

MILITARY

Weak spots in metal part may have led to fatal Osprey crash

Page 4



NATION

Tropical Storm Debby dumping rain on Carolinas

Page 10



OLYMPICS

American Hocker pulls shocker in men's 1,500

Page 24

Air Force commander fired over B-1 bomber crash in S. Dakota » Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES

stripes.com

Volume 83 Edition 81 ©SS 2024 THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024

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

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Ship-based US Navy jets sent to base in Middle East

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About a dozen F/A-18 fighter jets from the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier have flown to a military base in the Middle East, as part of the Pentagon's effort to help defend Israel from possible attacks by Iran and its proxies and to safeguard U.S. troops, according to a U.S. official.

The F/A-18s and an E-2D Hawkeye surveillance aircraft took off from the carrier in the Gulf of Oman and arrived at the undisclosed base on Monday, said the official.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the increased military presence in the region as officials worry about escalating violence in the Middle East in the wake of the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran, in suspected Israeli strikes. Both groups are backed by Iran.

The Navy jets' land-based deployment is expected to be temporary, because a squadron of Air Force F-22 fighter jets is en route to the same base from their home station in Alaska. The roughly dozen F-22s are expected to arrive in the Middle East in the coming days, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss troop movements.

It's not clear how long all of the aircraft will remain together at the base, and that may depend on what — if anything — happens in the next few days.

As these forces were shifting, U.S. national security leaders said that they and allies are directly pressing Israel, Iran and others to

SEE JETS ON PAGE 5



COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Army Sgt. Nicholas Murphy of the 3rd Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade tinkers with a hexacopter drone that he built on July 26 before a test flight at a Hinesville, Ga., airfield just outside Fort Stewart.

'The sky's the limit'

Fort Stewart soldiers prep for modern battlefield by building small drones from scratch

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

HINESVILLE, Ga. — The small, hand-held hexacopter drone is far different from the RQ-7B Shadow drones that Sgt. Nicholas Murphy has flown for the Army for nearly a decade.

The biggest difference: Murphy built this one with his own hands.

The sergeant, who flies drones with the 3rd Infantry Division's

3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, watched through dark sunglasses as he piloted his self-built drone along a tree line edging a private airfield in Hinesville, Ga., just outside of Fort Stewart's gates. It marked his second day of test-flying the small drone that he built in a first-of-its kind small unmanned aerial system building class hosted by Fort Stewart's Marne Innovation Center.

"It's super rewarding knowing that I built this," Murphy said July 26 about flying the hexacopter that he had spent the week putting together. "I had never built [a drone]. I've flown my fair share of them, but I've never actually ... constructed it. So, this one's mine. I built it. I take a lot of pride in that."

Murphy was one of eight 3rd ID soldiers who participated in the

class late last month, which was launched to give soldiers an opportunity to better understand the kind of technology that has been proving increasingly critical for use on modern battlefields. Small drones have become ubiquitous on front lines from eastern Ukraine to Gaza to Syria, where troops — Americans, their allies

SEE DRONES ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Software upgrades for Hyundai, Kia cut theft rates

Associated Press

Anti-theft software upgrades provided for Hyundai and Kia vehicles regularly targeted by thieves has cut theft rates by more than half, according to new research from the Highway Loss Data Institute.

Theft rates of the affected automobiles soared after thieves discovered that certain car models lacked engine immobilizers, an anti-theft technology that has long been standard in other vehicles. Thieves used a technique popular-

ized on TikTok and other social media platforms to take the vehicles. The software upgrade started in February 2023 after numerous theft claims that began during the Covid-19 pandemic.

For vehicles that have the new software installed, the automobile will only start if the owner's key or an identical duplicate is in the ignition. Vehicles with the software also receive a window sticker aimed at deterring potential thieves.

Approximately two dozen 2011-

22 Hyundai and Kia models are eligible for the software upgrade. Those vehicles that received it as of December 2023 — a total of 30% of the eligible Hyundais and 28% of the eligible Kias in HLDI's database — had theft claim frequencies that were 53% lower than vehicles that didn't get the upgrade, according to HLDI.

Those claims aren't all for thefts of the entire vehicle. They also include claims for damage to vehicles that were stolen and recovered.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 8)	\$1.07
British pound (Aug. 8)	\$1.24
Japanese yen (Aug. 8)	141.00
South Korean won (Aug. 8)	1341.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Britain (Pound)	1.2717
Canada (Dollar)	1.3741
China (Yuan)	7.1813
Denmark (Krone)	6.8341
Egypt (Pound)	49.2017
Euro	0.9158
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7981
Hungary (Forint)	364.90
Israel (Shekel)	3.7953
Japan (Yen)	147.23
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3059
Norway (Krone)	10.7953
Philippines (Peso)	57.64
Poland (Zloty)	3.95
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7538
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3271
South Korea (Won)	1375.52

Switzerland (Franc)	0.8642
Thailand (Baht)	35.59
Turkey (NewLira)	33.4812

(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	5.23
30-year bond	4.19

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 11
- Classified 13
- Comics 16
- Crossword 16
- Faces 14
- Opinion 15
- Sports 17-24

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

+81 (42) 552.2511
DSN: 315.227.7310

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

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

Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.

STARS AND STRIPES

Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY

Commander fired over B-1 crash in South Dakota

Investigation found multiple crew failures led to Ellsworth base crash

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

The commander of an operations group at Ellsworth Air Force Base was fired after an investigation found multiple crew failures led to a supersonic bomber's crash landing in January, the service announced.

Col. Mark Kimball was relieved as commander of the 28th Operations Group at the South Dakota base due to a loss of trust and confidence in his ability to command. The decision was based on the findings of an Accident Investigation Board report into the Jan. 4 crash of a B-1B bomber at the base, the Air Force Global Strike Command said in a statement issued Friday.

The report, released July 25, found the fiery crash, which happened as the aircraft landed following a training exercise, was primarily caused by multiple crew failures, as well as winter weather, that resulted in all four members ejecting and the total loss of the \$450 million warplane. The crash exposed an "organizational culture that tolerated decaying airmanship skills, a lack of discipline, poor communication and inadequate focus on regulations," the report read.

The Air Force said in the report that the service will use the report to take administrative and disciplinary action. The Global Strike Command did not say whether any actions were handed out to members in the 28th Operations

Group, aside from Kimball, instead deferring to the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth. The operations group falls under the leadership of the bomb wing.

Col. Derek C. Oakley, commander of 28th Bomb Wing, has taken command of the operations group. A replacement for Kimball has not yet been announced.

Kimball was commissioned in 2002. He served as a B-1B instructor pilot on four prior assignments. He served as deputy commander of the 28th Operations Group before assuming the role of commander of the unit in June 2023.

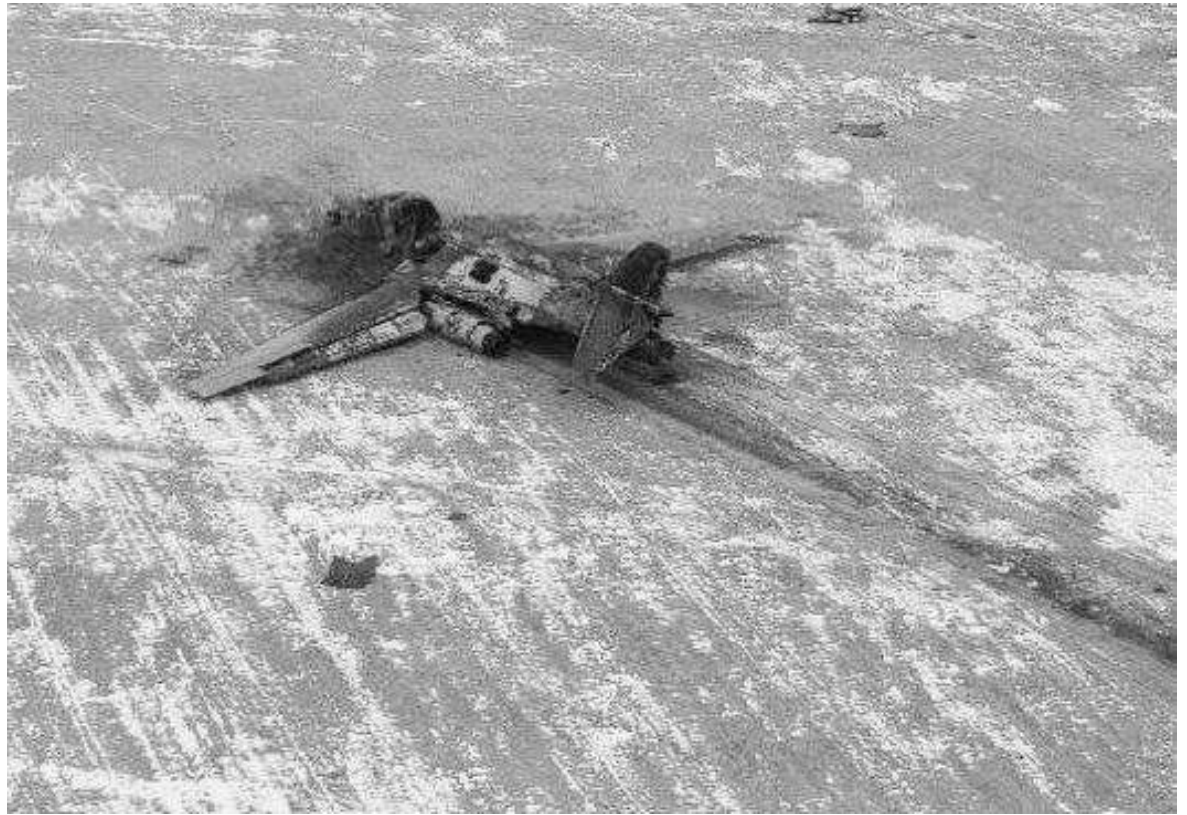
The operations group supports combat operations and develops deployment plans for the B-1 bomber. The aircraft carries conventional weapons and can take off from the U.S. to strike targets overseas in a single mission.

The plane was attempting to land in low-visibility conditions when the four crew members were forced to eject before the plane skidded about 5,000 feet across the runway and caught fire. The crew failed to properly manage the aircraft's airspeed and angle of approach — coming in too slow and too low for the weather conditions, according to the report.

"Changes in local wind direc-



Kimball



U.S. AIR FORCE

The B-1 bomber crash site at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. The \$450 million plane was attempting to land in low-visibility conditions when the four crew members were forced to eject before the plane skidded about 5,000 feet across the runway and caught fire.

tion during landing should have prompted the crew to adjust throttles and maintain proper airspeed, but a lack of situational awareness and ineffective crew communication resulted in the aircraft falling below required airspeed to maintain a safe approach," the report read.

The board also identified several other "substantial contributing factors," including poor crew resource management, poor weather conditions, ineffective flight operations supervision and a lack of awareness of airfield conditions.

Neither the pilot nor a supervisory instructor pilot realized the plane was losing too much power because they were looking outside the aircraft instead of monitoring their instruments, the report concluded.

Another crew member responsible for assisting with cross-checking testified they were reading a post-landing checklist instead of backstopping the instruments, the investigators found.

The lack of communication and supervision permeated beyond the cockpit.

A pre-flight squadron brief did not advise the crews of two bombers to approach at a higher altitude, given the lost visibility, and investigators found none of the eight aviators aboard the aircraft knew the Air Force's instructions for the cold weather in which they were flying.

Additionally, there was a "willful disregard" for the equipment each crew member was required to wear, which the report said could have contributed to the injuries that they received from ejecting.

Three of the crew members suffered minor injuries and were treated at the base. The instructor pilot was hospitalized for significant injuries and temporary loss of consciousness.

The instructor pilot weighed at least the maximum of 245 pounds that the ejection seat could support, which the investigation

found could have contributed to his injuries. A few days after the crash, he weighed 260 pounds, the report found.

On the airfield, a key sensor on the runway that could have told the crews about the bad visibility had been malfunctioning for months. Air traffic control knew the sensor was broken, but the squadron did not.

The control tower also knew on-the-ground visibility was zero but did not communicate that to anyone. The first bomber was also criticized by investigators for failing to relay that information to the second bomber, the report found.

Additionally, after the crash, two members of the maintenance crew failed toxicology tests.

The investigation ultimately found the bomber crashed because the crew "succumbed to complacency and fixation, while the [instructor pilot] was ineffective in his crew leadership and instructor supervision duties," according to the report.

Austin defends decision to throw out plea deal for 9/11 defendants

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke for the first time Tuesday on his decision to throw out a plea deal for the men accused in al-Qaida's 2001 attacks, saying that the depth of American losses and sacrifice on 9/11 demand that the military commission trial goes ahead.

"This wasn't a decision that I took lightly," Austin told reporters at an event with Australian officials in Annapolis, Md.

"But I have long believed that the families of the victims, our service members, and the American public deserve the opportunity to

see military commissions, commission trials carried out" in the 9/11 case, he said.

At the U.S. military commission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, meanwhile, lawyers and the judge in the case of accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two other defendants who had also taken plea deals were still coming to terms with Austin's surprise order and its effect on efforts to resolve the more than 20-year-old case.

Mohammed and a total of four other defendants at Guantanamo are accused in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, using hijacked passenger

jets, that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. A fourth defendant did not agree to the plea agreement, and a fifth defendant last year was ruled mentally unfit to continue facing trial.

Legal complications, including profound questions over how much the men's torture while in CIA custody in the first years after their capture has tainted the evidence and the case itself, have helped drag out proceedings. The case remains in pre-trial hearings after more than a decade.

After about two years of plea negotiations, the Pentagon-appointed

retired general overseeing the military commission last week approved a plea bargain struck by prosecutors and defense attorneys that would have spared Mohammed and the two others the risk of the death penalty, in return for their guilty pleas.

Families of 9/11 victims offered differing opinions, with some welcoming the resolution and others saying they wanted to see capital trials. Senior Republicans in Congress publicly lambasted the Biden administration for the plea bargain.

An order from Austin made public late Friday, in which he

said he was revoking approval of the plea bargain and personally assuming that decision-making authority in the 9/11 case, upended the deal.

Some of the lawyers and civil-rights organizations involved in the Guantanamo Bay cases accuse Austin of bowing to political pressure in overturning the plea deal, and are challenging the legality of Austin's action.

Open hearings are scheduled to resume Wednesday for the first time since Austin's order, and may reveal the defense's response to the overriding of the plea bargain.

MILITARY

Weak spots in metal may have led to fatal Osprey crash

By TARA COPP
AND AARON KESSLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A gear crack that led to a fatal crash of a V-22 Osprey last year may have been started by weak spots in a metal used to manufacture that part, according to documents.

The November crash killed eight Air Force Special Operations Command airmen. It was the second time in less than two years that a catastrophic failure of a part of the Osprey's proprotor gearbox, which serves as its transmission, caused a fatal accident. In June 2022, five Marines were killed when a different part of the proprotor gearbox system failed.

The crashes have led to an aggressive effort by the V-22 program office and manufacturer Bell Flight to find fixes for the critical system, which has had some components wear down earlier than the military expected. While investigators still don't know for certain what caused either crash, this latest finding might hold some clues.

There's no other aircraft like the Osprey in the fleet. It can speed to a target like an airplane then rotate its engines to land like a helicopter. Program leaders have pointed out that the Osprey has been vital in special operations and combat missions and has flown hundreds of thousands of hours successfully.

But the aircraft also has a troubled crash history, and the proprotor gearbox has been a persistent problem.

Data gathered by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act shows 609 proprotor gearboxes have been removed for repair in the past 10 years. Over the last five years, the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force have reported 60 incidents involving the proprotor gearbox.

Last week the Air Force identified cracking in a pinion gear, a part that's about the size of a large jar lid, as one of two factors that

caused the crash off Japan. The Air Force also faulted the pilot and crew, because the Osprey sent six warnings during their flight that the proprotor gearbox was in trouble.

But additional crash report documents obtained by the AP show this is not the first time this metal has failed in Osprey proprotor gearbox components, although it was the first time it failed in this specific gear. There have been seven previous cracking incidents in related gears that were likely caused by the same metal weakness, investigators reported.

It's not clear if that information had previously been shared with the services, which could have led them to take a much more restrictive approach to how pilots were instructed to respond to any proprotor gearbox warnings.

In a rare move, as part of the accident report released publicly last week, the Air Force faulted the V-22's program office for not sharing data that could have better informed crews of the severity of the risk.

The pinion gears are located inside the proprotor gearboxes on each wingtip. The gearboxes take in power from the Osprey's engines and process it to turn the Osprey's masts and rotor blades.

To do that, the gears spin rapidly under extreme pressure. They can overheat and break off metal flakes, called chips, which can move through the transmission and destroy it. Loss of a proprotor gearbox is dangerous and can lead to loss of an aircraft and crew.

In the November crash, investigators believe the first of the six chip warnings was an indication that a crack in the pinion gear had already taken hold and it was fracturing off small metal flakes as it continued to spin. The warnings progressed as the gearing shed more debris and ultimately broke apart, leading to rapidly cascading failures throughout the Osprey's entire drive system and the



HIRO KOMAE/AP

MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft are parked at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, south of Okinawa, southern Japan, in 2023.

fatal crash.

In the supplemental crash documents, investigators said analysis of the recovered pinion gear pieces revealed multiple inclusions. An inclusion is a microscopic weak spot in metal caused by foreign substances getting mixed in during the manufacturing process. Those weak spots can lead to fatigue cracking.

The specific alloy used to manufacture the Osprey's pinion gears is called X-53 VIMVAR. Crash investigators found multiple inclusions in the failed pinion gear and similar inclusions in a second pinion gear on the aircraft, the report said.

While the inclusions were found to be within the microscopic size limits allowed, investigators noted that "initiation of a fatigue crack is dependent on the size of the inclusion and its location within the gear material."

Investigators concluded they could not determine whether the inclusions led to the cracking. But they left open the question of whether there may have been larger inclusions that could have caused the cracking and were lost as the pinion gear broke apart. "If the pinion did crack due to an inclusion, the evidence was obscured by the secondary damage," the report found.

Of the 60 incidents reported

over the past five years, at least 41 included chipping indications, according to the data obtained by the AP.

The gearbox is a sealed system, meaning ground crews on base can't open it to inspect the gears for inclusions, and even if they could, they don't have the machining needed to detect the microscopic defects, Air Force Special Operations Command head Lt. Gen. Michael Conley told the AP in an interview.

"So in the field, there's nothing we could have done to detect this," Conley said.

And Bell Flight can't test the whole gear for inclusions either without multiple cuts into it, which would destroy the part. The primary safeguard is process control during manufacturing, the report said.

It's not clear whether other Osprey parts, including the input quill assembly that was the cause of the Marine Corps 2022 crash, are also made from the X-53 alloy.

Bell referred all questions on the proprotor gearbox to Naval Air Systems Command, or NAVAIR, which has overall responsibility for the V-22 Osprey program.

In a statement to the AP, Col. Brian Taylor, head of the Pentagon's V-22 program office, said it could not comment on specific

proprotor gearbox changes underway, but said "as improved materials become available, they are evaluated for use in all our systems."

Conley said, for now, the Air Force has made flying the Osprey more restrictive while doing longer-term engineering analysis. "Figuring out if there's a better way with the gearboxes, better production methods, better material. That's with NAVAIR and Bell right now," he said.

