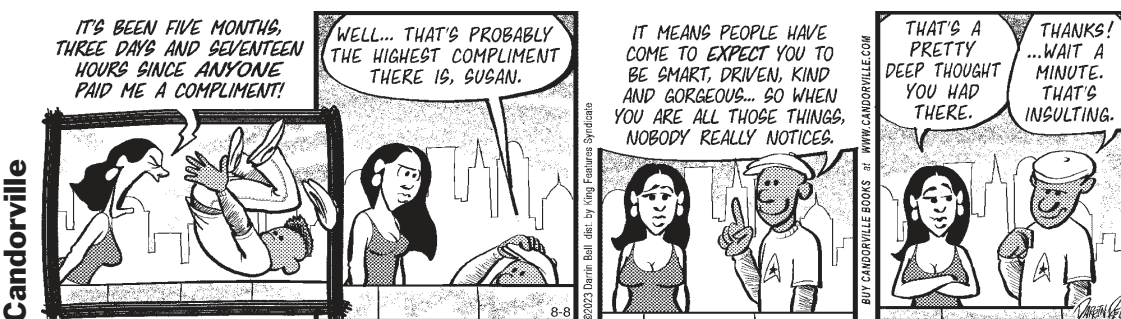
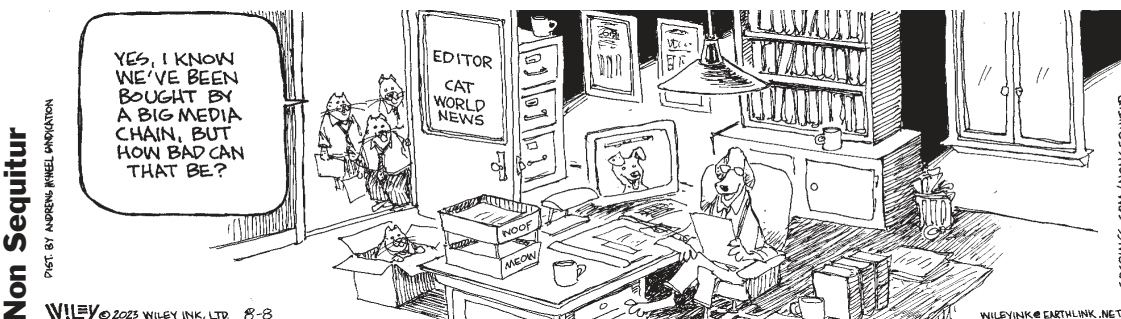
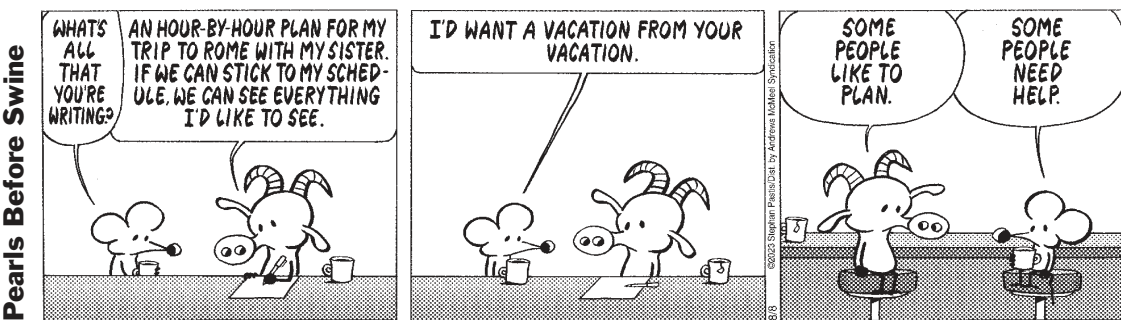
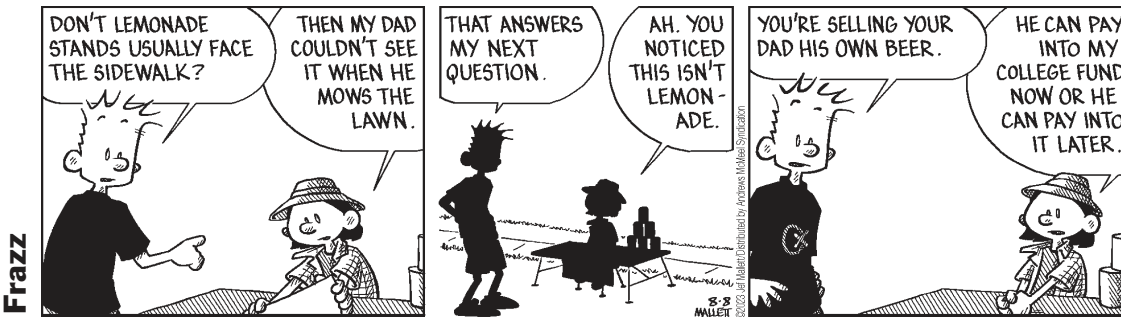
- 54 — Jima
55 Swift jets

DOWN

- 1 Deputy — (cartoon canine)
2 Winged
3 Croft of video games
4 "Hooray!"
5 Protractor measure
6 Employ
7 Chef Garten
8 Result
9 Coconut fiber
10 New York's — Field
11 Writer Wiesel
17 Greek salad cheese
19 Part of MPH
22 Triage ctrs.
23 Texter's "Heavens!"
24 Pitch
25 Earl Grey, e.g.
26 Petrol
27 Terre Haute sch.
28 Nourished
29 "Rah!"
31 Damascus is its cap.
34 Butt in
35 — -pedi
36 TV guide abbr.
37 Transfixes
39 Lawn care brand
40 Rd. with multiple lanes
41 Bailiwick
42 Informal pronoun
43 Chew (on)
44 Spring flower
45 Shade
46 Pro votes
48 U.K. recording label

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Completed crossword grid with words filled in.



8-8

CRYPTOQUIP

VTQK H UQNGV QOAHEJF GK H
BMQW EQCMQK REGTMAMWMKC
AEQHJUHFW RHFWMQF, TQ
AHKMFTQF BHKMFTQF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WERE TO WATCH EVERY VAMPIRE FILM EVER PRODUCED, WOULD YOU HAVE A PERFECT DRAC RECORD?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

FACES

'Barbie' rakes in a billion

Blockbuster breaks another record for female directors

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Greta Gerwig should be feeling closer to fine these days. In only three weeks in theaters, "Barbie" sailed past \$1 billion in global ticket sales, breaking a record for female directors previously held by Patty Jenkins, who helmed "Wonder Woman."

"Barbie," which Gerwig directed and co-wrote, added another \$53 million from 4,178 North American locations over the weekend and \$74 million internationally, bringing its global total to \$1.03 billion, according to studio estimates. The Margot Robbie-led and produced film has been comfortably seated in first place for three weeks and it's hardly finished yet. It crossed \$400 million domestically and \$500 million internationally faster than any other movie from Warner Bros., including the Harry Potter films.

"As distribution chiefs, we're not often rendered speechless by a film's performance, but Barbillion has blown even our most optimistic predictions out of the water," said Jeff Goldstein and Andrew Cripps, who oversee domestic and international distribution for the studio, in a joint statement.