Until at least mid-2025, the Osprey is expected to remain under flight restrictions that require it to stay within 30 minutes of a spot to land, among other safety checks.

Air Force Special Operations Command only has 51 Ospreys, but it's had to remove 132 proprotor gearboxes for repair in the past 10 years, according to data obtained by the AP. The Marine Corps purchased 360 Ospreys and currently operates about 270. Over the past 10 years it's removed 464 proprotor gearboxes. The Navy, which has 27 in the fleet, has removed proprotor gearboxes 13 times.

While the Osprey has been in design since the 1980s, the Marine Corps' MV-22 version has only been deployed since 2007, the Air Force CV-22 since 2009 and the Navy's CMV-22 version since 2021.

Another airman found dead on American base in South Korea

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

An airman was discovered dead at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea on Monday, less than two weeks after the death of a fellow service member assigned to the same unit.

Senior Airman Saniyya Smalls, 25, of the 8th Security Forces

Squadron, was found at an unspecified location on Kunsan, roughly 115 miles south of Seoul, the 8th Fighter Wing said in a news release Tuesday.

Smalls' death is a "tragic loss" and "has deeply impacted our community," wing commander Col. Peter Kasarskis said in the release.

"Every member of the 8th Fighter Wing is a valued member of the Wolf Pack," Kasarskis said, referring to the wing's nickname.

Foul play is not suspected in Smalls' death, according to the release. The wing did not immediately respond to email and phone requests for more information Wednesday.

The death comes 10 days after Airman Kye Vang, 23, also of the 8th Security Forces Squadron, was found dead in his home on Kunsan.

The wing has not disclosed the circumstances of Vang's death; however, foul play was not suspected, the wing said in a July 28 news release.

Security force squadrons are the law enforcement arm of the Air Force and are responsible for providing base security.

Roughly 2,800 airmen and 40 F-16 Fighting Falcons are assigned to the 8th Fighter Wing, which participates in numerous air drills with the South Korean air force throughout the year.

MIDEAST

Hamas names Sinwar as leader in show of defiance

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Hamas on Tuesday named Yahya Sinwar, its top official in Gaza who masterminded the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel, as its new leader in a dramatic sign of the power of the Palestinian militant group's hardline wing after his predecessor was killed in a presumed Israeli strike in Iran.



Sinwar

The selection of Sinwar, a secretive figure close to Iran who worked for years to build up Hamas' military strength, was a defiant signal that the group is pre-

pared to keep fighting after 10 months of destruction from Israel's campaign in Gaza and after the assassination of Sinwar's predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh.

It is also likely to provoke Israel, which has put him at the top of its kill list after the Oct. 7 attack, in which militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel and took about

250 as hostages.

The announcement comes at volatile moment. Fears are high of an escalation into a wider regional war, with Iran vowing revenge against Israel over Haniyeh's killing and Lebanon's Hezbollah threatening to retaliate over Israel's killing of one of its top commanders in an airstrike in Beirut last week. American, Egyptian and Qatari mediators are trying to salvage negotiations over a cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza, shaken by Haniyeh's killing.

Hamas said in a statement it named Sinwar as the new head of its political bureau to replace Haniyeh, who was killed in a blast that Iran and Hamas blamed on Israel. Israel has not confirmed or denied responsibility. Also last week, Israel said it had confirmed the death of the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, in a July airstrike in Gaza. Hamas has not confirmed his death.

In reaction to the appointment, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Saudi-

owned Al-Arabiya television, "There is only one place for Yahya Sinwar, and it is beside Mohammed Deif and the rest of the October 7th terrorists. That is the only place we're preparing and intending for him."

Speaking to Al-Jazeera television after the announcement, Hamas spokesman Osama Hamdan said Sinwar would continue the cease-fire negotiations.

Hamas' allies Iran and Hezbollah issued statements praising Sinwar's appointment.

Jets: Blinken wants all parties to 'understand the risk of miscalculation'

FROM PAGE 1

avoid escalating the conflict.

"It's urgent that everyone in the region take stock of the situation, understand the risk of miscalculation, and make decisions that will calm tensions, not exacerbate them," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at the close of a meeting with Australian leaders.

At the same time, Austin noted the attack Monday on U.S. forces in Iraq by an Iranian-backed militia group, which injured seven

personnel, and made it clear that the U.S. won't hesitate to respond.

"Make no mistake, the United States will not tolerate attacks on our personnel in the region," Austin told reporters at a press conference after the meeting. "And we remain ready to deploy on short notice to meet the evolving threats to our security, our partners or our interests."

He said an "Iranian-backed Shia militia group" conducted the attack, but officials are still trying to determine which one.

Blinken and Austin met with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Defense Minister Richard Marles at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., to discuss efforts to expand military cooperation and broaden diplomatic efforts in the Asia Pacific.

But they led their remarks with calls for de-escalation and support for a cease-fire. "Australia also underlines the risks to all in the region of escalation and of miscalculation," said Wong, calling this a "decisive moment" for a cease-

fire in the war between Israel and Hamas.

Their comments came as Hamas named Yahya Sinwar — a mastermind of the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel that set off the war — as its new leader, fueling fears that the announcement will provoke Israel and that tensions will escalate into broader war. Tehran has also vowed revenge against Israel over the killing last week of Hamas' top political leader in Iran, and Lebanon's Hezbollah is threatening retaliation over an Israeli strike that

killed one of the group's senior commanders in Beirut.

It has all complicated efforts by American, Egyptian and Qatari mediators to salvage negotiations over the cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza.

Blinken said further attacks will only perpetuate conflict, adding that "we've been engaged in intense diplomacy with allies and partners communicating that message directly to Iran. We communicated that message directly to Israel."



BEATLES NIGHT

OCT 19 SAT
DOORS OPEN 1830

Admission, Themed Buffet,
Fabulous Entertainment and Atmosphere

70.00 / PERSON

Restricted to 20yrs old and above

THE PARROTS

Limited Guest Room &
Event Packages are Available



CELEBRATING
SOMOS
LATIN AMERICAN
HERITAGE
MONTH
28 SEP 2024

CULTURAL SHOW AND
DINNER WITH DANCE
EMPIRE BALLROOM DOOR

OPEN 1830
60.00 PER ADULT
100.00 PER COUPLE

LIVE BAND AND D.J.s
CUMBIAS, NORTEÑAS,
BACHATAS, BANDA, SALSA
AND MORE

Limited Guest Room &
Event Packages are Available



COOL DOWN IN JAN!

Scan Now while Supplies
Snow Lasts



Scan Here
for Your Reservation



THE NEW SANNO

Visit our Website for updates at www.thenewsanno.com
229-8003 or 03-6868-2311 EXT. 8003

MILITARY

US to invest in Australian island facilities

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

An Australian island in the Indian Ocean is one of several sites tagged for billions of dollars of U.S.-funded construction and refurbishments aimed at deterring China.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command is seeking proposals for at least three projects worth up to \$15 billion combined in Australia's Cocos Islands, the Philippines, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, according to the June 26 bid solicitation.

The projects, which include new facilities, repairs, renovations and infrastructure, would be funded under the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, according to the notice.

The initiative, established by Congress in fiscal 2021, aims to maintain America's military advantage over China by modernizing and strengthening the U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific.

The Cocos Islands, population 600, are 1,864 miles west of Perth.

The projects outlined in the Navy's solicitation "may or may not support the Darwin Marines Rotational Force," a spokesman for NAVFAC Pacific, the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet engineering arm, told Reuters news agency by email for a report Monday.

NAVFAC Pacific did not respond immediately Wednesday to request for further information.

Two thousand Marines arrived in the northern Australian port city in March for an annual, six-

month-long training rotation.

Australia is already upgrading facilities in the Cocos, which comprise two coral atolls made up of 27 smaller islands, according to information on the Australian Defence Force's website.

"Due to insufficient length and strength of the existing airfield pavement, large Defence aircraft are unable to operate out of CKI," the Cocos Keeling Islands Airfield, the website states.

An Australian project there would improve pavement, enhance lighting and drainage, and build a new wharf by mid-2027, according to the website.

The Cocos construction and other U.S.-funded base upgrades in Australia were on the agenda when Defense Secretary Lloyd

Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken met their Australian counterparts, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Richard Marles and Minister of Foreign Affairs Penny Wong, on Tuesday in Annapolis, Md.

Improvements to the island facilities will allow P-8 Poseidon reconnaissance planes, E-7 Wedgetail early warning aircraft and aerial refuelers to operate there, according to former Australian assistant defense secretary Ross Babbage.

"In the past there has been American interest in this and also in UAV use," he said Wednesday.

Drone operations are a "more realistic possibility" with the Australian air force's MQ-28 Ghost Bat multirole aircraft expected to

begin initial operations within two years, Babbage said.

The Cocos are closer to the Strait of Malacca, a chokepoint for Chinese oil imports, than Diego Garcia, a key U.S. logistics hub in the Indian Ocean and a launch point for bombing missions during the Afghan war.

The Cocos atoll itself offers good weather protection, but minimal support facilities for ships in the event of severe conditions, Babbage wrote.

"The facilities and the available workforce on Cocos are minimal and because of terrain constraints and the atoll's remoteness it would be difficult and very expensive to build and support large-scale operations of most types from that location," he said.

Marines laud littoral regiment's debut, radar system as drills end

By BRIAN MCELHINEY

Stars and Stripes

CAMP COURTNEY, Okinawa — U.S. and Japanese military officials touted the Marine Corps' newest littoral unit, new radar technology and the countries' alliance during a ceremony marking the close of joint drills Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Roger Turner, commander of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Lt. Gen. Masayoshi Arai, head of Japan's Western Army, addressed about 100 U.S. Marines, U.S. soldiers and Japanese troops in front of III MEF headquarters. The event closed out this year's Resolute Dragon, which spanned three prefectures in southern Japan, including Okinawa.

The fourth iteration of the annual exercise featured the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment's operational debut. The unit launched in November to specialize in stand-in force operations — a key tenant of the island-fighting doctrine featured in the Marines' Force Design plan.

"This also marked a major advancement in our ability to deter and defend against any threat in key maritime areas, while enhancing our capability to provide humanitarian aid to remote islands as a unified and bilateral force," Turner said at the ceremony.

A stand-in force is a small, mobile unit inserted within range of enemy fire, including missiles, to seize and hold key islands and deny enemy vessels access to surrounding seas. The Marines created the 3rd Littoral Regiment, its first, in March 2022, and plans a third for Guam. A littoral regiment consists of about 2,000 Marines.

This year's Resolute Dragon featured about 3,000 Marines and 5,700 Japanese troops, III MEF spokesman 1st Lt. Owen Hitchcock said at the ceremony. The countries' forces cooperated on "anti-ship operations" during the exercise, III MEF's lead exercise planner, Lt. Col. Tina Terry, said in a statement emailed to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

On July 29, a Japanese Kawasaki C-2 transport plane delivered the 12th Littoral Regiment's AN/TPS-80 air-defense radar system for the first time to Yonaguni, Japan's westernmost island, 67 miles east of Taiwan.

The regiment used the radar alongside Japanese troops "to enhance situational awareness by supporting comprehensive detection and tracking across air, land, and maritime domains," Lt. Col. Joseph Mozzi, the regiment's fire support coordinator, said in a 3rd Marine Division news release Sunday.

"The 12th MLR's advanced sensing and targeting capabilities further enable it to serve as a force multiplier for the [U.S.-Japan] Alliance, improving coordination and strategic planning in the region," Terry said.

The U.S. and Japan are increasing their cooperation as China increases its military strength and asserts its claims on maritime territory in the South and East China seas. Yonaguni, part of Okinawa prefecture, is the closest inhabited



RACHEL MASON/U.S. Marine Corps

A Japanese soldier learns how to operate an M240B machine gun attached to a tactical vehicle during Resolute Dragon training in Dodo, Okinawa, on Aug. 1.

Japanese territory to Taiwan.

Marine Corps exercises its Force Design initiative to counter China more effectively. This includes capabilities, such as the new radar system and littoral regiments, to help it better defend the small islands east of Taiwan.

Marine MV-22B Ospreys and Japanese V-22 Ospreys also flew together to enhance "air mobility and rapid deployment," Terry said.

The U.S. military grounded its

fleet of the tiltrotor aircraft between Dec. 6 and March 8 after an Osprey from Yokota Air Base crashed off Japan's southern coast, killing all eight airmen aboard. Japan's military also grounded its fleet and resumed flights in the spring.

The Air Force scheduled a pair of CV-22 Ospreys to take part in Resolute Dragon but canceled their involvement to focus on training requirements a few weeks before the exercise began.

US, Australia, Canada, Philippines hold maneuvers in South China Sea

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The United States, Australia, Canada and the Philippines held air and naval maneuvers Wednesday in what they said was a show of force to promote the rule of law in the disputed South China Sea, where China has increasingly asserted its territorial claims. In an apparent response, China said it conducted air and sea combat patrols on the same day.

Adm. Samuel Paparo, who

heads the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and top military and defense commanders from Australia, Canada and the Philippines said in a joint statement that they "stand together to address common maritime challenges and underscore our shared dedication to upholding international law and the rules-based order." They said they were staging the two-day exercises to uphold unhindered passage in the Indo-Pacific region.

China has long claimed much of

the South China Sea, a key global trade and security route, and vowed to defend its territorial interests at all costs. Its claims overlap those of smaller coastal states, including the Philippines and Vietnam, hampering their access to traditional fishing areas and disrupting oil and gas exploration in their internationally recognized exclusive economic zones.

"The naval and air force units of participating nations will operate together, enhancing cooperation

and interoperability between our armed forces," the commanders said. "The activity will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with international law and with due regard to the safety of navigation and the rights and interests of other states."

A Philippine military official said the navy ships and fighter jets would conduct anti-submarine warfare drills, combined sea passage maneuvers and communications checks. The official spoke on

condition of anonymity ahead of the release of specific details of the maneuvers.

A Philippine navy spokesperson, Rear Adm. Roy Trinidad, said the exercises are not directed at any country but are "a collective expression of support for a rules-based international order."

China said it held sea and air combat patrols Wednesday near Scarborough Shoal, a disputed area in the South China Sea, in an apparent response to the exercises.

MILITARY

Drones: Class gives soldiers understanding of modern technology

FROM PAGE 1

and their enemies — have used the widely available, cheap tech to gather intelligence on opposing forces, drop small munitions or test enemy defenses.

The Army has spent recent years focused heavily on incorporating small drones into its formations, including front-line combat units, and studying the different ways they can be used in battle. The service has also worked extensively to improve its ability to find, track and destroy enemy small drones, which have proven hazardous to U.S. troops in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

The drones that the soldiers built at Fort Stewart span nearly 5 feet and weigh about 10 pounds. They are powered by two batteries and two GPS units and carry a high-definition camera, which could be swapped for other payloads, including small munitions or parts to carry medical supplies or ammunition, said Henry Sullivan, the chief products officer for the Alexandria, Va.-based training firm Building Momentum, which led the class.

When the five-day class started on a Monday, the soldiers arrived to find an array of boxes filled with parts and soldering equipment. Within a few days, the soldiers had taken those parts, soldered them together, wired them and mastered the software to fly them either by remote control or through autonomous programming. Sullivan said the class was designed for the soldiers to master quickly “all of the ifs, ands and buts” of their drones, whether they were previously familiar with unmanned systems or not.

For the 3rd Infantry Division, the soldiers who took the class are now expected to serve as a cadre from which other soldiers in the unit can learn drone building, said Maj. Donovan Blatherwick, who has led the Marne Innovation Center for the last year. The center, located inside Fort Stewart’s main post, offers soldiers on the base the abilities to pursue prototyping of innovations “to make their lives easier or make their jobs better” as well as training such as the drone-building course, he said.

Blatherwick envisions a division with thousands of soldiers who know how to



COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Army Spc. Oria Attey prepares his drone for a test flight at Hinesville, Ga., airfield on July 26. Attey, of the 3rd Infantry Division, participated in a first-of-its-kind drone building class run by the division’s Marne Innovation Center at Fort Stewart.

build the small drones and employ them on the battlefield. He has had the Marne Innovation Center focused on small drones and robotics in recent months as the Army shifts toward building such technology into its close combat forces.

“There’s an infinite number of things you can put on a drone to turn it into a tool and the same with robotics, too. So that’s sort of where we’re headed,” said Blatherwick, a Special Forces officer assigned to the 3rd ID’s headquarters. “The sky’s the limit as far as what you want to do with any of these capabilities.”

Sullivan said a complete understanding of drone structures would be helpful on the battlefield, where small damage to drones can leave them out of service for weeks. Instead of having to send a broken drone back to a manufacturer — or at least a higher Army headquarters — the soldiers could fix the drones themselves within a couple of hours.

He believes the soldiers who took the class, with the right equipment, could now fix the drones that they built and others

even in an austere, remote combat outpost. Most small unmanned systems from hexacopters to quadcopters to small fixed-wing drones run on the same kinds of electronics, Sullivan said.

“So, if it does crash or break, well, they’ve already built it so they know how to fix it. They actually know the parts they need to replace; they know the entire system from the build ... to the firmware for the flight controller to how the software works,” he said. “So, if a soldier on the ground was equipped with the tools and knows these things these soldiers learned this week — they can come up with a good solution that can really make this experience work, even downrange. I think that’s really, really powerful.”

For Murphy, he counts the ability to build a drone from scratch as a critical new skill, but he was not certain yet how he would apply it to his work flying much larger drones. The sergeant has spent some 700 hours flying the Shadow, including on a 2017 deployment in eastern Afghanistan. The Shadow is a nearly 500-pound drone with a 20-foot

wingspan typically used for reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition and battle damage assessment. The Army is in the process of retiring the more than 20-year-old drone in favor of newer systems.

“I’ve done stuff on a much larger scale as far as [unmanned aerial systems], so I wouldn’t say it’s directly beneficial to what I’ve done,” he said. “But I think it helps you understand the teamwork aspect of all of this, and ... how teams can use these small [drones].”

Army Spc. Malakhi Perry, however, believes understanding the ins and outs of small drones could be very beneficial to his job as an artillery forward observer. Perry, who serves with the 3rd ID’s 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, said small drones such as the hexacopter that he built in the class could prove helpful in finding targets on the battlefield that forward observers might not be able to see directly.

Being able to fix the drone in the field, he said, could be a game changer.


“Right now, it’s a long pipeline if one of our drones goes down, which means for an operation, I probably no longer have that capability,” Perry said. “A system like this, where we put it together, where we understand it completely — it’s a quick fix and now my drone’s back up in the air.”


Perry believes he could fix most damage to his newly built drone within about 45 minutes.

The Marne Innovation Center is also working on prefabricating parts for the drones with its 3D printers that could cut repair times down to 10 to 15 minutes in most cases, he said.

There’s another advantage to understanding how the small drones work, Perry said. It could help soldiers better understand how enemy forces will use the drones and how to spot and defeat them — one of the Army’s highest priorities.

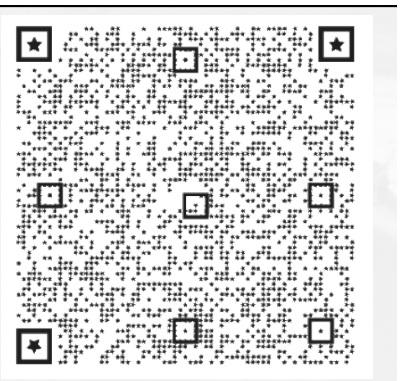
“I think this is going to be a huge advantage for what we can do as a force,” Perry said. “Understanding these drones, how to build them, now I can understand a little better how to counter them, too. And that could greatly improve what the force is able to do in these environments where drones are becoming the main fight.”