In modern box-office history, only 53 movies have made more than \$1 billion, not accounting for inflation, and "Barbie" is now the biggest to be directed by one woman, supplanting "Wonder Woman's" \$821.8 million global total. Three movies that were co-directed by women are ahead of "Barbie," including "Frozen" (\$1.3 billion) and



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Movigoers have been showing the love to writer-director Greta Gerwig's "Barbie." The film has taken in \$1.03 billion globally in just three weeks of release. "Barbie" is now the biggest film to be directed by one woman.

"Frozen 2" (\$1.45 billion) both co-directed by Jennifer Lee and "Captain Marvel" (\$1.1 billion), co-directed by Anna Boden. But, "Barbie" has passed "Captain Marvel" domestically with \$459.4 million (versus \$426.8 million), thereby claiming the North American record for live-action movies directed by women.

Warner Bros. co-chairs and CEOs Michael De Luca and Pam Abdy also praised Gerwig in a statement and said the milestone, "is testament to her brilliance and to her commitment to deliver a movie that Barbie fans of every age want to see on the big screen."

New competition came this weekend in the form of the animated, PG-rated "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" and the Jason Statham shark sequel, "Meg 2: The Trench," both of which were neck-in-neck with Christopher Nolan's

"Oppenheimer," also in its third weekend, for the second-place spot.

"Meg 2" managed to sneak ahead and land in second place. It overcame its abysmal reviews to score a \$30 million opening weekend from 3,503 locations. The Warner Bros. release, directed by Ben Wheatley, currently has a 29% critics' score on Rotten Tomatoes and a B- CinemaScore from audiences. The thriller was released in 3D, which accounted for 22% of its first weekend business.

Third place went to "Oppenheimer," which added \$28.7 million from 3,612 locations in North America, bringing its domestic total to \$228.6 million. In just three weeks, the J. Robert Oppenheimer biopic starring Cillian Murphy has become the highest grossing R-rated film of the year (ahead of "John Wick Chapter 4") and the sixth-biggest of the year overall, surpassing

"Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania."

"Oppenheimer" also celebrated a landmark, crossing \$500 million globally in three weeks. Its worldwide tally is currently \$552.9 million, which puts it ahead of "Dunkirk," which clocked out with \$527 million in 2017, and has become Nolan's fifth-biggest movie ever. It's also now among the four top grossing biographies ever (company includes "Bohemian Rhapsody," "The Passion of the Christ" and "American Sniper") and the biggest World War II movie of all time.

Paramount's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" was close behind in fourth place with an estimated \$28 million from 3,858 theaters in North America. Since opening on Wednesday, the film, which is riding on excellent reviews (96% on Rotten Tomatoes) and audience scores, has earned \$43.1 million.

Foxx apologizes, denies antisemitism over Instagram post

From wire reports

Actor Jamie Foxx apologized Saturday over the phrasing of a recent Instagram post about the death of Jesus Christ that some, including actor Jennifer Aniston, accused of being antisemitic.

"They killed this dude name Jesus," Foxx wrote in a recent Instagram post that is no longer featured on his account, according to screenshots. "What do you think they'll do to you??!! #fakefriends #fakelove"

Some Instagram users interpreted the "they" in Foxx's post to be a reference to a long-standing conspiratorial trope that Jews were primarily responsible for the Roman Empire's execution of Christ on charges of sedition, which anti-hate groups including Anti-Defamation League have previously called a "myth" used to justify anti-Jewish violence.

An Instagram account for Jewish news, A



Foxx

Wider Frame, shared a screenshot of Foxx's post and called it "horrifically antisemitic." Followers of the account noticed in the screenshot that Aniston had "liked" Foxx's post and expressed concerns that Aniston was supporting Foxx's post, which prompted Aniston to post her own accusation against Foxx on Instagram Stories.

On Saturday, Foxx acknowledged concerns about his post but strongly denied that he was referring to Jewish people.

"I want to apologize to the Jewish community and everyone who was offended by my post," Foxx wrote in a follow-up post Saturday. "I now know my choice of words have caused offense and I'm sorry. That was never my intent. To clarify, I was be-

trayed by a fake friend and that's what I meant with 'they' not anything more. I only have love in my heart for everyone. I love and support the Jewish community. My deepest apologies to anyone who was offended."

Not everyone found Foxx's post offensive.

"I am Jewish and I thought it was one helluva leap to call it antisemitic," David Krumholtz, an actor who recently starred in "Oppenheimer," replied to Foxx's apology. "I knew exactly what you meant. Everybody needs to chill."

Foxx has recently been in the news after being hospitalized in April for unspecified reasons.

Other news

■ Actor Mark Margolis, who indelibly played murderous former drug kingpin

Hector Salamanca in "Breaking Bad" and its prequel "Better Call Saul," has died at 83 following a short illness, his son announced. Margolis also was known for many film roles, particularly in the films of Darren Aronofsky, including "Noah," "Black Swan," "The Wrestler" and "Pi." His early breakout movie role was mob henchman Alberto "The Shadow" in "Scarface," opposite Al Pacino.

■ Taylor Swift's Eras Tour might be nearly impossible to get tickets for, but fans could soon get their chance to see the event of the decade in a new documentary. The Grammy winner, 33, is thought to possibly have a documentary in the works, which could explain the camera crews that have been at nearly all her stops on the tour thus far, TMZ reports. The "Anti-Hero" singer has reportedly not yet confirmed an intention for the cameras.

SCOREBOARD/NHL

TENNIS

Citi Open

Sunday
At William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center
Washington
Purse: \$2,013,940
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Men's Singles Championship
 Daniel Evans (9), Britain, def. Tallon Griekspoor (12), Netherlands, 7-5, 6-3.
Women's Singles Championship
 Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Maria Sakkari (4), Greece, 6-2, 6-3.
Men's Doubles Championship
 Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni, Argentina, def. Mackenzie McDonald and Ben Shelton, United States, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 10-6.

Prague Open

Sunday
At TK Sparta Praha
Prague
Purse: \$259,303
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles Semifinals
 Linda Noskova (4), Czech Republic, def. Tamara Korpatich, Germany, 6-1, 6-1.