Support a Soldier HERE

Scan here to support a deployed soldier today!





NEW TO THE PACIFIC?

Contact CustomerHelp@stripes.com to get your free copy of Welcome to the Pacific magazine!



Digital edition also available. Download online.





PACIFIC

Okinawa governor aims to reduce military presence

By KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki announced Wednesday he's traveling soon to the United States to lobby Cabinet officials, Congress and the American public to reduce the U.S. military footprint in his prefecture and curb troop misconduct.

The governor, speaking Wednesday at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo, appealed publicly for a reduction in the U.S. military presence in Okinawa prefecture.

"The existence of these vast U.S. military facilities and related areas is a major impediment to the promotion of local industrial development and also improving of the living environment in Okinawa," he said.

Tamaki addressed alleged sexual assaults on Okinawa before about 30 reporters at the club and another 60 watching via livestream.

"There is no end to the various damages which are caused by the presence of the bases," he said. "The people of Okinawa continue to bear a heavy burden in relation to these bases."

Tamaki is planning to visit the U.S. next month to appeal directly to the U.S. government, including the Departments of Defense and State, members of Congress and

the U.S. public.

"I do believe that the U.S. and Japan has contributed to the maintenance of peace and stability in Japan and East Asia," he said.

But, he added, "U.S. military forces in Japan are excessively concentrated in Okinawa prefecture, and we feel the necessity of the further reversion and reduction of the U.S. military bases on Okinawa."

Okinawa hosts the bulk of U.S. military personnel in Japan, about 30,000 active-duty service members, most of them Marines, plus another 50,000 civilian employees and family members.

Between 1972, when Okinawa reverted from U.S. to Japanese control, and 2023, authorities on Okinawa have arrested 6,235 U.S. military or affiliated personnel for alleged criminal offenses, Tamaki said.

"Of these, 586 were cases of violent offences such as murder or forcible sexual intercourse or rape, and 80 cases were sexual related offenses such as indecent assault," he said.

Two recent cases of sexual assault and attempted sexual assault have brought the problem again to public attention.

Airman Brennon R.E. Washington pleaded not guilty July 12 in Naha District Court to charges of

kidnapping and sexually assaulting a minor in December. Marine Lance Cpl. Jamel Clayton was charged in May with attempting to sexually assault a woman in Yomitan village.

"In regard to these kinds of incidents and process, there are two main problems as we see," Tamaki said.

One problem is the alleged crimes; the other is that law enforcement and the Japanese government did not apprise the prefecture until the defendants were scheduled for court appearances, in Washington's case almost three months after his indictment, Tamaki said.

Following a complaint from the prefecture, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi announced July 5 that Japan's investigative authorities have begun sharing information about cases with Okinawa as much as possible.

"For Okinawa prefecture, we consider it necessary to share information not just to the extent possible, but rather to share this information promptly after the incident," Tamaki said.

U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp on July 22 announced a "new forum of cooperation" with the Japanese and Okinawan governments and community members to address al-



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki speaks to reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo, on Wednesday.

leged misconduct.

But Tamaki expressed doubt about the proposal. A similar effort, the Cooperative Working Team for the prevention of incidents and accidents by U.S. military and civilian personnel, was established in 2000, he said.

"However, meetings of this CWT have not been held since the year 2017," he said. "Therefore, at every opportunity we as Okinawa prefecture have been requesting both the Japanese and U.S. governments to hold the CWT as soon as possible."

Tamaki called for specific details on this new forum, including its members and structure, and coordination with outside organizations "at the earliest possible date."

Military force alone is not sufficient to ensure peace and stability in the region and to achieve sustainable development on Okinawa, according to the governor.

"I believe it is more necessary than ever before to ease tensions and build confidence through peaceful diplomacy and dialogue," he said.

Space Force pitches plan to clean fuel-soaked soil in Hawaii

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Department of the Air Force wants to cleanse fuel-soaked ground on Maui's tallest peak, considered sacred in Native Hawaiian culture, by venting soil still in place and airing out contaminated soil previously excavated.

About 700 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in late January 2023 at the Maui Space Surveillance Complex atop the 10,000-foot summit of Haleakala, a dormant volcano.

The Maui-based 15th Space Surveillance Squadron, which is part of Space Delta 2, operates the complex. The Air and Space forces already face resistance to a plan to expand the facility by building new telescopes to track objects in space.

The complex is primarily used "to perform 24/7 deep space surveillance and satellite tracking while also supporting research and development projects and collaborating with outside organizations for space-monitoring efforts," the Air Force said in a draft response action memorandum in July outlining its preferred method to clean up the site.

The 15th Space Surveillance Squadron is hosting an evening open house Aug. 15 at King Kekaulike High School, 121 Kula Highway, Makawao, to provide information



JIMMIE PIKE/U.S. Air Force

Contractors use a ground-penetrating radar to identify and map utility pipes and wires at the Maui Space Surveillance Complex in Hawaii in 2023.

about the proposed soil remediation.

The spill occurred when a lightning strike caused a malfunction in the fuel tank used for a generator on the site. The fuel spread into an area of about 750 square feet.

In March 2023, workers excavated soil 2 to 5 feet deep from the site. They were unable to dig deeper because of underground

utilities, according to the Air Force memo.

About 30 cubic yards of soil was loaded into 41 "supersacks" that are stored at the site for eventual cleansing.

The excavated area was covered with heavy polymer sheeting, which was then covered with uncontaminated soil.

The process of cleaning the soil is complicated by the fact that Hawaiians regard Haleakala's summit as sacred, and so no soil or stones should be removed from the site.

Ancient Native Hawaiians regarded the peak to be the navel, or center, of Maui, with cultural resources in the area dating back more than 1,000 years.

"There are numerous gods and goddesses said to reside on the summit, in the crater, and all around the mountain," the memorandum states.

Air and Space Force officials faced public backlash against the military's substantial presence in the state after a jet fuel spill from a Navy underground fuel storage facility in late 2021 contaminated groundwater used by thousands near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

In May, the Maui County Council unanimously approved a resolution opposing a plan by the Air Force and Space Force to build new telescopes on the mountain. The resolution cited the fuel spill on Haleakala

and that the services have yet to clean it up, The Associated Press reported on June 6.

The Maui cleanup plan involves using bioventing and aeration to remove or reduce toxicity in the soil.

"Active bioventing involves using an electric blower that mechanically extracts air from venting wells resulting in increasing air circulation to subsurface soils," the memorandum states.

"This will increase microbial metabolic rates due to the additional oxygen being circulated through the soil."

Ten bioventing wells would be placed at depths up to 50 feet.

The extracted air would be treated to remove fuel vapors before being released into the atmosphere.

During the aeration process, the saturated soil in the supersacks would be placed above ground on polymer sheeting and surrounded by a berm "for treatment to decrease the remaining petroleum and constituent concentrations," the memorandum states.

Questions and comments can be submitted until Sept. 15 to Jennifer Wehrmann, Remedial Project Manager, AFCEC/CZOP, 10471 20th Street, Suite 343, JBER, AK 99506-2201 or via email to pacaf.czop.remotesites@us.af.mil.

MILITARY

US soldier sentenced for misconduct

Master sergeant called German police officers Nazis, gave Hitler salute after arrest for DUI

By PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An Army master sergeant who repeatedly called German police officers Nazis after being arrested for drunken driving was sentenced Wednesday at a court-martial to 18 months in jail for several crimes.

Master Sgt. Miguel Garza pleaded guilty to drunk and disorderly conduct, driving while intoxicated and two counts of assault with battery during proceedings at Kleber Kaserne.

The charges stemmed from two separate incidents in 2022.

Garza, a food inspector who was assigned to Public Health Command Europe, had faced five counts of sexual assault, which were thrown out as part of a last-minute plea deal.

The deal ensured that he would be jailed for at least 18 months

and up to two years, and receive a bad conduct discharge.

A soldier for 17 years, Garza also was ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances and had his rank reduced to E-4.

On Jan. 1, 2022, Garza's blood alcohol content was four times over the legal limit. After celebrating the New Year with his family at home, he left for another nearby party.

When German police pulled him over for suspicious driving near the village of Enkenbach-Alsenborn, he refused to take a Breathalyzer test and was "exceptionally uncooperative and dismissive," police officer Carsten Herm said.

Testifying through an interpreter, Herm described how he and a colleague had to forcefully remove Garza from his vehicle, handcuff him and take him to the police station.

Garza admitted in court that

while he was at the station, he refused to answer questions, telling Herm: "I don't talk to Nazis."

Herm said at another point that when Garza was asked where his driver's license was, he replied "the Nazis took it."

And when he was eventually allowed to leave the station, he gave the officers a Hitler salute.

"He said to my colleague that his rank was so high up that nothing would happen to him," Herm added.

After the New Year's Day incident, Garza lost his first sergeant job but retained his E-8 position.

In October 2022, he got into an altercation with U.S. airmen outside a bar in downtown Kaiserslautern.

Garza explained during sentencing how he violently shoved a male airman and inappropriately touched a female airman.

He said he got violent when he offered them a ride home and

they refused.

"I had no right to touch anybody just because I was upset for not getting my way," he said. "It was wrong of me."

The prosecution alleged that he got angry when the female airman would not allow him to touch her.

"He was belligerent and angry, and I was scared," the female tech sergeant, who asked not to be named, told the judge, fighting back tears.

The woman's father also testified, saying he could hear derogatory remarks being yelled at his daughter by Garza over the phone when she called him during the incident.

"I look at the Army uniform and I have an unrealistic prejudice now," he said.

Defense attorney Will Helixon called Garza "a good man who drunkenly made mistakes."

Garza's mother testified by tel-

ephone from Texas, describing her son as a family man who helped raise his three younger siblings and continues to provide financial support to his extended family.

But prosecutor Maj. Sara Nicholson said Garza had no respect for authority and thought of himself as above the law.

"He believed his status in the military gave him a free pass," Nicholson said, when appealing to the judge, Lt. Col. Thomas Hynes, to hand down the maximum two-year sentence, adding that it would send a clear message, "that soldiers cannot be promoted out of punishment."

In a sworn statement read in court, Garza said his actions have ruined his career and his family's future stability.

"I am truly sorry," he said. "I hope this does not define who I am as a father, husband or soldier."



BRIAN McELHINEY/Stars and Stripes

An injured U.S. soldier's damaged sedan sits inside Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on Monday.

Marine rushes to help soldier injured in Okinawa car accident

By BRIAN McELHINEY
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — A Marine jumped to aid a fellow service member injured in a single-car crash while attempting to leave the home of the Air Force's 18th Wing this week.

The accident happened at 9:50 a.m. Monday, wing spokesman 1st Lt. Robert Dabbs said by email Wednesday.

"We can confirm a U.S. Army Soldier was involved in an on base vehicle accident," he wrote.

Dabbs declined Wednesday to provide further information or state how badly the soldier was injured. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident, he said.

The damaged black sedan — its

hood up, windshield cracked and front bumper in pieces — was still in place Monday about 330 yards from Gate 3 near trees and over a ditch off Douglas Avenue.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. JR Scott Sigrah, of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, saw the outbound vehicle miss a curve, continue into the inbound lane, exit the roadway, flip and land in the tree line.

Sigrah, who spoke about the accident, was entering Gate 3 with his son around 9:40 a.m.

"In the back of my mind, I wanted to believe it was an umbrella or tarp that flew off someone's vehicle," he said. "As we got closer, I looked to my left and sure thing, it was a car that was still rolling forward."

He said he used a hammer pro-

vided by another good Samaritan to break a window and remove the unconscious driver's foot from the accelerator; Sigrah cut his hand in the process.

"I was able to get the guy to wake up," he wrote in a post on his Facebook page. "Face bleeding, he woke up and said he is ok. I told him no you are not and to sit and stay still until paramedics arrived."

Paramedics soon arrived and stabilized the injured driver.

Sigrah said he saw the injured soldier and the paramedics again at the emergency room, where the paramedics thanked him.

"That dude could have died," he said. "That service member could have died; he really could have died. That's crazy."

Senior enlisted leader at Vicenza base fired over alcohol-related incidents

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The senior enlisted leader for the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade was relieved of his duties last month due to alcohol-related incidents, a service official confirmed Wednesday.

Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Carlson was fired July 16 "due to a loss of trust and confidence in his leadership," Army spokesman Neil Ruggiero said.

Carlson was relieved after a completed investigation pertaining to alcohol-related incidents, he said.

Ruggiero did not disclose further details.

Carlson has served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade since March 2023. The brigade is based in Vicenza, Italy.

He previously served with the brigade's 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, according to a Facebook post from the brigade.

Under federal privacy law, military officials are not required to disclose the reasons for removing or reassigning personnel. Military officials often cite "a loss of confidence" when commanders are removed from their posts without providing any specifics that led to the decision.



PAOLO BOVO/U.S. Army

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Carlson provides remarks last year at Caserma Del Din in Vicenza, Italy.

Carlson's firing comes after another ouster in April among Army leaders in Europe.

Lt. Col. Eric Ackles, commander of 1st Battalion, 57th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, was fired just six months after the air defense unit reactivated in Ansbach, Germany, amid growing concerns of Russian aggression on the Continent.

NATION

Debbie douses eastern states

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Tropical Storm Debbie pushed bad weather up the East Coast on Wednesday, colliding with other systems and bringing no respite to residents as far away as the Great Lakes and New Jersey, where heavy rain flooded highways and streets and stranded motorists. Officials in New York told people in basement apartments to prepare to flee.

Debbie has already drenched Southern states for days as it churned slowly across Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. But a sequence of weather events Tuesday evening caused intense storms well north of the tropical storm's center.

Some moisture streamed out ahead of Debbie and interacted with a frontal boundary that was draped across Long Island, N.Y., and through Pennsylvania and up to the Great Lakes, said Scott Kleebauer, a meteorologist with the national Weather Prediction Center.

There was also a disturbance that was exiting the Great Lakes region at that time. So the combination of these things caused multiple periods of showers and thunderstorms that produced significant rainfall.

Severe thunderstorms soaked

most of New Jersey on Tuesday night, causing moderate flooding and leaving thousands without power. As much as 6 inches of rain fell in some South Jersey communities in less than four hours.

Emergency officials warned of potential flash flooding, flying drones with loudspeakers in some New York City neighborhoods to tell people in basement apartments to be ready to flee at a moment's notice. Multiple water rescues were reported in New York City and surrounding areas.

Nearly 340,000 customers were without power in Ohio following storms there.

Yet still, the most rain from Debbie has fallen in the South.

A spot near Lake City in north Florida leads the nation in total rainfall from Tropical Storm Debbie at a whopping 19.67 inches, according to national Weather Prediction Center. Sarasota, Florida — hard-hit by flooding from Debbie — saw 17.78 inches.

The area of most concern Wednesday was southeastern North Carolina, where Hurricane Matthew caused a historic billion-dollar flood in 2016. Two years later, many of those records were broken during Hurricane Florence. Both storms killed dozens.

The National Weather Service warned up to 9 inches of rain could



STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

Savannah Fire Advanced Firefighters Ron Strauss, top, and Andrew Stevenson carry food to residents in the Tremont Park neighborhood that where stranded in stormwater from Tropical Storm Debbie, on Tuesday, in Savannah, Ga.



MIC SMITH/AP

Residents repair their roof as high winds from Tropical Storm Debbie passed over the Isle of Palms, S.C., on Tuesday.

fall west of Wilmington, N.C., in areas that already saw heavy rains overnight.

Charleston officials lifted a cur-

few Wednesday following heavy rains that caused flooding and closed dozens of roads Monday and Tuesday. The city experi-

ences floods several times a year because of rising sea levels.

High water streamed into the home of Michael Jones on Monday evening in Savannah, Ga. His furniture began to float, and the water was too deep to escape. He said he spent a sleepless night on his kitchen table before firefighters arrived in boats the next morning.

"It was hell all night," Jones said.

The center of Debbie was over the Atlantic Ocean at midday Wednesday, 55 miles southeast of Charleston, the National Hurricane Center said. The tropical storm could make a second landfall in the Carolinas, expected late Wednesday or early Thursday.

Poll: Extreme heat impacting most Americans' electricity bills

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — During the summer, Levena Lindahl closes off entire rooms, covers windows with blackout curtains and budgets to manage the monthly cost of electricity for air conditioning. But even then, the heat finds its way in.

"Going upstairs, it's like walking into soup. It is so hot," she said.

Lindahl, 37, who lives in North Carolina, said her monthly electricity bills in the summer used to be around \$100 years ago, but they've since doubled. She blames a gradual warming trend caused by climate change.

Around 7 in 10 Americans say in the last year extreme heat has had an impact on their electricity bills, ranging from minor to major, and most have seen at least a minor impact on their outdoor activities, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

As millions of Americans swelter through a summer of historic heat waves, the survey's findings reveal how extreme heat is changing people's lives in big and small ways. The poll found that about 7 in 10 Americans have been personally affected by extremely hot weather or extreme heat waves over the past five years.

Sizable shares of Americans — around 4 in 10 — report that extreme heat has had at least a minor impact on their sleep, pets or exercise routine.

About 4 in 10 Americans say they've had unexpectedly expensive utility bills in the past year because of storms, flood, heat, or wildfires, including nearly half of homeowners.

According to the poll, about 1 in 10 Americans say that extreme heat has had a major impact on their sleep in the past year, while about 3 in 10 say it's had a minor impact and 55% say it's had no im-

pact. Hispanic Americans are more likely than white Americans to say their sleep has been affected, and lower-income Americans are also more likely than higher-income Americans to report an effect on their sleep.

Other aspects of daily life — like jobs and commutes, the timing of events like weddings and reunions, and travel and vacation plans — have been less broadly disrupted, but their impact is disproportionately felt among specific groups of Americans. About one-quarter of Americans say that their travel or vacation plans have been impacted by extreme heat, with Hispanic and Black Americans more likely than white Americans to say this.

Even simply enjoying time outside has become more difficult for some. The poll found that about 6 in 10 Americans say extreme heat has impacted outdoor activities for themselves or their family.

Wall Street rallies again as Japan's vow eases market

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks are bouncing higher on Wall Street again as a bit more fear washes out of global markets Wednesday following their steep, scary slides that began last week.

The S&P 500 was jumping by 1.4% in morning trading and on pace for a back-to-back gain of at least 1% following its brutal three-day losing streak where it tumbled a bit more than 6%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 377 points, or 1%, as of 10:20 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 1.6% higher.

Several reasons were likely behind the slide for markets worldwide, and one of them that's centered in Japan seems to be calming. The Bank of Japan raised its main interest rate by only a bit last week, but the move nevertheless sent aftershocks worldwide. It scrambled a favorite trade among some hedge funds and other investors, who borrowed money for

very cheap in Japanese yen and then invested it elsewhere around the world.

Speaking to business leaders in the northern island of Hokkaido, Shinichi Uchida, deputy governor of the Bank of Japan, acknowledged the recent market turmoil, which was also triggered in part by concerns about the slowing U.S. economy.