AUTO RACING

Music City Grand Prix

IndyCar Series
Sunday
At Streets of Nashville
Nashville, Tenn.
Lap length: 2.17 miles
(Start position in parentheses)
 1. (8) Kyle Kirkwood, Dallara-Honda, 80 laps, Running.
 2. (1) Scott McLaughlin, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 3. (4) Alex Palou, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 4. (9) Josef Newgarden, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 5. (12) Scott Dixon, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 6. (6) Romain Grosjean, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 7. (20) Marcus Ericsson, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 8. (2) Pato O'Ward, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 9. (13) Christian Lundgaard, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 10. (7) Will Power, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 11. (17) Helio Castroneves, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 12. (18) Callum Ilott, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 13. (16) Marcus Armstrong, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 14. (19) Rinus VeeKay, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 15. (15) Graham Rahal, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 16. (27) Ryan Hunter-Reay, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 17. (24) Sting Ray Robb, Dallara-Honda, 80, Running.
 18. (21) Santino Ferrucci, Dallara-Chevrolet, 80, Running.
 19. (10) Alexander Rossi, Dallara-Chevrolet, 78, Running.
 20. (23) Agustin Canapino, Dallara-Chevrolet, 77, Did not finish.
 21. (3) Colton Herta, Dallara-Honda, 76, Did not finish.
 22. (14) Felix Rosenqvist, Dallara-Chevrolet, 73, Did not finish.
 23. (25) Benjamin Pedersen, Dallara-Chevrolet, 73, Did not finish.
 24. (22) Jack Harvey, Dallara-Honda, 71, Did not finish.
 26. (26) Devlin DeFrancesco, Dallara-Honda, 65, Did not finish.
 27. (5) David Malukas, Dallara-Honda, 11, Did not finish.
Race statistics
Average speed of race winner: 85.396 mph.
Time of race: 01:58:02.3028.
Margin of victory: 0.7633 seconds.
Cautions: 4 for 8 laps.
Lead changes: 9 among 6 drivers.
Lap leaders: McLaughlin 1-24, Grosjean 25-27, Kirkwood 28, Ericsson 29-32, Palou 33-44, Kirkwood 45-50, McLaughlin 51, Grosjean 52, Power 53, Kirkwood 54.
Points: Palou 513, Newgarden 429, Dixon 387, McLaughlin 371, Ericsson 357, O'Ward 353, Power 337, Lundgaard 297, Kirkwood 290, Herta 285.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	22	6	.786	—
Connecticut	20	7	.741	1½
Atlanta	15	13	.536	7
Washington	13	14	.481	8½
Chicago	12	15	.444	9½
Indiana	7	21	.250	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	24	3	.889	—
Dallas	15	13	.536	9½
Minnesota	13	15	.464	11½
Los Angeles	10	18	.357	14½
Seattle	7	20	.259	17
Phoenix	7	20	.259	17

x-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's games

Seattle 97, Phoenix 91

Sunday's games

Atlanta 82, Indiana 73
 Los Angeles 91, Washington 83
 Chicago 104, Dallas 96
 New York 99, Las Vegas 61

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

Connecticut at Seattle
 Los Angeles at Indiana
 Las Vegas at Dallas
 Minnesota at Chicago
 Washington at Phoenix

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled.

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL preseason schedule

Thursday, Aug. 3

Cleveland 21, N.Y. Jets 16

Thursday's games

Houston at New England
 Minnesota at Seattle

Friday's games

Atlanta at Miami
 Green Bay at Cincinnati
 N.Y. Giants at Detroit
 Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay
 Washington at Cleveland
 Denver at Arizona

Saturday's games

Indianapolis at Buffalo
 Tennessee at Chicago
 N.Y. Jets at Carolina
 Jacksonville at Dallas
 Philadelphia at Baltimore
 L.A. Chargers at L.A. Rams

Sunday's games

Kansas City at New Orleans
 San Francisco at Las Vegas

AP SPORTLIGHT

Aug. 8

1902 — The United States, led by William Larned, beats Britain three matches to two to capture the Davis Cup.

1903 — Britain wins the Davis Cup by beating the United States 4-1.

1936 — At the Berlin Olympics, the United States finishes 1-2-3 in the men's decathlon. Glenn Morris sets a world record with 7,900 points, followed by Robert Clark and Jack Parker.

2006 — Roger Goodell is chosen as the NFL's next commissioner. Favored for months to get the job, he is unanimously elected by the league's 32 owners on the fifth ballot.

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Recalled RHP Nick Robertson from Worcester (IL). Optioned LHP Joe Jacques to Worcester.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Recalled C Carlos Perez from Charlotte (IL). Placed C Seby Zavala on the 10-day IL, retroactive to August 3. Agreed to terms with RHP Chris Muller on a minor league contract.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Designated RHP Spenser Watkins for assignment. Reinstated RHP Jose Urquidy from the 60-day IL. Optioned LHP Parker Mushinski to Sugar Land (PCL).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed RHP Reynaldo Lopez on the bereavement list.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Recalled LHP Brent Headrick from St. Paul (IL). Optioned LHP Jovani Moran to St. Paul.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned RHP Jhony Brito to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned 2B Vidal Brujan to Durham (IL). Recalled LHP Jalen Beeks from Durham.

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Sent SS Dalton Guthrie outright to Gwinnett (IL).

CHICAGO CUBS — Recalled RHP Caleb Kilian from Iowa (IL). Optioned LHP Anthony Kay to Iowa.

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned RHP Daniel Duarte to Louisville (IL). Recalled RHP Lyon Richardson from Louisville.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled LHP Bryan Hudson from Oklahoma (PCL). Placed RHP Michael Grove on the 15-day IL.

MIAMI MARLINS — Selected the contract of RHP Geoff Hartlieb from Jacksonville (IL). Optioned LHP Ryan Weathers to Jacksonville.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated RHP Brandon Woodruff from the 60-day IL. Optioned LHP Clayton Andrews to Nashville (IL).

NEW YORK METS — Sent RHP Edwin Uceta to St. Lucie (FSL) on a rehab assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Place OF Brandon Marsh on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of INF/OF Weston Wilson from Lehigh Valley (IL). Selected the contract of 3B Weston Wilson from Lehigh Valley.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Claimed RHP

GOLF

Wyndham Championship

PGA Tour
Sunday
At Sedgefield Country Club
Greensboro, N.C.
Purse: \$7.6 million
Yardage: 7,131; Par: 70
Final Round

Lucas Glover, \$1,368,000	66-64-62-68—260 -20
Byeong Hun An, \$676,400	63-67-65-67—262 -18
Russell Henley, \$676,400	62-66-65-69—262 -18
Billy Horschel, \$372,400	67-62-63-72—264 -16
Michael Kim, \$293,550	72-65-62-68—267 -13
Webb Simpson, \$293,550	67-69-68-63—267 -13
Cameron Davis, \$223,060	68-67-67-66—268 -12
J.T. Poston, \$223,060	65-68-67-68—268 -12
Adam Scott, \$223,060	65-71-69-63—268 -12
Adam Svensson, \$223,060	63-67-70-68—268 -12
Brendon Todd, \$223,060	67-63-70-68—268 -12
Charley Hoffman, \$169,100	69-66-67-67—269 -11
Justin Thomas, \$169,100	70-65-66-68—269 -11

LIV Golf Greenbrier

Sunday
At The Old White at Greenbrier
White Sulphur Springs, W.V.
Purse: \$25 million
Yardage: 7,255; Par: 70
Final Round

B. DeChambeau, \$4,000,000	68-61-58—187 -23
Mito Pereira, \$2,250,000	68-62-63—193 -17
Richard Bland, \$1,100,000	66-65-63—194 -16
David Puig, \$1,100,000	63-65-66—194 -16
Matthew Wolff, \$1,100,000	61-67-66—194 -16
Harold Varner III, \$700,000	63-67-66—196 -14
Carlos Ortiz, \$481,000	66-67-64—197 -13
Dean Burmester, \$481,000	64-67-66—197 -13
Branden Grace, \$481,000	66-64-67—197 -13
Brendan Steele, \$481,000	67-63-67—197 -13
Talor Gooch, \$481,000	65-99-68—197 -13
Sergio Garcia, \$321,667	69-66-63—198 -12
Bernad Wiesberger, \$321,667	66-67-65—198 -12
Scott Vincent, \$321,667	69-63-65—198 -12

Women's Scottish Open

LPGA Tour and Ladies European Tour
Sunday
At Dundonald Links
Troon, United Kingdom
Purse: \$2 million
Yardage: 6,494; Par: 72
Final Round

Celine Boutier, \$300,000	69-68-66-70—273 -15
Hyo Joo Kim, \$167,294	71-70-69-65—275 -13
Ruoning Yin, \$111,529	74-69-67-66—276 -12
A Lim Kim, \$75,282	73-69-69-66—277 -11
Maja Stark, \$75,282	69-65-72-71—277 -11
Nicole Broch Estrup, \$52,047	68-72-68-70—278 -10
Caroline Hedwall, \$52,047	68-74-67-69—278 -10
Patty Tavatanakit, \$52,047	72-68-66-72—278 -10
Ally Ewing, \$41,824	70-70-73-66—279 -9
Sarah Kemp, \$41,824	69-68-72-70—279 -9
Andrea Lee, \$41,824	72-69-69-69—279 -9
Madelene Sagstrom, \$41,824	66-73-68-72—279 -9
Stephanie Kyriacou, \$35,318	76-67-71-66—280 -8



GODOFREDO A. VASQUEZ/AP

Pittsburgh acquired defenseman Erik Karlsson from San Jose in a three-team trade that also included Montreal.

Pens get Karlsson in deal with Sharks

By WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — So much for the Pittsburgh Penguins trying to walk the fine line between protecting the future while also making the most out of the present.

Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and company — new president of hockey operations/general manager Kyle Dubas in particular — are all in on trying to catch the powers that be in the Eastern Conference.

Dubas has pushed in his available chips, acquiring star defenseman Erik Karlsson from San Jose in a massive three-way deal with the Sharks and Montreal Canadiens on Sunday.

Pittsburgh sent a 2024 first-round pick, forward Mikael Granlund and defenseman Jan Rutta to San Jose and goaltender Casey DeSmith, defenseman Jeff Petry, a 2025 second-round pick and prospect Nathan Legare to Montreal as part of the deal for the three-time Norris Trophy winner.

Karlsson is the first defenseman to be traded fresh off winning the Norris as the NHL's top defenseman since Doug Harvey in 1961. The 33-year-old Swede became the first player at the position to record 100 points in a season since Brian Leetch in 1991-92.

The complicated trade included the Canadiens to make sure the deal was salary cap compliant. Karlsson has four years left on his contract at a cap hit of \$11.5 million — \$1.5 million of which San Jose will retain through the end of the deal in 2027. The Penguins, meanwhile, will hold on to \$1.56 million of Petry's salary.

"It's been kind of a long grind throughout not only the regular season but the summer to get this done," Sharks general manager Mike Grier said on a video call with reporters. "We've been going at it for a while trying to get this

done with a few teams. Kyle's been pretty upfront and aggressive for the last couple months, but it's been a little bit of a grind."

As part of the trade, the Penguins also received forward Rem Pitlick, prospect Dillon Hamaliuk and San Jose's 2026 third-round pick. The Sharks also got Mike Hoffman from the Canadiens.

Karlsson, who also won the Norris in 2012 and 2015, is going to his third NHL organization. He played his first nine seasons with the Ottawa Senators before he was traded to San Jose in 2018.

In 987 regular-season and playoff games, Karlsson has 814 points — the most of any defenseman since he broke into the league in 2009. He has not appeared in the playoffs since 2019 and will now be an important part of trying to get Crosby, Malkin, defenseman Kris Letang and the Penguins back into the mix in the East after their 16-year playoff streak ended last season, prompting major front office changes.

The team fired President of Hockey Operations Brian Burke and general manager Ron Hextall in the aftermath and owner Fenway Sports Group turned the keys over to Dubas.

He was given the mandate to maximize whatever championship window remains while Crosby, Malkin and Letang are still on the roster. The trio won the Stanley Cup together in 2009, 2016 and 2017 but the going has been far tougher in recent years.

The team's cornerstones are all on the far end of their 30s. Malkin is 37, Letang is 36 and Crosby turned 36 on Monday. They'll be joined by the 33-year-old Karlsson, a dynamic scorer who can sometimes be a liability at the other end of the ice.

AP hockey writer Stephen Whyno and AP sports writer Josh Dubow contributed to this report.

MLB

ROUNDUP

Cubs win 6th series in a row

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Cody Bellinger had his third straight multi-hit game, scored twice and drove in a run as the Chicago Cubs beat the MLB-leading Atlanta Braves 6-4 on Sunday for their sixth straight series win.

Dansby Swanson added a double and two RBIs against his former team, and Ian Happ drove in a pair of runs, helping the Cubs win for the 15th time in 19 games. Chicago closed to within 1½ games of first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central.

In 23 games since the All-Star break, the surging Cubs have scored 164 runs, the most in the majors.

“The offense again, man, just relentless at-bats,” Cubs manager David Ross said. “The walks fuel us a little bit, and getting guys on and creating traffic. Stealing a base here or there and putting the pressure on the defense and some timely hitting.”

All-Star Justin Steele scuffled at times through 5½ innings, and won his fourth straight start on a misty day at Wrigley Field. Mike Tauchman had two hits, scored two runs and threw out Ronald Acuña Jr. at the plate from right field in the fifth to limit an Atlanta rally.

“The National League is kind of running through the Braves right now,” Tauchman said. “It’s evidence that if we execute the way that we can ... we can compete with anybody.”

Atlanta’s Matt Olson hit his NL-leading 39th home run, a monster 453-foot blast to the top of Wrigley’s right-center bleachers, and finished with three RBIs. Ozzie Albies had three hits, including a double. Olson and Acuña each had two hits.

Bellinger is 13-for-31 (.419) during an eight-game hitting streak and has raised his season batting average to .326 from .271 on June 15 when he returned from a bone bruise on his knee.

Astros 9, Yankees 7: Jake Meyers hit two long three-run homers and visiting Houston won after struggling New York starter Carlos Rodón exited early with another injury.

Yordan Alvarez and Martín Maldonado also went deep to help Houston split the four-game series, the first meeting between the teams since the Astros swept the ALCS last October.

Gleyber Torres homered and reached base five times. Harrison Bader also had three hits and two RBIs for the fourth-place Yankees, who fell 4½ games behind Toronto for the final AL wild card.

White Sox 5, Guardians 3: Elvis Andrus hit a two-run single after visiting Chicago tied it in the ninth inning on consecutive throwing errors by Cleveland rookie Bryan Rocchio, one day after a nasty benches-clearing brawl between the AL Central rivals.

There was no carryover from Saturday night’s melee, triggered by a fight at second base between Chicago’s Tim Anderson and Cleveland’s José Ramírez. There were six total ejections. Major League Baseball is still re-



NAM Y. HUH/AP

The Cubs’ Cody Bellinger hits a one-run double against the Braves during the fifth inning in Chicago on Sunday. Bellinger has an eight-game hitting streak and raised his average to .326.

viewing the Anderson-Ramírez altercation, along with subsequent flareups, before handing out discipline.

Nationals 6, Reds 3: CJ Abrams and Lane Thomas hit Lyon Richardson’s first two major league pitches for home runs and last-place Washington finished a three-game sweep of host Cincinnati.