Japan's central bank can afford to wait, he said, and "will not raise its policy interest rate when financial and capital markets are unstable." He also said he believed the U.S. economy would have a "soft landing" and avoid a recession, even if fears have risen the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates too high for too long in hopes of stifling inflation.

The Japanese promise offered a balm for markets, nervous about additional moves by the Bank of Japan, which only recently ended its yearslong campaign to keep interest rates below zero.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

911 operator walks mom through at-home delivery

TN NASHVILLE — When a 911 call came in saying a woman in Nashville was experiencing sudden labor, emergency operator Kaitlyn Kramer says her training kicked in as she successfully coached the expectant mom and bystanders through delivering a healthy baby boy.

Audio of the July 7 call reveals Kramer's calm voice guiding the process even as the voices on the other end grew frantic as the mother's water broke and the baby's head started crowning.

Kramer is a training officer for Nashville's Department of Emergency Communications.

"We're going to do this together," Kramer told a friend of the mother's over the phone. Moments later, the caller is yelling with excitement that the baby arrived but mentioned that the cord was wrapped around his neck.

Prosecutors to charge ex-police chief over raid

KS TOPEKA — Two special prosecutors said Monday that they plan to charge a former central Kansas police chief with obstruction of justice over his conduct following a police raid last year on the local weekly newspaper.

Prosecutors Marc Bennett and Barry Wilkerson concluded in their 124-page report that the staff at the Marion County Record committed no crimes before former Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody led a raid on its offices and the home of its publisher. They said police warrants signed by a judge to allow the searches contained inaccurate information from an "inadequate investigation" and that the searches were not legally justified.

Police body camera footage of the 2023 raid on Publisher Eric Meyer's home shows his 98-year-old mother, Joan Meyer, visibly upset and telling officers, "Get out of my house!" She co-owned the paper, lived with her son and died of a heart attack the next afternoon.

Prosecutors found no evidence officers "believed they were posing a risk to Mrs. Meyer's life," but they allege Cody obstructed an official judicial process in the weeks after the raid. He resigned as chief last October.

Instructor charged with manslaughter in crash

PA PHILADELPHIA — A flight instructor charged with involuntary manslaughter for a crash that killed a student pilot in eastern Pennsylvania had surrendered his pilot's certificate after two prior crashes with students aboard, prosecutors said in an indictment unsealed Monday.

Philip Everton McPherson II, 36, of Haddon Township, N.J., was



GREG EANS, (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

Steering the ship

ST-325 ship captain Bob Kubota helps Olivia Dudley of Owensboro, Ky., steer a 40 mm Bofors Cannon during a tour of the ship, the last fully operational World War II Landing Ship, on Friday in Owensboro.

in command of the single-engine Piper PA-28 when it left Queen City Airport in Allentown with the student on Sept. 28, 2022, according to the indictment. He told the National Transportation Safety Board that he took control of the plane from the 49-year-old student just after takeoff, when they encountered engine problems, according to an NTSB report.

The plane soon crashed and caught fire, killing the student, who was identified only by the initials "K.K." McPherson was seriously injured.

Actor charged with murder in man's shooting

TX HOUSTON — Actor Akili McDowell, who starred in the television series "David Makes Man" and had roles in "Billions" and "The Astronaut Wives Club," has been charged with fatally shooting a man in the parking lot of a Houston apartment complex, authorities said.

McDowell, 21, was charged last week with murder in the July 20 shooting death of Cesar Peralta, 20, the Harris County sheriff's office said. McDowell remained in jail Monday on \$400,000 bond on the murder charge. The attorney listed for him in court records did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The sheriff's office said deputies found an unresponsive man with gunshot wounds after responding to a call about a shooting at an apartment complex on July

20. The sheriff's office said several witnesses told deputies the man had been in a physical altercation with another man, who fled on foot after the shooting.

Trial starts in Black representation case

MS JACKSON — Mississippi has the largest percentage of Black residents in the U.S., but only one Black justice serves on the state's highest court.

A federal judge started hearing arguments Monday in a lawsuit that seeks to compel Mississippi to redraw its three Supreme Court districts to increase the chances of Black candidates being elected. The district lines have been unchanged since 1987.

About 38% of Mississippi residents are Black.

The state has nine Supreme Court justices, with three elected from each of the districts in the northern, central and southern parts of the state. Eight of the current justices are white, and one is Black.

Four Black justices have served on the Mississippi Supreme Court, and never more than one at a time.

Trooper gets job back in Uvalde after suspension

TX AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety has reinstated a state trooper who was suspended after the botched law enforcement response to the shooting at a Uvalde

elementary school in 2022.

In a letter sent to Texas Ranger Christopher Ryan Kindell on Aug. 2 and released by the agency on Monday, DPS Director Col. Steve McCraw removed the officer's suspension status and restored him to his job in Uvalde County.

McCraw's letter said the local district attorney had requested Kindell be returned to his job, and noted he had not been charged by a local grand jury that reviewed the police response.

Nineteen students and two teachers were killed in the May 24, 2022, attack on Robb Elementary School, making it one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history.

AG asks court to dismiss Ten Commandments suit

LA BATON ROUGE — Louisiana's attorney general announced Monday that she is asking a federal court to dismiss a lawsuit that seeks to overturn the state's new law requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every public school classroom by Jan. 1.

The suit was filed in June by parents of Louisiana public school children with various religious backgrounds who contend the law violates First Amendment language forbidding government establishment of religion and guaranteeing religious liberty. Proponents of the law argue that it is not solely religious but that the Ten Commandments have historical

significance to the foundation of U.S. law.

As kids in Louisiana prepare to return to school this month, state officials presented large examples of posters featuring the Ten Commandments that Attorney General Liz Murrill argues "constitutionally comply with the law." The Republican said she is not aware of any school districts that have begun to implement the mandate, as the posters "haven't been produced yet."

Tornado sweeps through Buffalo, damages buildings

NY BUFFALO — A small tornado took Buffalo by surprise Monday, damaging buildings, flipping cars and sending debris swirling over downtown.

A spiraling column was caught on multiple videos shortly before 1 p.m. One video showed the cell appearing to move from Lake Erie into the city, which sits on the lake's shore, sending pieces of roofing flying before quickly dissipating. The National Weather Service determined the tornado began at the shore near where the lake flows into the Niagara River and traveled a 1.4-mile path.

In the aftermath, photos showed a car on its roof in a parking lot, street signs bent and fallen tree limbs across roads and sidewalks.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

NATION

Pakistani charged in plot to take out US political figures

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Pakistani man alleged to have ties to Iran has been charged in a plot to carry out political assassinations on U.S. soil, including potentially of former President Donald Trump.

The case disclosed by the Justice Department on Tuesday comes two years after officials disrupted a separate scheme that they said was aimed at former Trump administration national security adviser John Bolton.

Asif Merchant traveled to New York in June for the purpose of meeting with men he thought he was recruiting to carry out the killings, even paying a \$5,000 advance to two would-be assassins who were actually undercover law enforcement officers, federal officials said. He was arrested in July as he prepared to leave the United States, after having told the men that he would provide further instructions, including the names of the intended targets, in August or September after he returned to Pakistan.

Court documents do not identify any of the potential targets. But U.S. officials acknowledged in July that a threat on Trump's life from Iran prompted additional security in the days before a Pennsylvania rally in which Trump was injured by a shooter's bullet.

That July 13 shooting, carried out by a 20-year-old Pennsylvania man, was unrelated to the Iran threat and Merchant's arrest has no connection to the Trump assassination attempt, a law enforcement official said.

But an FBI agent's affidavit suggests Merchant had current or former high-level officials like Trump in mind. He told an associate who was secretly cooperating with law enforcement that he wanted a "political person" to be killed, the complaint said, mapping out on a napkin the different scenarios in which the target could be assassinated and warning that there would be security "all around."

U.S. officials have warned for years about Iran's desire to avenge the 2020 killing of Qassem Soleimani, who led the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force. That strike was ordered by Trump when he was president. The U.S. government has since paid for security for multiple Trump administration officials, and in 2022, the Justice Department charged an Iranian operative in a foiled plot to kill Bolton.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said at a July House hearing that the Iranian government had been "extremely aggressive and brazen" in recent years, and Attorney General Merrick Garland said Tuesday that "we expect that these threats will continue and that these cases will not be the last."

"The Justice Department will spare no resource to disrupt and hold accountable those who would carry out Iran's lethal plotting against Americans," he said.



Merchant



ROBERT COHEN/AP

Wesley Bell takes a video of his supporters as he takes the stage as the winner of the Democratic congressional primary against incumbent U.S. Rep. Cori Bush on Tuesday in St. Louis.

Bell defeats 'Squad' member Cori Bush in Democratic primary

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell has defeated U.S. Rep. Cori Bush in a Democratic primary in St. Louis, marking the second time this year that one of the party's incumbents has been ousted in an expensive contest that reflected deep divisions over the war in Gaza.

Bush, a member of the progressive congressional group known as the "Squad," was seeking a third term in Missouri's 1st Congressional District, which includes St. Louis city and part of St. Louis County. Bell is heavily favored to carry this overwhelmingly Democratic district in November, when his party is aiming to retake control of the U.S. House.

"I am committed to serving the St. Louis region in Congress with integrity, transparency, and dedication," Bell said in a statement. "Together, we will tackle the challenges ahead and build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

Bush, in a fiery concession

speech, said she still has work to do, even if she'll no longer be in Congress.

Bell's campaign received a big boost from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, whose super political action committee, United Democracy Project, spent \$8.5 million to oust Bush. She was targeted after repeated criticism of Israel's response to the Oct. 7 Hamas attack.

It was a gameplan that worked earlier this year in New York. In June, United Democracy Project spent \$15 million to defeat another Squad member — Rep. Jamaal Bowman. Bowman lost to George Latimer, a pro-Israel centrist.

A statement from United Democracy Project said the wins by Bell and Latimer, along with John McGuire's defeat of U.S. Rep. Bob Good in a Republican primary last week in Virginia, "is further proof that being pro-Israel is good poli-

cy and good politics on both sides of the aisle. UDP will continue our efforts to support leaders working to strengthen the U.S.-Israel alliance while countering detractors in either political party."

Bush, in her concession speech, said she won't change.

"We will keep supporting a free Palestine," Bush said. A crowd member answered back: "Free, free Palestine."

In October, Bush called the Israeli retaliation an "ethnic cleansing campaign." Soon after the Hamas attack, Bush wrote on social media that Israel's "collective punishment against Palestinians for Hamas's actions is a war crime."

Her comments prompted backlash, even among some supporters in her district. Bell, who had been planning a Senate run against incumbent Republican Josh Hawley, instead opted to challenge Bush.

He told The Associated Press last month that Bush's comments about Israel were "wrong and offensive."



Bush

US abortion numbers rise slightly since Roe v. Wade was overturned

Associated Press

Abortion was slightly more common across the U.S. in the first three months of this year than it was before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and cleared the way for states to im-

plement bans, a report released Wednesday found.

A major reason for the increase is that some Democratic-controlled states enacted laws to protect doctors who use telemedicine to see patients in places that have

abortion bans, according to the quarterly #WeCount report for the Society of Family Planning, which supports abortion access.

The data comes ahead of November elections in which abortion-rights supporters hope the is-

sue will drive voters to the polls. In some places, voters will have a chance to enshrine or reject state-level abortion protections.

Fallout from the Supreme Court's June 2022 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Orga-*

nization has remade the way abortion works across the country. The #WeCount data, which has been collected in a monthly survey since April 2022, shows how those providing and seeking abortion have adapted to changing laws.

Your votes. Your favorites. Your Best of the Pacific.

ANNOUNCING
THE BEST OF 2024



Pick up the magazine
or get it online



STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

Death toll rises as Russia battles incursion from Ukraine

Bloomberg News

Fighting in Russia's Kursk region entered a second day following what officials in Moscow called an incursion involving hundreds of Ukrainian troops, turning President Vladimir Putin's invasion back onto his own territory.

Shelling continues in the region, where at least five people have been killed and 28 wounded in the attacks, Russia's state-run Tass news service reported Wednesday. Acting Kursk Governor Alexey Smirnov said on Telegram that a Ukrainian drone struck an ambulance, killing the driver and a

paramedic, adding that regional air defenses intercepted four missiles and three drones overnight.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that troops and border guards were fighting as many as 300 Ukrainian soldiers backed by 11 tanks and more than 20 other armored vehicles in the border region. Artillery and aircraft fired on the Ukrainian formations, and Russia called up reserves of troops to the region, according to the ministry's Telegram channel.

The ministry initially declared that the Ukrainian troops had retreated back across the border af-

ter suffering "significant losses." That information was later deleted from its statement.

Russian military bloggers reported Wednesday that Ukrainian troops continued to occupy several border villages and were advancing toward the town of Sudzha, which hosts a key gas metering station, where they were faced air and artillery attacks. Gazprom PJSC's export gas flows via Sudzha toward Ukraine and on to Europe, which declined slightly Wednesday from previous days, continue normally, according to the Russian energy producer.

Ukrainian officials haven't publicly commented, while the General Staff press service didn't return calls for comment.

Ukraine reported that its air defenses downed 30 Russian Shahed drones laden with explosives overnight. Russia continued attacks along the frontline and shelled border villages in Ukraine's northerneast Sumy region, on the border with Kursk, and neighboring Chernihiv region, the general staff in Kyiv said.

Officials in Russia's southern city of Voronezh said Wednesday that 22 apartments, five other

buildings and 38 vehicles were damaged by debris from downed Ukrainian drones, Tass reported.

As Ukraine continues to defend against the Russian invasion that's now in its third year, it has been conducting strikes on Russian infrastructure and industrial facilities to try to undermine the Kremlin's war machine.

Russia's Belgorod and Kursk regions bordering Ukraine have faced repeated drone and missile attacks in the war. Units of anti-Kremlin Russian volunteers based in Ukraine have also staged cross-border raids.

UK deploying 6,000 special officers as more far-right disorder expected

Associated Press

LONDON — British police are gearing up for another night of violence amid concerns that far-right groups plan to target as many as 30 locations around the United Kingdom on Wednesday following a week of rioting and disorder.

Authorities are mobilizing about 6,000 specially trained officers this week to respond to disorder

throughout the U.K., and London's Metropolitan Police Service said it would do "everything in our power" to protect the capital.

"We know about the events planned by hateful and divisive groups across the capital," Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Valentine of the Met said late Tuesday. "They've made their intention to cause disruption and division

very clear ... We will not tolerate this on our streets."

U.K. cities and towns across have been wracked by violence for the past week as angry mobs egged on by far-right extremists have clashed with police and counterdemonstrators sparked by the spread of misinformation about the identity of the suspect in a stabbing rampage that killed three young

girls in the seaside community of Southport. The suspect was falsely identified as an immigrant and a Muslim.

Rioters spouting anti-immigrant slogans have attacked mosques and hotels housing asylum-seekers, with reports emerging of violent counterattacks in some communities.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer

held a second consecutive meeting of the government's COBRA emergency response committee on Tuesday to coordinate the response to the crisis, which he has described as "far-right thuggery."

Police have already made more than 400 arrests around the country, and the government has pledged to prosecute and jail those responsible for the disorder.

STARS AND STRIPES SERVICE DIRECTORY
The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

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

For Further Information Please Contact

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

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

Trans Global
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Are you in the picture?

Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

FACES

Daisy Ridley shares details of Graves' disease diagnosis

BY DAWN BURKES
Los Angeles Times

Daisy Ridley was battling more than waves when she filmed "Young Woman and the Sea," revealing Monday that she has Graves' disease.

"It's the first I've shared that [Graves']," the "Star Wars" actor told Women's Health in an interview published Tuesday. Graves' disease is an autoimmune disorder in which the thyroid becomes overactive.

The actor has been open about her health struggles over the years, sharing in a 2016 Instagram post that she was diagnosed with endometriosis at 15, according to Teen Vogue. The condition occurs "when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus (womb) grows outside of the uterus," according to

the Office on Women's Health. She also has been diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome, which the Office on Women's Health says causes "a hormonal imbalance and metabolism problems that may affect overall health and appearance."

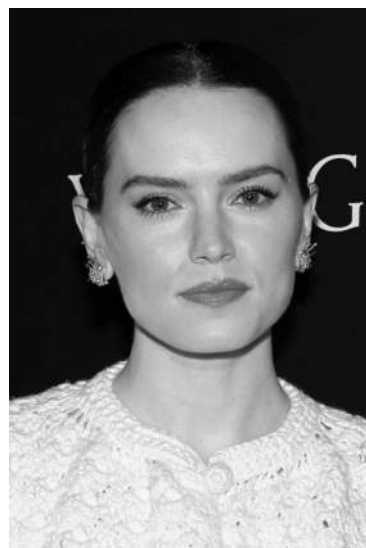
Ridley was diagnosed with Graves' in September 2023, she told Women's Health. She said she started feeling awful after filming "Magpie," in which she plays a disgruntled wife. She thought the role had something to do with why she felt crummy. Her symptoms included weight loss, fatigue, tremors, a rapid heart rate — and irritability.

"It was funny, I was like, 'Oh, I just thought I was annoyed at the world,' but turns out everything is functioning so quickly, you can't

chill out," the 32-year-old said.

Ridley is both an executive producer and the lead actor in the film about Gertrude "Trudy" Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel. Even while pushing herself to do the most during the swim scenes in "Young Woman and the Sea," her diagnosis kept her more mindful of her diet and lifestyle and paying attention to her body. She's already vegan and is "cutting down on gluten." She said it just didn't register how bad she had been feeling before her diagnosis.

"We all read the stats about women being undiagnosed or underdiagnosed and sort of coming to terms with saying, 'I really, actually don't feel good' and not going, 'I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm fine.' It's just normalized to not



ARTURO HOLMES, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Daisy Ridley, shown May 2, says her Graves' disease diagnosis is making her more mindful about diet and lifestyle choices.

feel good," she says.

She added: "I've always been health-conscious and now I'm trying to be more well-being conscious."

Taylor Swift leads MTV Video Music nominations

Associated Press

It's Taylor Swift's world, and the MTV Video Music Award nominations are the latest proof.

"The Tortured Poets Department" singer once again tops the VMA noms with 10 — eight for her "Fortnight" music video and nods in the artist of the year and best pop categories. She's followed by her "Fortnight" collaborator Post Malone, who is nominated along with Swift eight times and earned his ninth nod for his country hit "I Had Some Help," featuring Morgan Wallen.

Rounding out the artist of the year category nominees announced Tuesday are Ariana Grande, Bad Bunny, Eminem, Sabrina Carpenter and SZA.

Swift took home nine VMAs last year, bringing her total to an impressive 23. That places her just behind Beyoncé, who has 28 (two with Destiny's Child) and ahead of Madonna, who has 20 awards, and Lady Gaga, who has 19.

The 2024 MTV VMAs will air live on Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. EDT.

Grande, Carpenter and Eminem are tied with six nods; Megan Thee Stallion and SZA have five each. Blackpink's LISA, Olivia Rodrigo and Teddy Swims follow with four nominations.

Fan voting begins online Tuesday across 15 gender-neutral categories and ends Aug. 30.

Lauryn Hill and Fugees cancel their 2024 tour

Ms. Lauryn Hill and the Fugees have called off a U.S. tour that was set to begin Friday.