Over the last 50 seasons, the 23-year-old Richardson (0-1) is the only pitcher to allow a home run on the first two pitches of his major league career, according to Optastats.

Phillies 8, Royals 4: Bryson Stott, Kyle Schwarber and Nick Castellanos homered as host Philadelphia beat Kansas City for its fifth win in seven games.

Taijuan Walker (13-4) recovered from a shaky first inning to become the first NL pitcher to reach 13 victories. Bryce Harper had two hits and drove in a run for the Phillies.

Orioles 2, Mets 0: Kyle Bradish and four relievers combined on a four-hitter as host Baltimore completed a three-game sweep of New York.

Adley Rutschman and Ryan O’Hearn each drove in a run for American League-leading Baltimore, which won for the eighth time in 10 games. Cionel Pérez (4-1) relieved an erratic Bradish and earned the win. Félix Bautista earned his 30th save in 35 chances.

Blue Jays 13, Red Sox 1: Davis Schneider went 4-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs, and visiting Toronto completed a weekend sweep of Boston.

Toronto moved five games ahead of the last-place Red Sox in the AL East for the third and final American League wild-card spot.

Rays 10, Tigers 6: Yandy Díaz homered and scored three runs as visiting Tampa Bay scored five runs in the first two innings and took two of three from Detroit.

Díaz and Wander Franco each had three hits and drove in two runs and Brandon Lowe homered.

Twins 5, Diamondbacks 3: Matt Wallner hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give host Minnesota a rain-delayed victory and a three-game sweep of Arizona.

Christian Walker put the Diamondbacks ahead 3-2 with a solo home run off Caleb Thielbar (2-1) in the top of the ninth.

Max Kepler led off the bottom half by hitting his third homer in three games. Jorge Polanco walked and Wallner connected off new Arizona closer Paul Sewald (3-2), acquired from Seattle in a trade Monday.

Pirates 4, Brewers 1: Endy Rodriguez and

Connor Joe homered to spoil the return of starter Brandon Woodruff after four months, leading visiting Pittsburgh past NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Woodruff (1-1) was activated off the 60-day injured list (right shoulder inflammation) on Sunday and was making his first start for the Brewers since April 7. He retired the first six hitters, striking out the first five, before Rodriguez opened the third inning with his second homer. Joe opened the fourth with his eighth homer of the season to make it 2-0.

Rangers 6, Marlins 0: Texas slugged four homers and swept a six-game homestand with a win over Miami in a game in which it lost standout rookie third baseman Josh Jung with a fractured thumb.

Nathaniel Lowe, Marcus Semien, Ezequiel Duran and Adolis Garcia homered, and while Andrew Heaney allowed four singles in 5½ shutout innings.

Mariners 3, Angels 2 (10): Eugenio Suárez delivered an RBI single in the 10th inning, and visiting Seattle completed a four-game sweep of Los Angeles.

J.P. Crawford homered on the first pitch of the game and Teoscar Hernández hit a tie-breaking homer in the seventh for the Mariners (60-52), who have won five straight and 13 of 17 to move 4½ games ahead of their AL West rival Angels (56-57) in the wild-card standings.

Athletics 8, Giants 6: Nick Allen homered twice and had three RBIs, Shea Langeliers put their ahead with a two-run single in the sixth inning and host Oakland rallied to beat San Francisco.

Limited to eight runs in their previous eight games, the last-place A’s outlasted Giants All-Star Alex Cobb and then broke through with three runs in the sixth.

Dodgers 8, Padres 2: Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer and Amed Rosario and Mookie Betts also connected for NL West-leading Los Angeles to spoil Rich Hill’s debut with host San Diego.

Lance Lynn (8-9) had an impressive second start for the Dodgers as they defeated the Padres for the seventh time in nine games this season. He held the Padres to one run and four hits while striking out six and walking two in six innings.

Rockies 1, Cardinals 0: Austin Gomber pitched out of trouble for six innings against his former team and Ezequiel Tovar had a sacrifice fly to lift visiting Colorado over St. Louis.

In a matchup of last-place clubs, the Rockies took two of three games.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	70	42	.625	—
Tampa Bay	68	46	.596	3
Toronto	63	50	.558	7½
New York	58	54	.518	12
Boston	57	54	.514	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	59	54	.522	—
Cleveland	54	58	.482	4½
Detroit	49	62	.441	9
Chicago	45	68	.398	14
Kansas City	36	77	.319	23

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	66	46	.589	—
Houston	64	49	.566	2½
Seattle	60	52	.536	6
Los Angeles	56	57	.496	10½
Oakland	32	80	.286	34

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	70	39	.642	—
Philadelphia	61	51	.545	10½
Miami	58	55	.513	14
New York	50	61	.450	21
Washington	49	63	.438	22½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	60	53	.531	—
Cincinnati	59	55	.518	1½
Chicago	58	54	.518	1½
Pittsburgh	50	61	.450	9
St. Louis	49	64	.434	11

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	64	46	.582	—
San Francisco	61	51	.545	4
Arizona	57	56	.504	8½
San Diego	55	57	.491	10
Colorado	44	67	.396	20½

Sunday’s games

Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 3
Philadelphia 8, Kansas City 4
Baltimore 2, N.Y. Mets 0
Toronto 13, Boston 1
Tampa Bay 10, Detroit 6
Minnesota 5, Arizona 3
Texas 6, Miami 0
Houston 9, N.Y. Yankees 7
Seattle 3, L.A. Angels 2, 10 innings
Oakland 8, San Francisco 6
Pittsburgh 4, Milwaukee 1
Washington 6, Cincinnati 3
Colorado 1, St. Louis 0
Chicago Cubs 6, Atlanta 4
L.A. Dodgers 8, San Diego 2

Monday’s games

Minnesota at Detroit
Kansas City at Boston
Toronto at Cleveland
N.Y. Yankees at Chicago White Sox
San Francisco at L.A. Angels
Texas at Oakland
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego
Miami at Cincinnati
Washington at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Pittsburgh
Chicago Cubs at N.Y. Mets
Colorado at Milwaukee

Tuesday’s games

Minnesota (Gray 5-4) at Detroit (Rodriguez 7-5)
St. Louis (Mikolas 6-7) at Tampa Bay (Eflin 12-6)
Houston (Valdez 9-7) at Baltimore (Rodriguez 2-3)
Kansas City (Singer 7-8) at Boston (Crawford 5-5)
Toronto (Kikuchi 9-3) at Cleveland (Bibee 7-2)
N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 7-6) at Chicago White Sox (Toussaint 1-4)
San Francisco (TBD) at L.A. Angels (Giolito 6-8)
San Diego (TBD) at Seattle (Gilbert 9-5)
Texas (Scherzer 10-4) at Oakland (Sears 2-8)
Miami (Garrett 5-3) at Cincinnati (Weaver 2-4)
Washington (Gray 7-9) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 8-5)
Atlanta (Chirinos 5-4) at Pittsburgh (Keller 9-8)
Chicago Cubs (Taillon 6-6) at N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 3-6)
Colorado (Freeland 4-12) at Milwaukee (Miley 6-2)
L.A. Dodgers (Urias 8-6) at Arizona (Pfaadt 0-5)

Calendar

Aug. 31 — Last day to be in organization to be postseason eligible.
Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 28 players.
Oct. 1 — Regular season ends.