Representatives for Hill and Live Nation didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Billed as the "Miseducation" anniversary tour, the road show was supposed to feature Hill and her Fugees bandmates Wyclef Jean and Pras Michel performing music from the Fugees' seven-times-platinum 1996 album, "The Source," and from Hill's Grammy-winning 1998 solo debut, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." It was scheduled to kick off Friday in Tampa, Fla., and run through mid-September.

After not performing together for 15 years, the Fugees — known for hip-hop hits like "Ready or Not" and their smash rendition of Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly With His Song" — announced a reunion tour in 2021 but played only a single date before canceling the tour as a result of what the group said were pandemic-related difficulties. Hill and the Fugees hit the road again in late 2023 only to cancel a second time, with Hill citing "serious vocal strain."

Focus of Woodward's 'War' on conflicts, politics

Bob Woodward's next book, continuing a long tradition of election year releases, will focus on the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and how they shape American presidential politics.

Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday that Woodward's "War" will be published Oct. 15. The publisher is calling the book an "intimate and sweeping account of one of the most tumultuous and dangerous periods in presidential politics and American history," centered on President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump.

Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday that Woodward's "War" will be published Oct. 15. The publisher is calling the book an "intimate and sweeping account of one of the most tumultuous and dangerous periods in presidential politics and American history," centered on President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump.

Fox News' Yingst writing about Hamas invasion

The chief foreign correspondent for Fox News, Trey Yingst, will have a book out this fall timed to the first anniversary of the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks in Israel.

"Black Saturday" will be published Oct. 1 by Fox News Books, a HarperCollins imprint. According to the publisher, Yingst will offer "a vivid picture of horrors and violence, matched by acts of courage and humanity that cut through the darkness on the morning of October 7th."

Yingst, 30, has covered conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East since joining Fox in 2018.

From The Associated Press



MANUEL HARLAN, NETFLIX/AP

From left, Isabella Pappas, Oscar Lloyd and Christopher Buckley perform "Stranger Things: The First Shadow" in London. Producers said Tuesday that the stage play will jump to New York in spring 2025.

Big step for 'Stranger Things'

'The First Shadow' stage play will land on Broadway in spring 2025

Los Angeles Times

The Upside Down is coming to New York City.

"Stranger Things: The First Shadow" will arrive on Broadway in 2025, Netflix and Sonia Friedman Productions said Tuesday. The stage show, based on the mythology and world of the hit Netflix series, will begin previews at the Marquis Theatre on March 28 ahead of opening night on April 22, making it eligible for next year's Tony Awards.

"The First Shadow," directed by Stephen Daldry and co-directed by Justin Martin, made its world premiere last fall on London's West End. The sci-fi/horror spectacle won two Olivier Awards and is scheduled to play through at least early 2025.

"We are going to blow people's minds," producer Sonia Friedman told The Times last year. "We are going to terrify with some of the most startling, extraordinary things with the physical production."

The prequel play is set in Hawkins in 1959, and un-

veils how the show's fictional Indiana town became a hotbed of supernatural activity. While the story involves familiar characters — including those played onscreen by Winona Ryder, David Harbour, Sean Astin and Matthew Modine — the plot outlines the origins of Henry Creel, the villain also known as Vecna, who was introduced to TV viewers in Season 4.

"It's scary like 'Stranger Things' is scary," said playwright Kate Trefry, who has also been a writer on the series since its second season. "There's a little bit of like guts and gore, and then there's also real trauma — people dealing with real stuff."

"The First Shadow," based on a story by the series' creators the Duffer Brothers, Jack Thorne and Trefry, was written while Season 4 was in development and has "hints of where it is going to go" in its final season. The Duffer Brothers are creative producers of the stage show. Shawn Levy and Dan Cohen's 21 Laps Entertainment are associate producers.

STARS AND STRIPES

Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
 Lt. Col. Katie R. Fidler, Europe commander
 John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Pacific commander

EDITORIAL

Robert H. Reid, Editor in Chief
 reid.robert@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com

Ann Pinson, Digital Managing Editor
 pinson.ann@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

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

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

Pacific

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

+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

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

(+1)(202)886-0033

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

CIRCULATION

Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager
 schultz.david@stripes.com
 xsscirculation@stripes.com
 +49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

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

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

Pacific

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

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003

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

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Jacqueline Smith

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

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

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

© Stars and Stripes 2024
stripes.com

OPINION

Harris is avoiding the press, getting away with it

By JONAH GOLDBERG
 Tribune Content Agency

To the surprise of just about everyone, Kamala Harris has had a remarkably good two weeks (whether her selection of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz marks the end of that honeymoon or an extension of it remains to be seen).

Democrats, of course, have been pleasantly surprised. Prior to President Joe Biden's withdrawal from the race, many Democrats were exceedingly skeptical that swapping Harris for Biden would improve their chances in November. So far, many of their concerns have proved unwarranted.

No ugly, protracted intraparty civil war for the nomination ensued; Harris essentially secured it within a day or two of Biden's withdrawal. Her past positions haven't made her radioactive among swing voters. Her very low approval numbers as Biden's vice president have not carried over to her candidacy. The campaign transition was apparently frictionless: Harris basically just hung a new shingle on the same operation. And any concern that she didn't have time to raise money was erased by a firehose of donations — more than \$300 million in July alone.

It seems it was the Democrats' unpopular, senescent, cantankerous candidate who was holding them back after all. Voters hunger for a change candidate — one role that can't be played by an incumbent who has been in federal office since the heyday of "All in the Family" and "The Waltons."

The chief indication that the Harris team knows what it's doing may be its effort to keep the candidate herself under wraps. Sure,

we've seen a lot of her: in ads, scripted rallies, and a few brief statements. But she hasn't endured an extended interaction with the press since before the June 27 debate that doomed Biden's candidacy. The last time was on June 24 on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," hardly a challenging venue for a Democrat.

The Harris campaign's decision to avoid sitting down with an aggressive or even particularly curious reporter is not necessarily a sign that it lacks confidence in her (as many critics insist). Even if she were a fantastic off-the-cuff political communicator — which she is not — keeping her on script for a while makes sense. The longer she can be all things to all people — or at least to all persuadable voters — the better off she is. Answering hard questions runs the risk of disabusing some voters of who they think or hope she is.

Also, going back to Sun Tzu or Napoleon, it's been a truism that when your opponent is flailing, you shouldn't get in the way. This is particularly true in the Donald Trump era: When people's attention is focused on Trump, they don't like what they see. And Biden's withdrawal has provoked an eruption of ad hominem Trumpiness from the former president.

Last week, Trump railed against Harris' identification as a black woman and then spent a sizable chunk of his rally in Atlanta attacking Brian Kemp, Georgia's deservedly popular Republican governor. Why would Democrats want to distract anyone from that?

Still, it is disturbing that even as Americans and our allies harbor serious concerns about whether the president is up to an increasingly fraught geopolitical and economic moment,

his constitutional understudy has done so little to reassure the public.

Less consequential but more outrageous is the press' collective complicity in Harris' strategy. The vice president's campaign has wisely flip-flopped on many of the fatally left-wing positions she took during her ill-fated first presidential campaign — against fracking, in favor of Medicare for All, sympathetic to calls to cut funding to police departments and so on. But the press shouldn't let her get away with it so easily.

If this were a remotely normal time, reporters would be shouting questions like "When will you hold a press conference?" every time Harris steps off Air Force Two. Admittedly, this isn't a normal time. But that doesn't excuse journalists from demanding more transparency of a candidate who sidestepped the entire primary process.

Willingly enabling a campaign strategy is not the fourth estate's proper role, but even if you think it is, protecting Harris from scrutiny could eventually do more harm than good. Hiding the full extent of Biden's decline worked well for a time. But when the reality was revealed, it came as such a shock that he was forced to drop out of the race. Shielding Harris from scrutiny could also have serious consequences when, unprotected by a teleprompter or a pliable press corps, she produces one of her signature word salads.

I don't like the press' sudden love affair with Harris. But even if I did, I would counsel some tough love sooner rather than later.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

What Walz offers Dem ticket is more than 'weird'

By KAREN TUMULTY
 The Washington Post

Weird things can happen in politics. One of them was how Tim Walz popped onto the radar as a potential running mate for Vice President Kamala Harris.

"We do not like what has happened, when you can't even go to Thanksgiving dinner with your uncle because you end up in some weird fight that is unnecessary," the Minnesota governor said during a July 23 appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

"Well, it's true," he added. "These guys are just weird."

"Weird" was the perfect put-down of Donald Trump and his vice-presidential pick, Sen. JD Vance of Ohio. Not all that nasty or alarmist. More of an eye-roll than a frontal assault.

All of a sudden, "weird" seemed to be on every Democrat's lips. And all of a sudden, people started imagining the folksy Walz sharing the ticket with Harris.

A dizzyingly fast progression of events over three weeks had seen President Joe Biden dropping out of the presidential race, the vice president ascending on an explosion of euphoria, and then having to pick her own Kamala Harris — a decision that offers the clearest signal yet of how she sees the road to victory in November and the four to eight years that lay beyond it.

The governor has an appealing, relatable background as a gun-owning Army National Guard veteran and beloved former high school teacher and football coach. He represented a conservative rural U.S. House district for six terms before running successfully

for governor in 2018.

Walz was the most base-pleasing choice among those who were reported to be on Harris' short list. His policies as governor have included providing free breakfast and lunch for schoolchildren, expanding background checks on guns, codifying abortion rights, and offering tuition-free college to lower-income Minnesota residents.

No doubt, his brand of vigorous liberalism will be a line of GOP attack. Within minutes of news breaking that Walz was Harris' choice, the Republican National Committee blasted out a news release branding him "radical and extreme." The Trump campaign issued a statement saying that, by selecting Walz, Harris "bent the knee to the radical left."

Walz is ready for it. "What a monster. Kids are eating and having full bellies, so they can go learn, and women are making their own health care decisions," he told CNN last month. "If that's what they want to label me, I'm more than happy to take the label."

I'm dubious of how well that label will stick. Walz, more than most Democrats, has a genuine feel for the concerns and grievances of people in conservative corners of the country. While his diss of Trump is catching on with Democrats, Walz cautions that their contempt for the former president should not extend to his supporters.

As Walz put it in an interview last week with Ezra Klein of The New York Times: "We have got to figure out and see if we're to some of the blame that we haven't made the message clear enough. We haven't delivered on those promises that people wanted to see. ... I keep coming back to this: If they're not voting for us, there's not something wrong with them;

there's something that's not quite clicking. So don't assume they're just not clever enough to understand what you're selling them."

With her selection of Walz, Harris appears to have thrown aside the hoary playbook by which these decisions are expected to be made.

Walz will not necessarily help Harris win a crucial swing state, as many Democrats thought Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro or Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly might have. But the truth is, picking a running mate with winning a specific state in mind is a tactic that has rarely if ever worked.

Nor does Walz shave the edges off issues in which Harris might be vulnerable — such as Shapiro might have helped regarding her past statements, since disavowed, opposing fracking; or as Kelly might have done with the attacks she is certain to face over the surge of migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border that has happened during the Biden-Harris years.

But the current chair of the Democratic Governors Association does bring a greater depth of executive experience than the other candidates that Harris was considering. That suggests that, having been in the job of vice president herself for nearly four years, she was looking ahead to who might be her strongest governing partner. And who might be best prepared to take over if an unthinkable calamity happens.

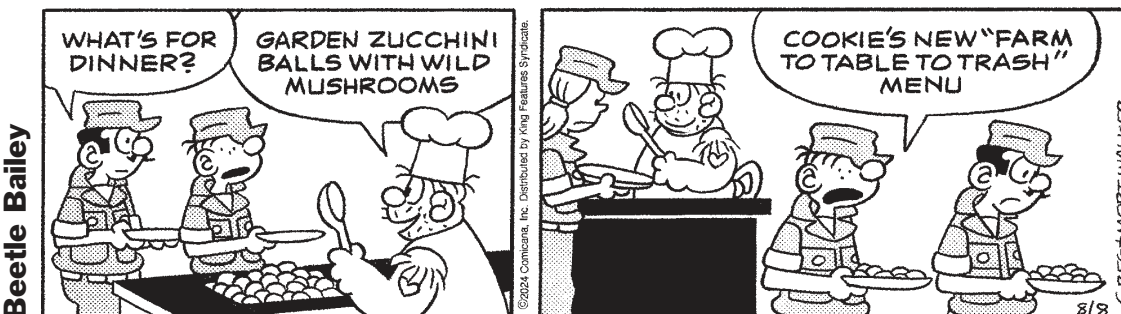
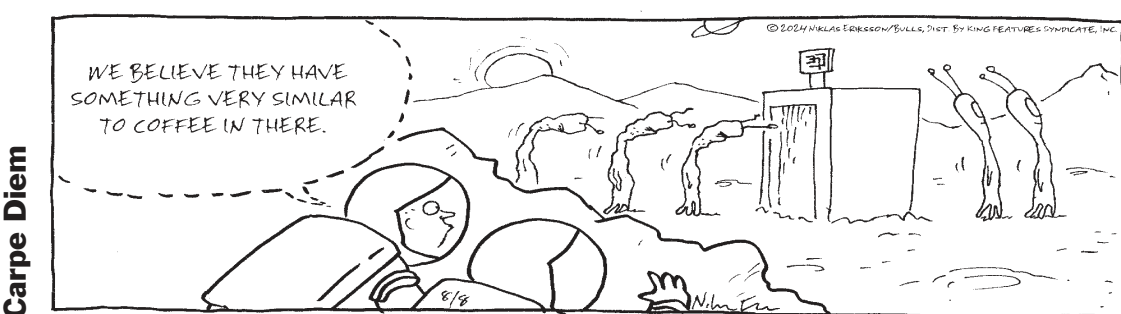
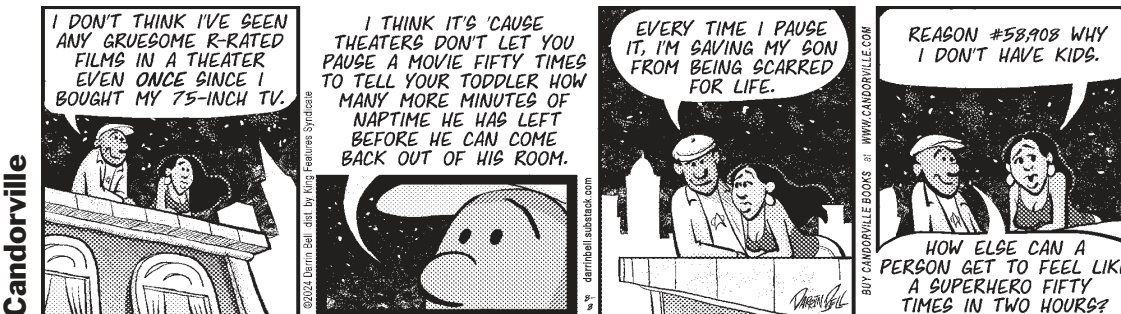
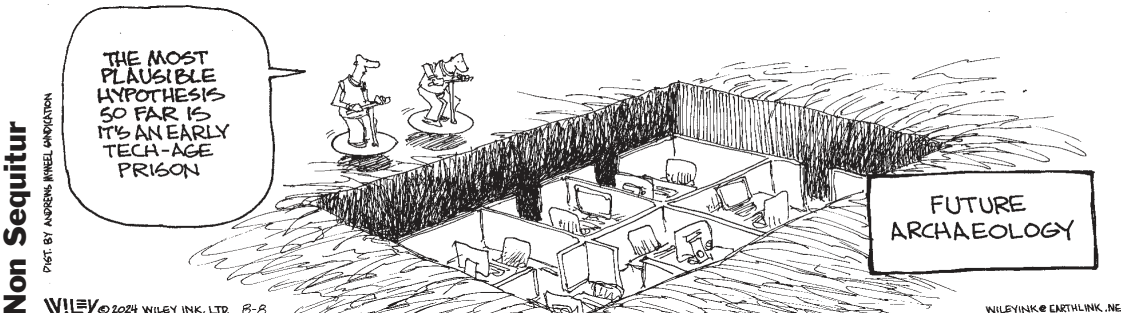
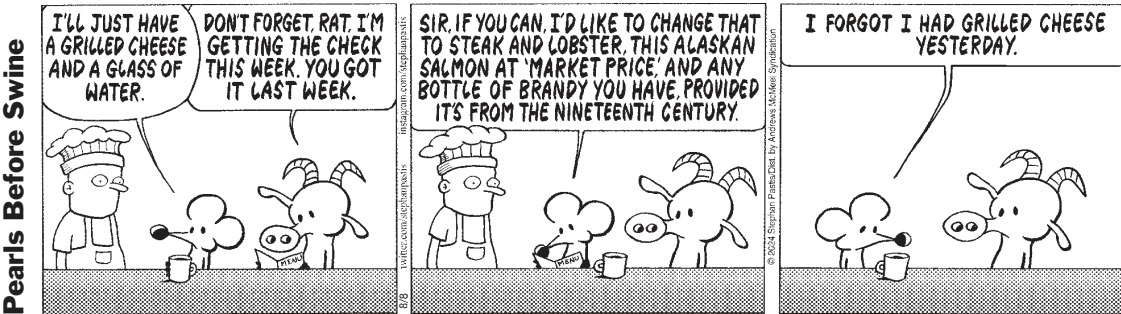
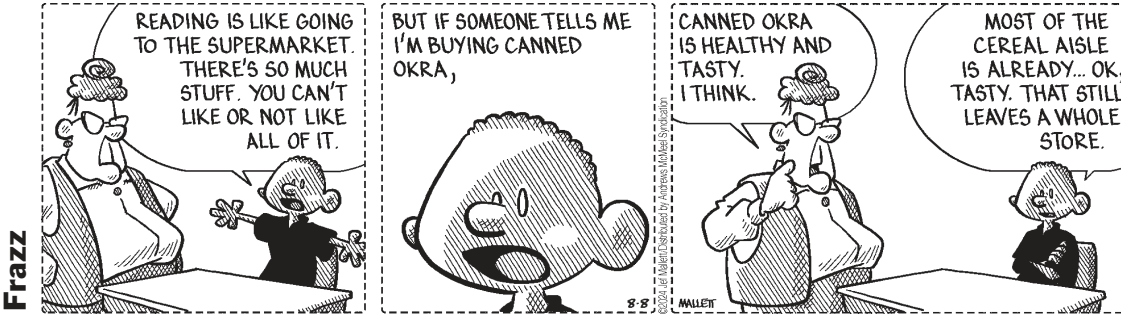
The selection of a running mate probably won't determine how a presidential election turns out, but it could make a big difference in how well a presidency fares.