MLS/AUTO RACING/GOLF

Messi shines again with free kick, 2 goals

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Each time Lionel Messi lined up for a free kick in his first road game for Inter Miami, thousands of fans packed into a stadium in the searing Texas heat stood and held up their cell phones, ready to record.

They all got video of a repeat of history.

Messi scored on another mesmerizing free kick in his third consecutive two-goal game for Inter Miami, a tying tally that led to a victory over FC Dallas on penalty kicks in a Leagues Cup elimination game Sunday night.

Messi's goal in the 85th minute for a 4-4 tie was reminiscent of the game-winner in his Inter Miami debut, both on free kicks from just outside the penalty box in the waning moments, both sneaking past the goalkeeper into the upper corner of the net.

This time, the left-footed superstar was to the right of the net, and beat FC Dallas' Maarten Paes to the near post the same way he did from the left side in a 2-1 win over



LM OTERO/AP

Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, right, takes a free kick against FC Dallas during the second half of a Leagues Cup match on Sunday.

Mexican club Cruz Azul in his Inter Miami debut.

"I think it's not much to say. I think everyone can see," FC Dal-

las coach Nico Estévez said. "It's obvious that for him a free kick around there is like a PK for another player. You have to pray that

the ball goes out of bounds or he fell in the run to kick the ball."

The victory in the round of 16 sent Inter Miami into the Leagues Cup quarterfinals against the winner Monday night between Charlotte FC and Houston.

The second of Messi's three consecutive two-goal games came in the first Leagues Cup elimination game, a 3-1 Miami victory over Orlando City that was delayed by an hour and a half because of a torrential rainstorm in Florida.

The fifth match in Texas in Messi's illustrious career had a kickoff temperature of 100 degrees on the 14th consecutive day of triple-digit heat in the Dallas area.

Because of the high temperatures, teams took a heat break near the halfway point of each half.

Messi's first goal outside of Florida for his new U.S. club was another left-footed strike outside the penalty area in the sixth minute, on a pass from former FC Barcelona teammate Jordi Alba. It was initially disallowed on an off-

sides call that was overturned on review.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner and World Cup champion for Argentina has scored in all four matches for Inter Miami, with seven goals total. His new U.S. club is 4-0 — all in the Leagues Cup — after going winless in nine consecutive MLS matches before the 36-year-old arrived.

"We are very glad to be moving on and these types of games help us to continue to develop as a team and fix our mistakes," Miami coach Gerardo Martino said through an interpreter. "We still have a long way to go to be at the level we want but in the end, I am glad that we obtained the victory."

Messi had the first penalty kick with a slow-moving approach to his shot into the right corner. The difference was Paxton Pomykal missing over the crossbar on the second FC Dallas attempt.

Benjamin Cremaschi, who scored in the 65th minute, had the clincher as Miami finished with a 5-3 edge in the shootout.

DeChambeau shoots 58, gets first LIV win

Associated Press

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Bryson DeChambeau sensed his game was close to delivering something special. Sunday in the LIV Golf-Greenbrier was more than he imagined.

DeChambeau became the fourth player on a top-level tour to shoot 58, making birdie on his last four holes to finally capture his first LIV title at the rain-softened Greenbrier.

DeChambeau holed a 35-foot putt on the par-3 18th and leapt in the air with both arms extended to celebrate his lowest score ever and first LIV victory.

"Probably the greatest moment in my golf career," said DeChambeau, a former U.S. Open champion who won for the first time since March 2021.

Jim Furyk had a 58 in the Travelers Championship on the PGA Tour in 2016, while Ryo Ishikawa at The Crowns in 2010 and S.H. Kim at the 2021 Golf Partner Pro-Am each shot 58 on the Japan Golf Tour.

What made DeChambeau's round stand out was he shot 58 with a bogey.

"Oh my God. Do you believe that?" DeChambeau said after his big putt as a steady rain fell on the Old White course at Greenbrier Resort.

DeChambeau finished at 23-under 187 for a six-shot victory over Mito Pereira, earning the \$4 million payoff.

The Greenbrier previously hosted a PGA Tour event for nine years. In the inaugural Greenbrier Classic in 2010, Stuart Appleby shot 59 in the fourth and final round to win.

DeChambeau opened with six birdies in seven holes, and then saved his best for the



SCOTT TAETSCH/LIV Golf via AP

Bryson DeChambeau reacts on the 18th hole after winning the LIV Golf Greenbrier on Sunday with a final-round 58.

end when he ran off four straight birdies, two of them on par 3s. The former U.S. Open champion has said he was getting close with his equipment and his swing, and it paid off in a big way.

"It's beyond words," DeChambeau said. "I've been working so hard for a long time, and I knew something special was going to come at some point, I just didn't know when. ... Then today I just kind of felt everything clicking."

The record is David Carey's 57, shot in the 2019 Cervino Open on the Alps Tour.

DeChambeau took only 119 shots at the 54-hole LIV Golf event. He shot a 61 on Saturday to get within one shot of Matthew Wolff, and then blew everyone away.

DeChambeau had a chance at a sub-60 round on the PGA Tour two years ago in the BMW Championship until missing birdie putts from 15 feet and 6 feet on the last two holes for a 60.

Kirkwood holds on in SO at Music City for 2nd win

BY TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Kyle Kirkwood says he felt calm on the final restart, probably more than someone in his second IndyCar Series season should.

That's just how confident he was in how fast Andretti Autosports had his Honda running.

Kirkwood easily held off Scott McLaughlin over a final shootout after a late red flag and won the Music City Grand Prix on Sunday for his second career victory.

"It was a phenomenal afternoon," Kirkwood said. "I mean, we absolutely nailed everything, it felt like, to be honest. We had a great strategy. Car was extremely fast. Through the entire race, I feel like we were probably one of the fastest cars."

The 24-year-old from Jupiter, Fla., started eighth and led a race-high 34 laps. He took the lead for good on lap 54 and appeared poised to race to the finish when a caution with 10 laps remaining ensured he had enough fuel left to give Andretti Autosports its 72nd all-time IndyCar victory.

Then four cars crashed, three into each other off the restart forcing a red flag stoppage.

On the restart at the end of lap 77 of the 80-lap race, Kirkwood managed to drive through the rubber debris on the 2.1-mile, 11-turn course around the streets of Nashville adding his second career victory to his first at Long Beach in April.

McLaughlin finished second in a similar final shootout here a year ago. He won his second straight pole on this course in his Chevrolet for Team Penske, led the first 24 laps and 25 overall. But he couldn't chase



Kirkwood

down Kirkwood.

"I was trying to do my best to hunt him down at the end," McLaughlin said. "I just had a poor restart. I had no temp in my rear tires for some reason. So annoying. I don't know what happened. Like I

didn't change my procedure. I'm normally pretty good on restarts, but I was terrible."

Alex Palou, the series points leader, finished third and padded his season lead to 84 points with four races remaining. Josef Newgarden remains second, posting his best finish yet in his hometown race at fourth. Scott Dixon, who won here a year ago, was fifth.

For a race called "Crashville" with 17 combined cautions the past two years, the first yellow came out on lap 13 when a piece of a rear wing came off David Malukas' Honda a couple of laps after a pit stop, ending his race after 11 laps.