Karen Tumulty is an associate editor and columnist covering national politics.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18				19			20	21					
			22			23					24	25	
26	27	28				29				30			
31					32				33				
34				35				36					
37			38					39					
			40					41			42	43	44
45	46					47	48			49			
50						51				52			
53						54				55			

ACROSS

- 1 Durango home
- 5 Tampa Bay NFLer
- 8 Designer Rabanne
- 12 Mosque VIP
- 13 Punk-rock subgenre
- 14 Big-screen format
- 15 Verdi heroine
- 16 Opening
- 17 Comic Jay
- 18 Black Sea port
- 20 Nest egg choices
- 22 Marching formation
- 26 Drive away
- 29 San Francisco’s — Hill
- 30 Poetic contraction
- 31 Nile bird
- 32 Cereal grain
- 33 Pitcher
- 34 Sandy shade
- 35 ER workers
- 36 Luminaries
- 37 Admirer of English things
- 40 Milne bruin
- 41 Despot
- 45 Elitist
- 47 Ecol. watchdog
- 49 Linguist Chomsky

- 50 Logical
- 51 Online address
- 52 “— Karenina”
- 53 Early birds?
- 54 Tofu source
- 55 Low-fat

- 21 Civil War soldier
- 23 Grind one’s teeth
- 24 Ogler’s look
- 25 Goofs
- 26 Broadway star Moreno
- 27 Abba of Israel
- 28 Table game
- 32 Husband of Eurydice
- 33 Unending
- 35 Scooby- —
- 36 Devious
- 38 Oft-pierced ear areas
- 39 Tuscany setting
- 42 Top-of-the-line
- 43 “Peter Pan” dog
- 44 Eliot Ness, e.g.
- 45 Compass dir.
- 46 Pester
- 48 Expert

DOWN

- 1 Pisa farewell
- 2 During
- 3 “Maureen” singer
- 4 Gathers
- 5 Started
- 6 Ms. Thurman
- 7 Cockpit colleague
- 8 Kebab go-with
- 9 Midwest university city
- 10 Paint container
- 11 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 19 Part of RSVP

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-8

CRYPTOQUIP

BCD IVPCF IWGS XDXGFVZR

EDA EWAI LSWRFR ZVGS

XC V X G S M R, N V P R, R C S S N

W M H X D B R? W L W A M F S M H S A.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING ALL OF WINNIE-THE-POOH’S TEETH WERE TO FALL OUT, I’D SAY HE WOULD BE A GUMMY BEAR.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

SCOREBOARD/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL preseason

Thursday's games

Carolina at New England
Detroit at N.Y. Giants

Friday's games

Atlanta at Miami
Houston at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at Baltimore

Saturday's games

Washington at N.Y. Jets
Chicago at Buffalo
Las Vegas at Minnesota
Green Bay at Cleveland
Kansas City at Jacksonville
San Francisco at Tennessee
Tampa Bay at Cincinnati
Seattle at L.A. Chargers
New Orleans at Arizona

Sunday's games

Denver at Indianapolis
Dallas at L.A. Rams

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.

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Assigned OFs Zach Erhard and Will Turner and C Hudson White to Greenville (SAL).

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Designated RHP Xzavion Curry for assignment. Selected the contract of CB Anthony Gose from Columbus (IL). Optioned LHP Logan Allen to Columbus.

DETROIT TIGERS — Sent LF Kerry Carpenter to Toledo (IL) on a rehab assignment.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Designated RHP Dylan Coleman for assignment. Optioned 3B Trey Cabbage to Sugar Land (PCL). Recalled RHP Darren McCaughan from Jacksonville (IL). Selected the contract of SS Zach Dezenzo from Sugar Land.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Sent RHP Dan Altavilla to Omaha (IL) on a rehab assignment.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Reinstated 3B Anthony Rendon from the 10-day IL. Placed 3B Taylor Ward on the paternity list.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Giovanni Gallegos on a minor league contract. Sent 2B Kyle Farmer to St. Paul (IL) on a rehab assignment.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Sent RHP Dany Jimenez to Las Vegas (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Josh Fleming on a minor league contract.

TEXAS RANGERS — Reinstated RHP Tyler Mahle from the 60-day IL. Optioned LHP Walter Pennington to Round Rock (IL). Designated C Andrew Knizner for assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Matt Festa on a minor league contract.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Selected the contract of C Adrian Del Castillo from Reno (PCL). Reinstated LHP Eduardo Rodriguez from the 60-day IL. Placed C Gabriel Moreno on the 10-day IL. Transferred RHP Bryce Jarvis from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Humberto Castellanos to Reno. Sent RHO Merrill Kelly to Hillsboro (NL) on a rehab assignment.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Sent OF Michael Harris II to Gwinnett (IL) on a rehab assignment. Recalled RHP Bryce Elder from Gwinnett. Placed RHP Reynaldo Lopez on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Aug. 2.

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with RHP Adrián Houser on a minor league contract.

CINCINNATI REDS — Agreed to terms with C Tucker Barnhart on a minor league contract.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Selected the contract of LHP Chasen Shreve from Albuquerque (PCL). Designated RHP John Curtiss for assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with OF Donovan Casey on a minor league contract. Sent SS Miguel Rojas to Rancho Cucamonga (CAL) on a rehab assignment.

MIAMI MARLINS — Sent LHP Josh Simpson to Jupiter (FSL) on a rehab assignment. Optioned RHP Shaun Anderson to Jacksonville (IL). Recalled RHP Darren McCaughan from Jacksonville.

NEW YORK METS — Sent RHP Reed Garrett to Syracuse (IL) on a rehab assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Sent RHP Taijuan Walker to Lehigh Valley (IL) on a rehab assignment. Acquired RHP Nelson L. Alvarez from Tampa Bay for cash considerations.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with Austin Davis on a minor league contract.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Placed C Curt Casali on the paternity list. Selected the contract of C Jackson Reetz from Sacramento (PCL). Recalled RHP Hayden Birdsong from Sacramento. Optioned RHP

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	21	4	.840	—
Connecticut	18	6	.750	2½
Indiana	11	15	.423	10½
Chicago	10	14	.417	10½
Atlanta	7	17	.292	13½
Washington	6	19	.240	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	17	8	.680	—
Seattle	17	8	.680	—
Las Vegas	16	8	.667	½
Phoenix	13	12	.520	4
Los Angeles	6	18	.250	10½
Dallas	6	19	.240	11

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

No games scheduled.

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled.

Thursday's games

No games scheduled.

Friday's games

No games scheduled.



MORRY GASH/AP

South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley celebrates after her team won the national championship in April.

NCAA closer to rewarding women's teams financially

Programs in line to receive revenue if they qualify for March Madness

By DOUG FEINBERG

Associated Press

Women's basketball teams moved a step closer to getting financially rewarded for success in the NCAA Tournament.

The Division I Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday to introduce a proposal that will give performance units to teams that play in March Madness. Units represent revenue.

The proposal goes to the NCAA's Board of Governors later this week to approve the allocation of funds, which is considered a formality. If approved by Division I membership in January, the plan would begin rewarding results with the 2025 tournament.

Central Arkansas President Houston Davis, who is the chairman of the board's finance committee, said the panel has been working on women's basketball units for about a year, though conversations go farther back than that.

"This is not only a big move for the association, but something D-I's very proud of," Davis said Wednesday during a video conference with reporters. He and NCAA President Charlie Baker both said they expect membership to approve the plan.

"I'll be shocked if this thing has any issues at all," Baker said.

The NCAA sharing March Madness revenue with its member schools has long been a feature of the men's tournament. The 2018 tournament, for example, brought

in \$844.3 million in television and marketing rights, the vast majority from a contract with CBS and Turner Sports to televise the games. The latest extension of that deal is worth \$8.8 billion over eight years, starting this year.

Most of the money flows through the NCAA to conferences and then back to member schools, more than 300 of which field Division I basketball teams eligible to play in the tournament. The schools mostly re-invest in athletics, from scholarships for athletes in all sports to coaching salaries, training facilities, stadiums, ballparks and arenas.

The lack of a units system for the women's tournament has been a point of sharp criticism.

What helped push it through now is the NCAA's new media rights deal with ESPN that includes many women's championships. Women's basketball is valued at \$65 million per tournament — roughly 10 times more than in the contract that ends this year.

The women's March Madness proposal is similar to the men's basketball unit program. Each of 32 conferences that receives an automatic bid to the tournament will receive a unit and additional units will be rewarded for teams that receive at-large bids.

The longer a school's tournament run lasts the more units the school's conference receives. Conferences decide the distribution of unit revenue to each of its members. Each unit was worth

about \$2 million for the 2023 men's tourney.

The Division I Board said proposed funds for women's basketball would begin at \$15 million in the 2025-26 fiscal year, increase to \$20 million for the 2026-27 fiscal year and reach the proposed \$25 million starting with 2027-28. The women's basketball funds would grow at the same rate as all other Division I funds, approximately 2.9% each year.

"The rewarding of the teams that participate in the NCAA Tournament is something that will have a significant impact on the sport," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "You will see an increase in the level of support for women's basketball that has not been seen before. We should all be excited going forward."

Distribution of the units is paid out over a six-year period on the men's side, meaning this year conferences are earning money on units from 2018-2023. Davis said the plan for the women is for units to be paid out over a three-year period.

Baker said Thursday that the antitrust settlement the NCAA and five major conferences recently agreed to — which includes \$2.8 billion in damages paid out by the association over 10 years — had no impact on the decision to move forward with a women's basketball units program.

AP college sports writer Ralph D. Russo contributed.

MLB

ROUNDUP

Astros win, Valdez nearly gets no-no

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Framber Valdez was so steady for eight innings.

A wobbly ninth cost the Houston left-hander his second career no-hitter.

Valdez was an out away from more history when Texas slugger Corey Seager hit a two-run homer in the Astros' 4-2 victory over the Rangers on Tuesday night.

It had been just more than a year since Valdez's first no-hitter, and the 30-year-old was cruising when he took the mound needing just three outs for what would have been the second this season for Houston.

The 99th pitch from the two-time All-Star finished a leadoff walk to Robbie Grossman, but the 100th was the second Texas double play of the game.

When Ezequiel Duran's bouncer to third baseman Alex Bregman emptied the bases with two outs, the roar from another strong contingent of Houston fans at the home of the Rangers signaled the anticipation.

Josh Smith kept the defending champs alive with another walk, setting up Seager's 24th homer on the first pitch he saw in the ninth—the 107th and final one from Valdez (11-5). It was the fifth homer in five games for the reigning World Series MVP.

"I try to always go out there trying to have fun," Valdez said through an interpreter. "Obviously, sometimes I have got to get serious. Went out there and do what I try to do every single time, try and throw strikes on all my pitches and just try to help help the team win."

Yordan Alvarez hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning that ended up being the difference. Jake Meyers drove in the first two Houston runs with a pair of singles.

White Sox 5, Athletics 1: Andrew Benintendi hit a two-run homer and visiting Chicago snapped its American League record-tying losing streak at 21 games on Tuesday night, beating Oakland.

Jonathan Cannon gave up one run in six innings to end his personal drought while helping the White Sox to their first victory since early July.

Reds 8, Marlins 2: Elly De La Cruz again battered the Marlins while at bat and on the bases, going 4 for 5 with two doubles, as visiting Cincinnati routed Miami.

A night after hitting two homers and two doubles, De La Cruz singled in the first, doubled and scored in the third and hit a bases-loaded double in the fourth that scored two. He then scored after stealing his major league-leading 58th base of the season, snagging



ALBERT PENNA/AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Framber Valdez is pulled in the ninth inning against the Texas Rangers after allowing his first hit of the game, a two-run homer to Corey Seager, on Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.

third without a throw while Marlins starter Max Meyer (2-2) was in his stretch.

Cardinals 4, Rays 3: Victor Scott II and Tommy Pham each hit two-run homers, Sonny Gray pitched seven innings and host St. Louis beat Tampa Bay.

Scott, who was recalled from Triple-A Memphis on Sunday, hit his first big league homer in the four-run second inning. Pham added a double in a 2-for-4 night.

Brewers 10, Braves 0: Willy Adames hit a pair of two-run homers and visiting Milwaukee routed Atlanta.

Colin Rea (10-3) dominated the Braves for seven innings, striking out a season-high nine while allowing five hits and one walk. Rea has not given up a run in his last three road starts, spanning 19 innings.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 2: Alejandro Kirk hit a three-run home run, Chris Bassitt struck out a season-high nine in seven innings to snap a three-start losing streak and host Toronto beat Baltimore.

Addison Barger hit a two-run double in the Blue Jays' five-run sixth inning as Toronto handed the Orioles their 14th loss in their last 24 games.

Cubs 7, Twins 3: Shota Imanaga gave up two hits through seven innings, Isaac Paredes hit a three-run drive for his first homer with

the Cubs and host Chicago ended Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Imanaga retired the first 10 hitters he faced before issuing his only walk of the game, then gave up a two-run homer to Royce Lewis. The 30-year-old left-hander struck out 10.

Nationals 11, Giants 5: James Wood homered, tripled and scored four runs, and host Washington erased a quick four-run deficit to beat San Francisco.

Wood also walked twice and stole two bases for the Nationals, who have won three of four after losing five straight.

Red Sox 6, Royals 5: Dominic Smith scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the sixth inning on a call that was overturned on a challenge, and visiting Boston beat Kansas City.

Smith doubled to open the sixth and moved to third on a single by Eric Sogard. After David Hamilton struck out, Smith charged home on a pitch by the Royals' Seth Lugo that bounced in front of the plate and got away from catcher Salvador Perez. Perez chased the ball to the backstop, wheeled and threw to Lugo, who appeared to tag Smith for an apparent out. The Red Sox challenged the call, which was overturned on review.

Smith doubled to open the sixth and moved to third on a single by Eric Sogard. After David Hamilton struck out, Smith charged home on a pitch by the Royals' Seth Lugo that bounced in front of the plate and got away from catcher Salvador Perez. Perez chased the ball to the backstop, wheeled and threw to Lugo, who appeared to tag Smith for an apparent out. The Red Sox challenged the call, which was overturned on review.

Rockies 6, Mets 3: Jake Cave

hit a two-run home run, Elias Díaz had two hits and two RBIs, and host Colorado beat New York.

Harrison Bader had a two-run single and Brandon Nimmo had two hits and an RBI for the Mets, who have lost four of six.

Padres 6, Pirates 0: Donovan Solano had four hits and four RBIs, and visiting San Diego used six pitchers to shut out Pittsburgh in a game delayed nearly three hours due to rain.

San Diego has won 12 of 14 games to move into the first NL wild-card spot, a half-game ahead of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Tigers 4, Mariners 2: Parker Meadows homered and drove in two runs, Keider Montero pitched six strong innings and visiting Detroit beat Seattle.

Montero (2-5), making the ninth start of his career, allowed just four hits, including Luke Raley's solo homer in the fifth.

Phillies 6, Dodgers 2: Christopher Sánchez pitched six strong innings, Edmundo Sosa and Kyle Schwarber homered back-to-back in the ninth and visiting Philadelphia beat Los Angeles in a matchup of the National League's top two teams.

Sánchez (8-7) allowed one run and five hits, struck out two and walked one to help end the Dodgers' three-game winning streak.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	67	46	.593	—
Baltimore	67	47	.588	½
Boston	61	51	.545	5½
Tampa Bay	57	55	.509	9½
Toronto	52	61	.460	15
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	67	45	.598	—
Minnesota	63	49	.563	4
Kansas City	63	52	.548	5½
Detroit	54	60	.474	14
Chicago	28	88	.241	41
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	59	55	.518	—
Houston	58	55	.513	½
Texas	54	60	.474	5
Los Angeles	49	63	.438	9
Oakland	47	68	.409	12½

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	67	46	.593	—
Atlanta	60	52	.536	6½
New York	59	54	.522	8
Washington	52	62	.456	15½
Miami	42	72	.368	25½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	63	49	.563	—
St. Louis	58	56	.509	6
Pittsburgh	56	56	.500	7
Cincinnati	55	58	.487	8½
Chicago	56	60	.483	9
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	66	48	.579	—
San Diego	62	52	.544	4
Arizona	61	52	.540	4½
San Francisco	57	58	.496	9½
Colorado	42	72	.368	24

Tuesday's games

Toronto 5, Baltimore 2
 St. Louis 4, Tampa Bay 3
 Chicago Cubs 7, Minnesota 3
 Houston 4, Texas 2
 Boston 6, Kansas City 5
 Chicago White Sox 5, Oakland 1
 Detroit 4, Seattle 2
 San Diego 6, Pittsburgh 0
 Cincinnati 8, Miami 2
 Washington 11, San Francisco 5
 Milwaukee 10, Atlanta 0
 Colorado 6, N.Y. Mets 3
 Philadelphia 6, L.A. Dodgers 2
 Arizona at Cleveland, p.p.d.
 L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.d.

Wednesday's games

Arizona at Cleveland, 2
 Minnesota at Chicago Cubs
 Houston at Texas
 Chicago White Sox at Oakland
 L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, 2
 Cincinnati at Miami
 San Diego at Pittsburgh
 San Francisco at Washington
 Baltimore at Toronto
 Milwaukee at Atlanta
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis
 Boston at Kansas City
 N.Y. Mets at Colorado
 Detroit at Seattle
 Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers

Thursday's games

San Francisco (Harrison 6-5) at Washington (Herz 2-4)
 Milwaukee (Montas 5-8) at Atlanta (Morton 6-6)
 San Diego (Vásquez 3-6) at Pittsburgh (Ortiz 5-2)
 N.Y. Mets (Peterson 5-1) at Colorado (Gomber 3-7)
 Cincinnati (Greene 8-4) at Miami (TBD)
 L.A. Angels (Anderson 8-10) at N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 7-6)
 Baltimore (Kremer 4-8) at Toronto (Gausman 9-8)
 Tampa Bay (Baz 0-1) at St. Louis (Gibson 7-4)
 Detroit (TBD) at Seattle (Woo 5-1)
 Philadelphia (TBD) at Arizona (Montgomery 7-5)

Friday's games

Cleveland at Minnesota, 2
 L.A. Angels at Washington
 Baltimore at Tampa Bay
 Texas at N.Y. Yankees
 Oakland at Toronto
 Houston at Boston
 San Diego at Miami
 St. Louis at Kansas City
 Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox
 Cincinnati at Milwaukee
 Atlanta at Colorado
 Philadelphia at Arizona
 Pittsburgh at L.A. Dodgers
 N.Y. Mets at Seattle
 Detroit at San Francisco

OLYMPICS

Scoreboard

Medals table				
Wednesday, Aug. 7				
202 of 329 total events				
Nation	G	S	B	Tot
United States	24	32	32	88
China	23	22	16	61
France	13	16	19	48
Britain	12	16	19	47
Australia	17	12	10	39
Japan	11	6	12	29
Italy	9	10	8	27
South Korea	11	8	7	26
Netherlands	9	5	6	20
Canada	6	4	8	18
Germany	8	5	4	17
Brazil	2	5	7	14
Spain	2	3	5	10
New Zealand	3	5	1	9
Hungary	3	3	2	8
Sweden	3	3	2	8
Ireland	4	0	3	7
Romania	3	3	1	7
Ukraine	2	2	3	7
Switzerland	1	2	4	7
Greece	1	1	5	7
Israel	1	4	1	6
Poland	1	1	4	6
Croatia	2	1	2	5
Belgium	2	0	3	5
Kazakhstan	1	1	3	5
Taiwan	1	0	4	5
North Korea	0	2	3	5
Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
Georgia	1	2	1	4
Kenya	1	1	2	4
South Africa	1	1	2	4
Jamaica	0	3	1	4
Philippines	2	0	1	3
Denmark	1	2	0	3
Uzbekistan	1	0	2	3
Mexico	0	2	1	3
Thailand	0	2	1	3
Turkey	0	1	2	3
India	0	0	3	3
Tajikistan	0	0	3	3
Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2
Serbia	2	0	0	2
Chile	1	1	0	2
Ecuador	1	1	0	2
Saint Lucia	1	1	0	2
Uganda	1	1	0	2
Cuba	1	0	1	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
Guatemala	1	0	1	2
Norway	1	0	1	2
Ethiopia	0	2	0	2
Kosovo	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Dominican Republic	0	0	2	2
Lithuania	0	0	2	2
Malaysia	0	0	2	2
Moldova	0	0	2	2
Algeria	1	0	0	1
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Dominica	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Armenia	0	1	0	1
Colombia	0	1	0	1
Cyprus	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
Austria	0	0	1	1
Cape Verde	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Grenada	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1
Iran	0	0	1	1
Peru	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1