This was a fast race, finishing in just under 2 hours with only four cautions and eight laps under yellow. That also left the streets filled with rubber chunks as six drivers swapped the lead nine times. The top six finishers made only two pit stops.

Palou and Chip Ganassi Racing came in prepared for a race with lots of cautions, which is why he was trying to stretch fuel. Palou said he felt "super lucky" when the late caution came out in what had been a stressful race until then.

"I think I lost like five years of my life just trying to save fuel, a lot of fuel and praying for a yellow," Palou said. "It finally came, which was good to me."

NFL

Pollard moves into lead back's role for Cowboys

Fourth-round pick takes over following release of Elliott

OXNARD, Calif. Tony Pollard got a “good luck” text from Ezekiel Elliott minutes before the start of his first training camp since the Dallas Cowboys dumped the two-time rushing champion in a cost-cutting move.

Pollard is the lead running back now, and trying to be true to his quieter personality as he takes the leadership role from the more boisterous Elliott.

Now nearly two weeks into camp, and a little more than a month from the opener, Elliott remains unsigned as Cowboys owner/general manager Jerry Jones refuses to shut down the idea of his return.

As unlikely as that move would be by Dallas, Pollard knows better than to think he wouldn't have to adjust again to the dynamic in the running back room.

“At the end of the day, we know this game is a business,” Pollard said. “It's a business first before anything else. And that's just how we have to approach it.”

Pollard's position has been in the news most of the summer precisely because of business.

Elliott's departure elevated Pollard's stature as one of the running backs to get the \$10.1 million franchise tag, alongside Saquon Barkley of the New York Giants and

Las Vegas back Josh Jacobs.

Pollard was the only one to sign the franchise tender. Barkley eventually worked out a different one-year contract, but Jacobs hasn't relented.

The difference is that Pollard was a fourth-round pick with a much less lucrative rookie contract. The former Memphis player will make more than three times the value of his rookie deal this year alone.

“Used to being the underdog, used to being undervalued and overlooked.”

Tony Pollard
Cowboys running back

But that isn't the whole story with Pollard.

“That's just a part of my mindset, the way I've attacked things throughout my life, throughout my career,” Pollard said. “Used to being the underdog, used to being undervalued and overlooked. It's easy for me to just put the blinders on and go to work.”

Pollard has been close to a full

participant in camp in California despite breaking his lower left leg and ankle in the Cowboys' 19-12 divisional-round loss at San Francisco in January.

His progress wasn't a surprise to Mike McCarthy because of what the coach saw when his new lead back was rehabilitating the injury in the offseason.

At the same time, the running back group was undergoing a major transition without Elliott, who was popular with teammates because of how he played through injuries even as his production waned in the years after signing a \$90 million extension.

Elliott was easy to see — and hear — in the locker room when it was open to reporters. Pollard was almost never around. Things are changing.

“His leadership responsibility has increased and the most important part of it he's doing it within his personality,” McCarthy said. “I think he's done a great job of being the leader, the veteran in the room.”

The Cowboys added free agent Ronald Jones, who has been in the NFL a year longer than Pollard but is four months younger.

Otherwise, they added two rookies in sixth-round draft pick Deuce Vaughn and undrafted free agent Hunter Luepke to go with second-year player Malik Davis



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Cowboys running back Tony Pollard had career highs in rushing yards and touchdowns (1,007 and nine) and receiving yards and scores (371 and three) last season. He takes over as Dallas' top back.

and Rico Dowdle, in his fourth year.

The common denominator since 2019 is Pollard, who had career highs in rushing yards and touchdowns (1,007 and nine) and receiving yards and scores (371 and three) last season while becoming a much more potent threat

than the declining Elliott.

“For me, it's simple,” the 2022 Pro Bowler said. “Just being myself, going out there, attacking the day the way I've been attacking it since I got here. Just leading those guys by example, just through the success that I've had, through the way things played out for me.”

Forward: Watson still hasn't publicly expressed remorse

FROM PAGE 24

tions that the league's disciplinary officer called “predatory.”

“I've done this work a really long time and I'm not all about immediate retribution and crash and burn people, but I am about holding them accountable and giving them an opportunity to change the way they interact with people, to change the way they treat people,” Rita Smith, a senior adviser to the NFL hired in 2014 to help shape the league's policy on domestic abuse and sexual assault, told the AP on Friday.

“I am in that camp with Deshaun Watson. I want him to be better. But the amount of harm that he caused other people is something he needs to step up to, acknowledge, and then to say this is not behavior that I will engage in ever again. ... I don't want him to be ostracized. But I do think that he needs to come fully to the place where he can say something I did



SUE OGRICK/AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson signs autographs after practice Aug. 1 at training camp in Berea, Ohio.

was inappropriate.”

Watson says he didn't take the league-mandated therapy ses-

sions lightly.

“I really cherish those moments and I want to learn,” he said.

Perhaps Watson has expressed remorse privately during counseling. But he hasn't stated it publicly.

Before Thursday night's game — a 21-16 victory for Cleveland in the NFL preseason opener — Jets fans shouted derogatory comments at Browns fans wearing Watson's No. 4 jersey. Two men stood outside one entrance to Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium selling brown-and-orange T-shirts with vulgar references to Watson, women and massage therapists.

“The public will know he's taking responsibility if he says that out loud to the rest of us,” Smith said. “My preference would be: ‘I engaged in behaviors that hurt people and I will not do that again.’ If he would just say that, I think a whole lot of us could move on and not be concerned about future interactions that he may have.”

There's no doubt Watson has

made a positive impression on teammates and an organization that mortgaged its future to get him.

“I was very impressed on how he handled everything,” Titans offensive lineman Chris Hubbard, who played in Cleveland last season, said on the AP Pro Football Podcast. “He approached it as a person that didn't seem like what the media portrayed. He didn't show it at all. He's very humble, very nice.”

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski raves about the way Watson works hard on the field and the football classroom.

“I think that's what his teammates love about him, is that they know how committed he is to the team,” Stefanski said.

Watson is trying to make the most of his second chance. The NFL has seemingly embraced him after fighting for a severe punishment last year.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP



MARK BAKER/AP

Australia's Caitlin Foord, left, scores the opening goal during the Women's World Cup round of 16 match against Denmark on Monday.

Australia advances and gets Kerr back

BY JAMES ROBSON
Associated Press

SYDNEY — Australia was already on course for the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup when Sam Kerr entered the field to wild celebrations on Monday.

With the star striker back from injury, the Matildas are confident contenders to win the tournament on home soil after beating Denmark 2-0 in the round of 16 at a raucous Stadium Australia.

"It's a massive boost to have her back," goal-scorer Caitlin Foord said. "For teams looking ahead it's pretty scary to know she's back in our team and she's going to be a part of it with us."

A crowd of 75,784 cheered as if Australia scored when Kerr was shown on the big screen preparing to come on. She had been sidelined since injuring her left calf on the eve of the tournament.

Despite that setback, Australia found a way to get by without her. But her return means the co-host can call on one of the best strikers in the world in a tournament that has seen the United States, Germany and Brazil eliminated before the quarterfinals.

Goals from Foord and Hayley Raso underlined the depth of the Matildas even without Kerr.

"The one thing I think has happened with this team is they were very tight and together when this tournament started," Australia coach Tony Gustavsson said. "But the tournament, the experience, the challenges and the adversity they have come through have made them even tighter."