Wednesday's medalists

ATHLETICS
Marathon Race Walk Relay Mixed
GOLD—Spain (Alvaro Martin, Maria Perez)
SILVER—Ecuador (Brian Daniel Pintado, Glenda Morejon)
BRONZE—Australia (Rhydian Cowley, Jemima Montag)

SPORT CLIMBING
Women's Speed
GOLD—Aleksandra Mirosław, Poland
SILVER—Lijuan Deng, China
BRONZE—Aleksandra Kalucka, Poland

CYCLING TRACK
Men's Team Pursuit
GOLD—Australia (Oliver Bleddyn, Conor Leahy, Kelland O'Brien, Sam Welsford)
SILVER—Britain (Daniel Bigham, Ethan Hayter, Charlie Tanfield, Ethan Vernon, Oliver Wood)

BRONZE—Italy (Simone Consonni, Filippo Ganna, Francesco Lamon, Jonathan Milan)

Women's Team Pursuit
GOLD—United States (Chloé Dygert, Kristen Faulkner, Jennifer Valente, Lily Williams)
SILVER—New Zealand (Bryony Botha, Emily Shearman, Nicole Shields, Ally Wolaston)
BRONZE—Britain (Elinor Barker, Josie Knight, Anna Morris, Jessica Roberts)

SAILING
Men's Dinghy
GOLD—Matt Wearn, Australia
SILVER—Pavlos Kontides, Cyprus
BRONZE—Stefano Peschiera, Peru

Women's Dinghy
GOLD—Marit Bouwmeester, Netherlands
SILVER—Anne-Marie Rindom, Denmark
BRONZE—Line Flem Hoest, Norway

SKATEBOARDING
Men's Park
GOLD—Keegan Palmer, Australia
SILVER—Tom Schaar, United States
BRONZE—Augusto Akio, Brazil

WEIGHTLIFTING
Men's 61kg
GOLD—Fabin Li, China
SILVER—Theerapong Silachai, Thailand
BRONZE—Hampton Morris, United States

Tuesday's medalists

ATHLETICS
Men's 1500m
GOLD—Cole Hocker, United States
SILVER—Josh Kerr, Britain
BRONZE—Yared Nuguse, United States

Men's Long Jump
GOLD—Miltiadis Tentoglou, Greece
SILVER—Wayne Pinnock, Jamaica
BRONZE—Mattia Furlani, Italy

Women's 200m
GOLD—Gabrielle Thomas, United States
SILVER—Julien Alfred, Saint Lucia
BRONZE—Brittany Brown, United States

Women's 3000m Steeplechase
GOLD—Winfred Yavi, Bahrain
SILVER—Peruth Chemutai, Uganda
BRONZE—Faith Cherotich, Kenya

Women's Hammer Throw
GOLD—Camryn Rogers, Canada
SILVER—Annette Nneka Echikunwoke, United States
BRONZE—Jie Zhao, China

BOXING
Women's 60kg
GOLD—Kellie Harrington, Ireland
SILVER—Wenlu Yang, China
BRONZE—Beatriz Iasmin Soares Ferreira, Brazil

BRONZE—Shih Yi Wu, Taiwan

CYCLING TRACK
Men's Team Sprint
GOLD—Netherlands (Jeffrey Hoogland, Harrie Lavreysen, Roy van den Berg)
SILVER—Britain (Jack Carlin, Ed Lowe, Hamish Turnbull)
BRONZE—Australia (Matthew Glaetzer, Leigh Hoffman, Matthew Richardson)

DIVING
Women's 10m Platform
GOLD—Hongchan Quan, China
SILVER—Yuxi Chen, China
BRONZE—Mi Rae Kim, North Korea

EQUESTRIAN
Jumping Individual
GOLD—Christian Kukuk, Germany
SILVER—Steve Guerdat, Switzerland
BRONZE—Maikel van der Vleuten, Netherlands

SKATEBOARDING
Women's Park
GOLD—Arisa Trew, Australia
SILVER—Cocona Hiraki, Japan
BRONZE—Sky Brown, Britain

WRESTLING
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg
GOLD—Mijain Lopez Nunez, Cuba
SILVER—Yasmani Acosta Fernandez, Chile
BRONZE—Amin Mirzazadeh, Iran
BRONZE—Lingzhe Meng, China

Men's Greco-Roman 60kg
GOLD—Kenichiro Fumita, Japan
SILVER—Liquo Cao, China
BRONZE—Zholaman Sharshenbekov, Kyrgyzstan

BRONZE—Se Ung Ri, North Korea

Women's Freestyle 68kg
GOLD—Amit Elor, United States
SILVER—Meerim Zhumanazarova, Kyrgyzstan
BRONZE—Buse Cavusoglu Tosun, Turkey

BRONZE—Nonoka Ozaki, Japan

Wednesday's scores

BASKETBALL
Women Quarterfinals
 Australia 85, Serbia 67
 Belgium 79, Spain 66
 France 84, Germany 71

BEACH VOLLEYBALL
Women Quarterfinals
 Canada 2, Spain 0 (21-18, 21-18)
 Brazil 2, Latvia 0 (21-16, 21-10)

HOCKEY

Women Semifinals
 Netherlands 3, Argentina 0

HANDBALL
Men Quarterfinals
 Spain 29, Egypt 28 OT
 Germany 35, France 34 OT
 Denmark 32, Sweden 31

VOLLEYBALL
Men Semifinals
 Poland 3, United States 2 (23-25, 27-25, 25-14, 23-25, 13-15)

WATER POLO
Men Quarterfinals
 Croatia 10, Spain 8
 Serbia 12, Greece 11

Athletics
Men 400m Hurdles Semifinal 1
 1. Karsten Warholm, Norway, 47.67 (Q).
 2. Clement Ducos, France, 47.85 (Q).
 3. Alison dos Santos, Brazil, 47.95 (q).
 4. Trevor Bassitt, United States, 48.29.
 5. Ezekiel Nathaniel, Nigeria, 48.65.
 6. Nick Smidt, Netherlands, 49.61.
 7. Jaheel Hyde, Jamaica, 50.03.
 8. Joshua Abuaku, Germany, 50.19.

Semifinal 2
 1. Kyron McMaster, British Virgin Islands, 48.15 (Q).
 2. Rasmus Magi, Estonia, 48.16 (Q).
 3. Abderrahman Samba, Qatar, 48.20 (q).
 4. CJ Allen, United States, 48.44.
 5. Emil Agyekum, Germany, 48.78.
 6. Alessandro Sibilio, Italy, 48.79.
 7. Malik James-King, Jamaica, 48.85.
 8. Berke Akcam, Turkey, 49.12.

Semifinal 3
 1. Rai Benjamin, United States, 47.85 (Q).
 2. Roshawn Clarke, Jamaica, 48.34 (Q).
 3. Wilfried Happio, France, 48.66.
 4. Matheus Lima, Brazil, 49.08.
 5. Wiseman Were Mukhobe, Kenya, 49.22.
 6. Carl Bengtstrom, Sweden, 49.56.
 7. Gerald Drummond, Costa Rica, 49.68.
 8. Alastair Chalmers, Britain, 56.52.

200m Semifinal 1
 1. Kenneth Bednarek, United States, 20.00 (Q).
 2. Alexander Ogando, Dominican Republic, 20.09 (Q).
 3. Andre de Grasse, Canada, 20.41.
 4. Shaun Maswanganyi, South Africa, 20.42.
 5. Wanya McCoy, Bahamas, 20.61.
 6. Tarsis Gracious Orogot, Uganda, 20.64.
 7. Ryan Zeze, France, 20.81.
 8. Bryan Levell, Jamaica, 20.93.

Wrestling
Wednesday Men
Greco-Roman 77kg Greco-Roman Medal Matches
 Malkhas Amoyan, Armenia, def. Aram Vardanyan, Uzbekistan, 6-0, 0-5, Points.

Greco-Roman 67kg Quarterfinals
 Hasrat Jafarov, Azerbaijan, def. Valentin Petic, Moldova, 1-0, 2-1, Points.
 Parviz Nasibov, Ukraine, def. Amantur Ismailov, Kyrgyzstan, 2-6, 5-0, Points.
 Slavik Galstyan, Armenia, def. Mamadassa Salla, France, 2-0, 1-2, Points.
 Saeid Esmaeili Leivesi, Iran, def. Luis Alberto Orta Sanchez, Cuba, 5-0, 4-0, Technical Superiority.

Semifinals
 Parviz Nasibov, Ukraine, def. Hasrat Jafarov, Azerbaijan, 2-3, 1-0, Points.
 Saeid Esmaeili Leivesi, Iran, def. Slavik Galstyan, Armenia, 9-4, 1-0, Points.

Greco-Roman 87kg Quarterfinals
 Alireza Mohmadijani, Iran, def. Arkadiusz Marcin Kulynycz, Poland, 7-1, 3-0, Technical Superiority.
 Zhan Beleniuk, Ukraine, def. Nursultan Tursynov, Kazakhstan, 0-3, 7-0, Points.
 Semen Sergeevich Novikov, Bulgaria, def. Lasha Gobadze, Georgia, 1-3, 7-0, Points.
 David Losonczy, Hungary, def. Aleksandr Andreevitch Komarov, Serbia, 1-1, 1-1, Points.

Semifinals
 Alireza Mohmadijani, Iran, def. Zhan Beleniuk, Ukraine, 0-3, 3-0, Points.
 Semen Sergeevich Novikov, Bulgaria, def. David Losonczy, Hungary, 0-1, 3-0, Points.

Women Freestyle 53kg Quarterfinals
 Lucia Yamileth Yeppez Guzman, Ecuador, def. Andreea Beatrice Ana, Romania, 5-0, 2-0, Pin.
 Annika Wendle, Germany, def. Zeynep Yetgil, Turkey, 0-1, 2-4, Pin.
 Akari Fujinami, Japan, def. Khulan Batkhuyag, Mongolia, 2-0, 6-2, Pin.
 Pang Qianyu, China, def. Emma Jonna Malmgren, Sweden, 8-0, 2-2, Points.

Semifinals
 Lucia Yamileth Yeppez Guzman, Ecuador, def. Annika Wendle, Germany, 5-0, 5-0, Technical Superiority.
 Akari Fujinami, Japan, def. Pang Qianyu, China, 6-0, 4-0, Technical Superiority.



LUCA BRUNO/AP

The United States' Madeline Musselman defends Hungary's Kristina Garda during a women's quarterfinal match on Tuesday.

US edges Hungary to reach semis in women's water polo

Associated Press

NANTERRE, France — Ashleigh Johnson made 17 saves and Rachel Fattal snapped a tie in the fourth quarter, helping the U.S. women's water polo team edge Hungary 5-4 in a physical quarterfinal at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday night.

U.S. captain Maggie Steffens scored two goals and played terrific defense on Hungary center Rebecca Parkes down the stretch. The 31-year-old Steffens played the entire game.

"We wanted it and so did Hungary," Johnson said. "We knew it was going to be a grind. ... The score reflects what a battle it was."

The U.S. is going for an unprecedented fourth consecutive gold medal. No team — men or women — has won four straight water polo titles at the Olympics.

Next up for the U.S. is Australia, which advanced with a 9-6 win over Greece. Spain faces the Netherlands in the other semifinal on Thursday at Paris La Defense Arena.

Spain rolled over Canada for an 18-8 victory, and the Netherlands beat Italy 11-8 in the second quarterfinal.

Hungary pushed the U.S. all the way to the end in another close matchup. Hungary beat the U.S. 10-9 in group play during the Tokyo Games, and it also handed the Americans a 10-8 loss on July 9. The U.S. topped Hungary 8-7 for

gold at the world championships in Qatar in February.

The matchup at the Paris Games was tied at 4 going into the fourth period. Fattal then put the U.S. ahead to stay with a perfectly slotted shot during a 6-on-4 power play with 3:02 left.

Hungary had a couple of chances to tie it up in the final minutes, but the U.S. used Johnson and its tough defense to hold on.

"It was a really hard-fought game," Fattal said. "We knew that it was going to be a really tough game, and that it was going to be a grind, and we just had to keep going the whole time."

Hungary finished with 31 shots, compared with 22 for the United States. Rita Keszthelyi, Krisztina Garda, Kamilla Farago and Dora Leimeter scored for Hungary.

"It's a huge disappointment, especially because we showed a solid level," Hungary's Geraldine Mahieu said. "We were lacking a bit in attack. We can still be very proud of what we have achieved."

U.S. star Maddie Musselman was held scoreless. She was credited with three shots.

Spain, which lost to the U.S. in the Tokyo final, improved to 5-0 at the Olympics. It has outscored its opponents 69-44 so far.

Elena Ruiz scored four times in the quarterfinal win, and Bea Ortiz continued her strong tournament with three more goals. Martina Terre made 12 saves.

OLYMPICS



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

The United States' Helen Maroulis celebrates after winning the gold medal in the women's 53kg freestyle wrestling competition at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. She followed that up with a bronze in Tokyo.

Maroulis can boost case as best US women's wrestler

BY CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

PARIS — As Helen Maroulis' career winds down, she has a perfect opportunity to strengthen her case for being the best women's wrestler in U.S. history.

Maroulis was the first American woman to win a gold medal back in 2016, when she upset three-time gold medalist Saori Yoshida in the 53-kilogram final in Rio de Janeiro. She came back to earn bronze at 57 kg in Tokyo, despite numerous injuries in the lead-up to those Games. She's a three-time world champion with seven world championship medals.

Now 32, she could become the first U.S. woman to win gold twice and the first to claim three Olympic medals. She's currently the only one with two Olympic medals and the first to make three Olympic teams. She begins her Paris Games on Thursday, and the medal round for 57kg is on Friday.

Days ahead of this year's competition, she was asked if she thinks this will be her final Olympics and she responded: "I don't know, but I think so." She said when she visited family in Greece for her 30th birthday back in 2022, her grandmother and her father told her they wanted her to settle down.

"I told them, 'I think it's easier to go for a gold medal than find a husband,' and we made a compromise," she said. "So here I am wrestling."

Adeline Gray is the only American woman who can compete with Maroulis' résumé. Gray is a



JACKSON RANGER/AP

Maroulis celebrates her win at the U.S. Olympic team trials in State College, Pa., in April.

six-time world champion who earned a silver medal at 76 kg in Tokyo. She nearly made it to Paris, but she lost to Kennedy Blades at the U.S. Olympic Trials in April.

If this is it, Maroulis has achieved most of her goals. But ever the competitor, she remembers her perceived failures vividly, too. She's still disappointed about coming up short in 2021.

"I wanted to experience what it would be like to come back and be the returning champion, what kind of pressure that would be to win two gold medals, and I didn't achieve that," she said.

She earned another opportunity by defeating Jacarra Winchester, a Tokyo Olympian, at the U.S. trials.

Maroulis is seeded fifth in her class. The top seed is three-time

world champion Tsugumi Sakurai of Japan. No. 2 seed Anastasia Nichita of Moldova was a world champion at 59 kg in 2022. Nigeria's Odunayo Adekunle is the No. 3 seed, and Poland's Anehlina Lysak, the No. 4 seed, is at her third Olympics.

But U.S. women's coach Terry Steiner said Maroulis is capable.

"When Helen's hitting at all cylinders, she's very hard to deal with for anyone," he said. "She's another one of these people that just has generational talent. She is a gamer. Helen — when the lights are on, she performs. And she, almost at this point in her career, it has to be an event like the Olympic Games or the world championships to really get the best out of her. But she definitely rises to the occasion."

Maroulis also has another chance to help shape the team's younger members. She is the oldest member of the team at the Olympics — a squad that includes 20-year-olds Blades and Amit Elor.

Steiner said Maroulis values her role as a mentor for wrestlers in a program that has emerged as a world power.

"She is a leader, and she knows that," he said. "And she knows that the rest of her team is also looking her way. And so I think that helps her, actually. I don't think it hinders her at all. I think she kind of wants to be in that in that moment or that spot with the rest of the group. So, I think she has high expectations for herself. I think the team has expectations for her as well."

Dominant Elor is youngest wrestler to win gold for US

BY CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

PARIS — As she processed winning an Olympic gold medal, American wrestler Amit Elor still felt like that little girl just starting out in the sport.

Perhaps it's because she's not so far removed from that point.

Elor, just 20 years old, defeated Kyrgyzstan's Meerim Zhumanazarova 3-0 on Tuesday in the 68-kilogram final at the Paris Games to become the youngest Olympic wrestling gold medalist in U.S. history, male or female.

"I'm still in disbelief," she said. "I think I have a little bit of impostor syndrome."

Elor's dominance was very real to her opponents. She had a 31-2 advantage over four matches and was not scored upon in her final three contests.

She became the third American woman to win gold, following Helen Maroulis in 2016 and Tamyra Mensah-Stock in 2021. Women started wrestling at the Olympics in 2004.

After the win, she draped the U.S. flag over her back and skipped around the mat.

"It was one of the best moments in my life," she said. "I

think I'm going to remember it for my entire life. It's one of the best feelings in the world. And when I experience something like that, it just reminds me that everything is worth it. All the hard days, the grind, it's all worth it for moments like these."

She said she achieved her success by choosing not to overthink.

"Often when we feel like we need to rise for an occasion, we think we need to make changes and adjustments," she said. "But the truth is, we don't. We should always be trying our very best. Just because it's the Olympics versus trials, we should always be giving it our all. So, that's exactly what I did."

Elor already was a two-time world champion, first winning at age 18. Now, the Northern California native looks forward to possibly winning Olympic gold in her home state at the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

"To have the opportunity to compete and represent not only my country, but my state, and to compete in my own state, is incredible," she said. "I have been excited for that ever since I heard about it."



EUGENE HOSHIKO/AP

Amit Elor, left, celebrates after winning the freestyle 68kg wrestling final Tuesday. Elor, 20, won her four matches by a combined 31-2.

OLYMPICS



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CONROY/AP

The United States' Joel Embiid grabs a rebound away from Brazil's Bruno Caboclo during their quarterfinal game Tuesday in Paris. The U.S. won 122-87 to advance to face Serbia in the semifinals.

US men ease past Brazil, set up battle with Serbia

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

PARIS — All the favored teams in the first three men's basketball quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics had problems. Canada lost to France. Serbia erased a 24-point deficit to beat Australia. Germany had to shake off a double-digit deficit before beating Greece.

So, going into the fourth and final game of the night, the U.S. knew what it had to do.

"We wanted to come out and make sure we were the aggressor," said U.S. coach Steve Kerr.

They made it look easy, too. Devin Booker led a balanced front with 18 points and the Americans had little trouble with Brazil in the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics, winning 122-87 on Tuesday.

The U.S. (4-0) moves on to face Serbia (3-1) in Thursday's semifinals, while Germany (4-0) takes on France (3-1) in the other semifinal. Winners of those games will play Saturday night for the gold medal; Thursday's losers will play Saturday morning for the bronze medal.

"Everybody expects us to win," U.S. forward Jayson Tatum said. "But you don't take things for granted, right? Canada lost earlier. It's a different game. It's not like playoffs, where it's a series. We've got one game and a lot of (stuff) can happen in one game, especially over here."

If there was one issue, it was this: LeBron James left in the third quarter after catching an elbow around his left eye, struck by Brazil's Georjinho de Paula while going for a rebound. James went down, eventually pressed a towel over the eye and left for the locker room later in the third.

Kerr said James needed four stitches.

"I'm all right," James said. "Got hit with an inadvertent elbow around the eye."

Anthony Edwards scored 17 points, while Joel Embiid — booed again in France, of course — had 14 points and seven rebounds in 12 first-half minutes for the Americans. Anthony Davis finished with 13 points and eight rebounds for the U.S. James had 12 points and nine assists.



LeBron James had 12 points and nine assists. He left in the third quarter after catching an inadvertent elbow around his left eye and getting four stitches.

Kevin Durant scored 11 points and passed Lisa Leslie as the U.S. Olympic career scoring leader, men's or women's. Leslie had 488 points in her four Olympic appearances, all of which ended with gold medals. Durant is trying to go 4-for-4 on the gold front, as well; he's two wins away from getting that done.

"He's incredible. He was born to play ball and he's simply incredible," James said. "I'm happy for him. Congratulations to him. I'm super proud of him. And he's got more to go."

There was a moment where Brazil might have thought it had a chance. It trailed the U.S. by only eight midway through the second quarter. A big deficit had turned into something rather manageable.

The moment was short-lived.

A 21-2 run over the final 3:56 of the half turned things into their predictable blowout state. It eliminated whatever doubt there might have been — let's be honest, there wasn't much, if any — and the U.S. turned that eight-point lead into a 63-36 runaway going into the final 20 minutes.

Bruno Caboclo was the star for Brazil, leading all scorers with 30 points.

Women's soccer edges Germany, advances to final

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

LYON, France — Glimpsing a sliver of the net, Sophia Smith's aim was true.

Smith's extra-time goal earned the United States a spot in the gold-medal match at the Paris Olympics with a 1-0 semifinal victory over Germany on Tuesday.

The Americans, undefeated in France under new coach Emma Hayes, will be vying for their fifth gold medal in their sixth appearance in the Olympic women's soccer final.

The U.S. will play Brazil, which defeated Spain 4-2 in the late match, in the tournament final on Saturday in Paris. Germany will play Spain for the bronze medal on Friday at Lyon.

Smith broke the scoreless stalemate five minutes into extra time, outmaneuvering defender Felicitas Rauch and German goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger. After scoring her third goal of the tournament, Smith fell to the ground in celebration and joined in an embrace with teammate Mallory Swanson.

"I saw like a little opening of net and I was just like, 'I've got to put it there. Just put it there,'" Smith said. "It was a good feeling. I know I had a few other chances this game that I should have put away. But sometimes one is all it takes."

At the final whistle, the U.S. players ran downfield to embrace goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, who made a key save when she jumped and kicked the ball away from the goal with her left foot in the waning moments of the second extra period.

"The goal is closer but the job's not done yet," Swanson said. "I think that obviously we're in a great position. You take this win

and we're on a high right now, but it's important just to stay steady with everything we're doing. Just stay steady."

The Americans had routed Germany 4-1 in the group stage earlier in the tournament.

The U.S. had missed out on the finals at the last two Olympic tournaments, eliminated in the quarterfinals in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro and relegated to the bronze-medal match at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

Germany was missing veteran captain Alexandra Popp because of an illness. Popp was the only current German player who was also on the squad that won the gold medal in 2016.

Lea Schuller, who scored two goals against Zambia in the group finale to send Germany through to the quarterfinals, was also absent because of an inflamed right knee.

The U.S. recalled defender Tierna Davidson to the game-day roster after she missed the last two games with a leg contusion. Defender Emily Sams, activated in Davidson's absence, returned to the alternate list.

Midfielder Sam Coffey, who missed the quarterfinals after yellow card accumulation, returned against Germany.

There were few chances on either side in the opening half. Klara Buehl forced Naeher into a diving save in the 29th minute but she was offside. For most of the match, Germany hunkered down on defense in the absence of Popp and Schuller.

Rose Lavelle had a chance for the U.S. early in the game but her attempt went straight into Berger's arms.

Swanson broke down the field in the 62nd and had a clear look at the goal but shot into the side netting.



SILVIA IZQUIERDO/AP

U.S. players celebrates Sophia Smith's goal against Germany during extra time of their semifinal match Tuesday in Decines, France.

OLYMPICS

US, Poland trade wins in volleyball

American women advance to semis before Polish men prevail in five sets

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

PARIS—The reigning Olympic champion U.S. women's volleyball team posted a straight-set victory against Poland on Tuesday night at the Paris Olympics. The next day, Poland paid the United States back, with the men's volleyball team rallying from a 2-1 deficit in the deciding fifth set of the semifinals Wednesday.

The American women led throughout while taking the first two sets, 25-22 and 25-14. They fell behind 5-0 and 7-1 in the third set before rallying to close it out, 25-20.

Next up is a semifinal date Thursday with powerhouse Brazil, which swept the Dominican Republic earlier in the day. It's a rematch of the Tokyo Games final.

Turkey eliminated China with a 3-2 victory. It moved on to a matchup with Italy, which beat Serbia 3-0 in the final match of the day.

U.S. coach Karch Kiraly said he was thrilled to get his players off their feet sooner — and not have to play any extra sets, especially for setter Jordyn Poulter as she continues to regain her form in match play after coming back from a devastating left knee injury in December 2022 that required surgery.

"To be able to chip away and get back and tie it up at 13-all and get out with 3-0 instead of 17-15 in the fifth, which happens so often, that's really big, especially for

somebody like Jordyn Poulter who's on a really good recovery," Kiraly said. "But to have less load here and more recovery before we play a really big Brazil team was big."

Kiraly made a lineup change after the team's five-set defeat to China on July 29 to open group stage play, moving veterans Jordan Larson and Kelsey Robinson Cook to reserve roles and bringing in Avery Skinner and Kathryn Plummer. The Americans bounced back to beat Serbia two days later.

The new starting six are beginning to click.

"The first time we ever played with this starting lineup was against Serbia, so now we've got three matches," Kiraly said. "Most other teams have been playing for years with the same (lineup). We now have three matches, so things are coming together."

Andrea Drews had 13 points, while Plummer and Skinner contributed 12 apiece. Plummer credited the Americans for improving their service pressure and four-time Olympian Larson's boost off the bench to get them back in it.

"We started out the third set very slow, we tend to do that even when we have a 2-0 lead in the match," she said. "We got out of that first rotation and then I think we just got strings of points together, had a couple of big momentum swings with some big blocks, some big serves. ... The third set was a testament to what happens when



DOLORES OCHOA/AP

United States players celebrate Tuesday after beating Poland in a women's quarterfinal volleyball match.

we stay together and connected."

On Wednesday, Poland came back from 20-18 in the third and needed two set points to force it to a deciding fifth, sending the largely pro-Poland crowd at South Paris Arena into a frenzy, with chants of "Polska!" and horns blaring throughout the stadium.

Led by Cuba native outside hitter Wilfredo León in the attack, Poland jumped out to an early lead in the fifth and left the Americans trying to play catch up the rest of the way.

A service ace by Max Holt pulled the Americans within 11-10. León's spike out of bounds made it 14-13 before his successful point moments later sent the team onto the floor in celebration of the comeback.

León amassed a match-high 26 points to lead the 25-23, 25-27, 14-

25, 25-23, 15-13 victory.

Four-time American Olympians Matt Anderson and David Smith were oh-so-close to finally playing for a gold medal. The Americans haven't been to the Olympic championship since winning it all at the 2008 Beijing Games.

Despite this defeat, getting to the medal round is sweet redemption for a U.S. men's team that failed to advance out of group stage play in Tokyo three years ago — and it's a major reason several of the older players on the team returned for one last Olympic hurrah.

The veteran U.S. squad will play for bronze against the loser of the late match Wednesday between Italy and France, while Poland plays for the title Saturday against the winner.

U.S. coach John Speraw guided UCLA to an NCAA title last year and had hoped he could add an Olympic crown in the same calendar year.

For a U.S. men's volleyball team that was among the youngest at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games, where they brought home bronze, the Americans are now Olympic veterans — five of them now fathers.

Anderson, Smith, Micah Christenson, three-time Olympic libero Erik Shoji and others returned for another run in Paris after the heartbreak of missing the medal rounds in Tokyo.

The 37-year-old Anderson is a four-time Olympian but second-oldest behind Smith, who is 39. Christenson, Shoji, Holt and Thomas Jaeschke are at their third Olympics.

Upset: All eyes were on European rivals before Hocker stole show

FROM PAGE 24

allowed at major events like the Olympics.

Against that backdrop, Ingebrigtsen darted to the front quickly and ran there for the first 3½ laps, while Kerr traded between second and third, getting ready for his typical windup and a potential slingshot past the Norwegian over the closing stretch, much the way he did last year.

"Of course, it's a tactical error that I'm not able to reduce my pace the first 800," Ingebrigtsen said.

While he and Kerr were wearing each other out, Hocker, his long hair pulled back in a bun and standing at 5-foot-9½, more than 3½ inches shorter than the top two contenders, almost looked like he was trying to photo bomb them at the end of the race.

As they entered the homestretch, Hocker snuck up on the inside once, only to have Ingebrigtsen block that move.

So Hocker fell back and wound up for another try with about 50 meters left.



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

Gold medalist Cole Hocker of the United States, center, poses with silver medalist Josh Kerr of Britain, left, and bronze medalist Yared Nuguse, also of the U.S., on the podium after the men's 1500-meter final Tuesday in Saint-Denis, France.

Both he and Kerr, who was racing on the outside, passed Ingebrigtsen, then Hocker — his back arched, his chest out and his

arms pumping faster than anyone else — beat the Scot to the finish line and raised his hands as he crossed.

"I gathered myself and I attacked again. Just incredible," Hocker said.

A few paces after the line, Hocker thumped his chest twice, a little celebration in the spotlight for a guy whose own steady success got overshadowed by the all the hype.

"They've had all this added pressure and all that and noise," Hocker said. "I think that's part of this. This job is blocking out that noise and it gets harder and harder the more you excel."

Kerr called Hocker's performance "the best the Olympics has ever seen."

"That's good enough for me for silver today and it will get me hungry for the next time around," Kerr said.

Let the record show that Kerr did, in fact, beat Ingebrigtsen in this race, bringing his all-time record against his rival to 3-13 at this distance.

For over a year, though, it's been clear that neither was racing for second.

OLYMPICS

Thomas sprints to 200-meter gold medal

Harvard grad realizes goal she put in place 6 years ago when she set her training plan

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

SAINT-DENIS, France — Before Gabby Thomas set foot on the Stade de France’s purple track, surrounded by 80,000 or so screaming spectators, her coach gave her some last-minute advice.

“The only thing I needed to do was get the lead. Get the lead and then finish strong,” Thomas said, recounting Tonja Buford-Bailey’s counsel. “And I did that.”

She sure did. Following precisely that easier-said-than-done plan, Thomas, a 27-year-old Harvard grad, sped to the victory in the women’s 200 meters at the 2024 Olympics on Tuesday night, finishing in 21.83 seconds to add a gold to the bronze she took home in the event from Tokyo three years ago.

“I don’t think,” Thomas said, “it could have gone any better.”

She burst into the lead for good at the curve and was never challenged down the stretch, finishing well clear of 100-meter champion Julien Alfred of St. Lucia, who was 0.25 seconds off the pace in 22.08.

After Thomas crossed the line, she shouted and placed both of her hands on her head, looking every bit like someone enjoying what she called “the happiest moment of my life.”

“I couldn’t tell you where my

competitors were in that race, because I blacked out,” Thomas said.

That’s one explanation. Another would be that there was no one really all that near her.

Brittany Brown of the U.S. got the bronze in 22.20, 0.02 seconds in front of Dina Asher-Smith of Britain, who was another hundredth of a second ahead of teammate Daryll Neita.

“I’m happy. There’s nothing I can complain about,” Alfred said. “I just know I went out there and gave my best.”

Out of three sprints so far on the purple track at Stade de France, the Americans have picked up two golds: Thomas’ triumph followed Noah Lyles’ success in the men’s

100 on Sunday night by a far slimmer margin: five thousands of a second.

“It really was so inspiring, hearing Noah go after what he wanted and take it,” Thomas said. “I knew that if I were in any position in this race, I could still go after it and take it if I had to.”

Ask a teammate what about Thomas is most impressive, and “poise” is a word that comes up.

“She’s very much an empowerment woman. She carries a lot of power. You can tell by how she carries herself,” said McKenzie Long, a 24-year-old who finished

“We’ve been working hard every day for this, so I earned it.”

Gabby Thomas
200-meter gold medalist



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

American sprinter Gabby Thomas reacts Tuesday after winning the gold medal in the 200-meter final.

seventh Tuesday. “She reminds me of me — but an older version.”

After she earned her degree at Harvard in neurobiology and global health, Thomas enrolled at the University of Texas, where she got a Masters in public health for studying sleep patterns of different ethnic groups — while also making the wise choice to double down on her track training.

The decision was to set up a six-year schedule, with the long-term aim being this cool evening in the City of Light. Thomas didn’t want the Paris Games to be her first Olympics, so she did what it took to get herself to Tokyo three years ago.

That happened — and her takeaways from that trip to Japan were third place in the 200, a silver medal in the 4x100 relay, plus, maybe most valuable of all, the experience.

“I feel like I’ve worked very hard, and everything has been a part of the plan. This has been a six-year plan, ever since moving to Texas,” Thomas explained. “We’ve been working hard every day for this, so I earned it. But it’s still an unbelievable, indescribable feeling.”

She came in as one of the favorites, especially after reigning world champion Shericka Jackson of Jamaica dropped out be-

cause of an apparent injury.

And this one really wasn’t even close, it turned out.

Even Alfred, who also went to Texas and won the first Olympic medal for her island country in the 100 three nights earlier, didn’t stand a chance against Thomas on this night.

“You can’t take a gold medal away. This is all I wanted,” Thomas said. “If I didn’t get this gold medal today, I don’t know what I would have done.”

And she isn’t done.

She’ll have a chance for another medal as part of the 4x100 relay team, which could be in the final Saturday.

McLaughlin-Levrone, Bol collide in 400 hurdles

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone of the United States and Femke Bol of the Netherlands will go head-to-head at the 2024 Olympics in just the third matchup between this generation’s two top female hurdlers.



Bol

Their showdown in the 400-meter hurdles final on Thursday night is a big one. McLaughlin-Levrone is the reigning Summer Games champion and keeps breaking the world record, over and over; Bol is the reigning world champ — it probably helped that the American was injured and not there — and already picked up a gold in Paris with a terrific last leg for the Dutch in the 4x400-meter mixed relay on Saturday.

So far, McLaughlin-Levrone is 2-0 against Bol, beating her at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, then again at the 2022 world championships.

“Iron sharpens iron,” McLaughlin-Lev-



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

American Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, left, is the world-record holder and favorite in the women’s 400-meter hurdles, but may be tested by the Netherlands’ Femke Bol.

rone said Tuesday night at Stade de France after each woman won her semifinal heat to qualify for the medal race. “It’s always

fun racing the best, and I know we’re going to push each other.”

There certainly was no pushing going on

during the semifinals. McLaughlin-Levrone eased up quite a bit down the stretch and still finished 1.7 seconds in front of the runner-up, clocking 52.13.

How swift is that? That would have broken the world record of 52.16 that was held by another U.S. runner, Dalilah Muhammad, before the New Jersey-born McLaughlin-Levrone began lowering the mark regularly.

She initially took it down to 51.90 in 2021, and then broke it four more times in order to get it to the current standard of 50.65, which arrived at the U.S. Olympic trials in June.

McLaughlin-Levrone’s heat came first, and Bol was asked whether she watched her rival run.

“Only on the screen, quickly. I mainly focus on my own race,” Bol said. “And to be fair, you can’t really get much out of (watching) semifinals anyway.”

Bol was first across the line in hers Tuesday in a time of 52.57.

“Hopefully, I’ll be ... in the best form and shape of my life” for the final, Bol said. “We’ll see in two days’ time.”

SPORTS



One out short

Valdez nearly gets 2nd no-hitter, still gets win for Astros » **MLB, Page 18**



OLYMPICS

Shocking upset

American Hocker stuns global favorites Kerr, Ingebrigtsen to win men's 1,500

By **EDDIE PELL**
Associated Press

SAINT-DENIS, France — The race was billed as a bar brawl between the two baddest 1,500-meter runners in the world.

Nobody figured the little-known American guy would sneak up on both of them, steal the show and take the Olympic gold medal with him.

Cole Hocker threw a jolt into track Tuesday night, first catching up to — then slipping his way past — fierce rivals Jakob Ingebrigtsen and Josh Kerr to pull the upset of the Games with an unexpected victory in a much-hyped showdown that wasn't supposed to involve him.

Hocker bettered his personal best by nearly 3 seconds to win in an Olympic-record 3 minutes, 27.65 seconds.

"If you've been following my season, you knew I was capable of it," Hocker said. "But still, things had to go my way today."

Taking advantage of a blistering early pace set by Ingebrigtsen, the 23-year-old product of the University of Oregon pulled from fifth, to third, then finally to first, over the final 300 meters to pass the gassed-out favorites.

This was supposed to be all about a chance for the defending Olympic champion (Ingebrigtsen) and the reigning world champion (Kerr) to finally settle a feud

that's been brewing for over a year. Kerr said the race would be "one of the most vicious and hardest 1,500s the sport's seen in a very long time."

Instead, the guy taking home the \$50,000 winner's check was an up-and-comer who was listed as much as a 30-1 long shot. Kerr finished second by .14 seconds. Another American, Yared Nuguse, was third, and Ingebrigtsen faded to fourth.

"It was a deafening noise. I've never heard that in a stadium before," Hocker said of the 80,000 screaming fans in the Stade de France. "I kind of lost feeling in my body and it didn't feel like the Olympics anymore until it did."

Hocker, who recorded his previous personal best of 3:30.59 at the U.S. trials this summer, is only the second U.S. man to win the metric mile at the Olympics over the last 112 years. Matt Centrowitz took gold in 2016.

All eyes for this one were trained on Ingebrigtsen, the defending champion out of Norway who came in with a point to prove, and Kerr, the Scotsman who beat him last year at the world championships.

Ever since, Kerr and Ingebrigtsen poked at each other. Among the salvos that stuck was Kerr's assertion that Ingebrigtsen only wins races with pacesetters, which are not

SEE UPSET ON PAGE 22



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Left: Cole Hocker of the United States celebrates in front of a television camera after winning the gold medal in the men's 1500-meter final on Tuesday in Saint-Denis, France. Right: Hocker pulled a major upset over Josh Kerr, of Britain, and Jakob Ingebrigtsen, of Norway, the European rivals who came into the race as the top favorites.

Women's teams close to bonus revenue » College basketball, Page 17