Australia seems to be getting stronger after looking in danger of exiting in the first round. Gustavsson's position was under scrutiny after losing to Nigeria.

The mood has become very different with belief spreading through the team and the fans, who created a daunting atmosphere for

Denmark.

"It really felt like an away game," Denmark coach Lars Sondergaard said.

Australia will face France or Morocco in Brisbane on Saturday when Kerr should be in contention to start for the first time at a World Cup she was expected to star in.

"We don't need to look at her taking over and having everything on her shoulders," Gustavsson said. "It's a team effort and a team tournament."

Still, Gustavsson considers Kerr's return the icing on the cake for his team.

This is only the second time Australia has advanced to a World Cup quarterfinal, having previously done so in 2015.

Foord fired the Matildas in front in the 29th after running on to a pass from the impressive Mary Fowler. Then Raso drilled home a second in the 70th after Emily van Egmond's layoff in the box.

"The match was decided by Australia's effectiveness in front of goal and our not-so-efficient play in front of goal," Sondergaard said. "We started the game best. Up until 1-0 we were the best team."

Excitement ahead of the game could be felt around Sydney. Even the Opera House was lit up in the yellow and green of the Matildas.

Back in Stadium Australia where the team began its campaign, the Matildas were still too strong for Denmark without Kerr, who was on the bench.

Foord's opener came after Fowler's incisive pass from her own half. Foord raced forward and, cutting in from the left, slipped her shot between the legs of Denmark goalkeeper Lene Christensen to spark wild fan celebrations.

With the score still at 1-0, Gustavsson told Kerr to ready herself, but before she could make her long-awaited entrance, Raso struck.

England edges Nigeria despite James' red card

BY JOHN PYE
Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — Down a player after star forward Lauren James was ejected, England was facing the prospect of an upset against Nigeria and a round of 16 exit at the Women's World Cup.

The European champion Lionesses remained calm enough to get through regulation and extra time at 0-0 and won a penalty shootout 4-2 to scrape into the quarterfinals on Monday.

England became the title favorite after the two-time reigning champion U.S. was eliminated on Sunday in a penalty shootout loss to Sweden. No. 2-ranked Germany, Olympic champion Canada and Brazil didn't even reach the knockout stage.

But the Lionesses struggled to create opportunities against Nigeria and, with five minutes remaining in regulation, an upset loomed when James received a red card after a VAR review.

She initially was given a yellow card by referee Melissa Borjas after falling on top of Michelle Alozie and then stepping on the Nigeria defender. The crowd groaned as slow-motion replays on the stadium screens showed the incident and, after a delay of several minutes, the yellow card was upgraded to red.

British media instantly reacted by comparing it with David Beckham's red card for kicking out at Argentina's Diego Simeone at the 1998 World Cup in France. The red card means James will miss at least the quarterfinal and a potential semifinal.

But after a run of injuries to senior players and the loss of James, England coach Sarina Wiegman praised her team for adapting to every challenge.

"I've never experienced so many problems," Wiegman said. "It's my job to think of things that can happen in a game or a tournament. You try to turn every stone and try to already think of a solution if things happen. Today, we got totally tested on those turned stones."

Wiegman said her 21-year-old star "in a split second lost her emotions."

"Of course she doesn't want to hurt anyone," the coach added. "She's the sweetest person I know."

The Lionesses immediately had to change formation in the 10-on-11 scenario, bringing on Chloe Kelly to play a solo role up front. She kicked the final penalty to clinch the shootout win.

Alozie was clear eight minutes into stoppage time but skewed her



TERTIUS PICKARD/AP

England's Chloe Kelly, right, celebrates along with teammates after scoring the clinching goal during a penalty shootout against Nigeria at the Women's World Cup round of 16 match on Monday.

Scoreboard

Round of 16

Saturday, Aug. 5

Spain 5, Switzerland 1
Japan 3, Norway 1
Netherlands 2, South Africa 0

Sunday, Aug. 6

Sweden 0, United States 0, Sweden advances 5-4 on penalty kicks

Monday, Aug. 7

England 0, Nigeria 0, England advances 4-2 on penalty kicks
Australia 2, Denmark 0

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Colombia vs. Jamaica, **AFN-Sports, 10 a.m. Tuesday CET; 5 p.m. Tuesday JKT**
France vs. Morocco, **AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. Tuesday CET; 8 p.m. Tuesday JKT**

Quarterfinals

Friday, Aug. 11

Spain vs. Netherlands

Japan vs. Sweden

Saturday, Aug. 12

Australia vs. France-Morocco winner

England vs. Colombia-Jamaica winner

left-foot shot from 7 yards wide of the post.

Veteran forward Asisat Oshoala forced a save from England goalkeeper Mary Earps deep in extra time.

"It's amazing. Anything that's thrown at us. We've shown what we're capable of," Kelly said. "We dig deep as a group and we believe in our ability. This team is special ... there's more to come."

Nigeria coach Randy Waldrum

praised his team for going wire-to-wire with one of the best teams in the world.

"I'm so proud of them, to come in and play like we did tonight," Waldrum said. "The players right now obviously are in tears. They believed we could win and they expected to continue playing on."

"We gave everything. I certainly hope that people back in Nigeria appreciate the job that they've done while they're here and I would hope that they're happy, not upset that we lost."

Uchenna Kanu threatened with two headers in the second half, one just after the break that went just over the crossbar and another in the 72nd when she leaped to meet a corner kick but nudged it back past the near post.

Rachel Daly's powerful header as she ran into the box to meet a corner in the 75th was blocked by Chiamaka Nnadozie, who made two tremendous saves in the first half.

Nigeria had eight shots in the first half and created the better chances, including Ashleigh Plumptre's running left-foot strike into the crossbar in the 17th minute and her right-foot shot moments later that forced a diving save from Earps.

SPORTS



Another two-goal game
Messi helps Inter Miami eliminate FC Dallas in Leagues Cup » **MLS, Page 21**

NFL

Moving forward

Watson goes into first full season since suspension

BY ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

Deshaun Watson received a warm greeting from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, embraced Aaron Rodgers and was all smiles at the Hall of Fame game.

One year after Goodell and the NFL vigorously tried to suspend the three-time Pro Bowl quarterback a minimum of one season for alleged sexual misconduct before settling on 11 games, Watson is moving forward. He says he's a changed person. Coaches and teammates have praised his leadership, work ethic and attitude. Media see a noticeable difference in his demeanor.

All that's been missing is obvious contrition.

Watson didn't show any when he spoke candidly at the start of training camp about off-field issues that caused him to sit out the 2021 season and 11 games last year after he was traded to Cleveland. He also was fined \$5 million and had to enter a counseling program because he was accused of sexual assault and harassment during massage sessions by two dozen women.

Watson shared how he spoke to the team about his tough upbringing living in public housing, watching his mom battle cancer and not having a father figure. But then he blamed the media for "directing and narrating something else" and didn't take ownership of ac-

SEE FORWARD ON PAGE 22

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson completed 99 of 170 pass attempts for 1,102 yards and seven touchdowns last season after sitting out the first 11 games while serving a suspension.

RON SCHWANE/AP



Penguins get Karlsson in trade with Sharks » NHL, Page 19

