

FACES

Broadway musical
'Hamilton' lands on
Roblox platform

Page 18



MILITARY

US, Philippines
confer on Chinese
water-cannon spat

Page 3



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

SEC teams banking on
transfer QBs to help
replace departed stars

Page 24

Tropical storms take aim at southern Japan and South Korea >> Page 4

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 82 Edition 83 ©SS 2023 THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

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



ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

Beyond the breach

US alerted Japan to risks from China hacking defense networks, officials say

By KATRINA MANSON
AND ANNMARIE HORDERN
Bloomberg News

The U.S. warned Japan over the course of a year that Chinese state hackers had infiltrated its defense networks before Tokyo took sufficient action to try to secure them, according to current and former U.S. officials.

Senior U.S. national security officials grew increasingly concerned that sensitive information that the U.S. shares with some allies could be at risk as a result of the breach, which was discovered several years ago. That prompted multiple U.S. delegations since 2020 to fly to

Tokyo to warn Japan, according to the officials, who asked not to be identified discussing the sensitive matter.

Still, the U.S. saw insufficient evidence Japan was taking action to secure its networks despite warning of a problem, said a former intelligence official. Gen. Paul Nakasone, director of the National Security Agency and commander of U.S. Cyber Command, was among U.S. officials who visited Tokyo to flag the issue.

But Japan wanted proof of the infiltration, said the former official, who added that intelligence is sometimes too sensitive to share specifics. Japan also was reluctant to let the U.S.

into its networks, the former official said.

Only after Anne Neuberger, deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technology, visited Japan in mid-November 2021 did the U.S. and Japan chart a successful way forward, according to the officials. Japan has since set about boosting its cybersecurity defenses, although the U.S. is eager to see it do still more, according to statements from both countries this year, in addition to national security experts.

The breach and the U.S. warnings were reported earlier by The Washington Post, which

SEE BREACH ON PAGE 6

Navy offers more free maternity uniforms

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Navy is expanding a congressionally directed program that provides moms-to-be with free uniforms during pregnancy, a move made with the aim of doubling the number of participating sailors.

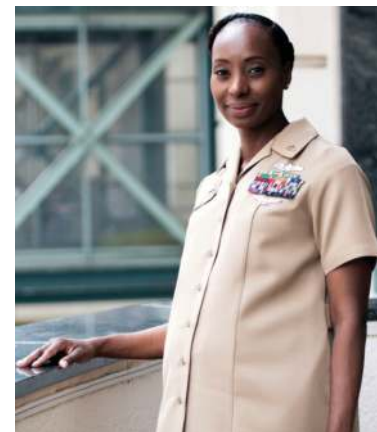
Based on feedback, the service is adding four "sea bag component options" to its maternity uniform pilot program, Navy officials announced last week.

This will allow expectant sailors to choose the best combination of uniforms for their work environment, according to the Navy Personnel Command.

More than 850 sailors have received one set of each type of authorized maternity uniform since the program launched in January 2022, a Navy administrative message said last week.

Uniforms are delivered to the home of each participant ready to wear at no personal cost, regardless of where they are stationed.

SEE UNIFORMS ON PAGE 3



JEANETTE M. MULLINAX/U.S. Navy

Command Master Chief Samira McBride wears the maternity Navy service khaki uniform.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

ESPN strikes \$1.5B deal to jump into sports betting

Associated Press

You know ESPN the sports media giant. Now brace yourself for ESPN Bet, a rebranding of an existing sports-betting app owned by Penn Entertainment, which is paying \$1.5 billion plus other considerations for exclusive rights to the ESPN name.

The deal, announced Tuesday, could take Walt Disney Co.-owned ESPN into uncharted waters. Disney is fiercely protective of its family-friendly image, not typically associated with the world of

sports gambling.

Penn will operate ESPN Bet, which ESPN has agreed to promote across its online and broadcast platforms in order to generate “maximum fan awareness” of the app.

Penn’s rights to the ESPN brand will initially run for a decade and can be extended for another decade by mutual agreement. In addition to the \$1.5 billion licensing deal, which will be paid out over a decade, Penn will also grant ESPN rights worth about \$500 million to

purchase shares in Penn.

Disney has wrestled with the issue of adult-oriented entertainment in the past. Until about 15 years ago, its Walt Disney World park in Orlando, Fla., featured a gated late-night area known as Pleasure Island — actually a reference to the 1940 film “Pinocchio,” whose characters visited a den of iniquity by that name.

When attendance waned, Disney closed down the Pleasure Island nightclubs in 2008 and redeveloped the site as a restaurant.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Aug. 10)	\$1.07	
British pound (Aug. 10)	\$1.24	
Japanese yen (Aug. 10)	140.00	
South Korean won (Aug. 10)	1284.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
Britain (Pound)	1.2736	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3430	
China (Yuan)	7.2075	
Denmark (Krone)	6.7863	
Egypt (Pound)	30.9023	
Euro	1.0979	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8204	
Hungary (Forint)	353.36	
Israel (Shekel)	3.6823	
Japan (Yen)	143.41	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3077	
Norway (Krone)	10.2084	
Philippines (Peso)	56.33	
Poland (Zloty)	4.07	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7518	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3451	
South Korea (Won)	1315.79	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8763	
Thailand (Baht)	35.00	
Turkey (NewLira)	27.0347	

(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	5.46	
30-year bond	4.21	

WEATHER OUTLOOK

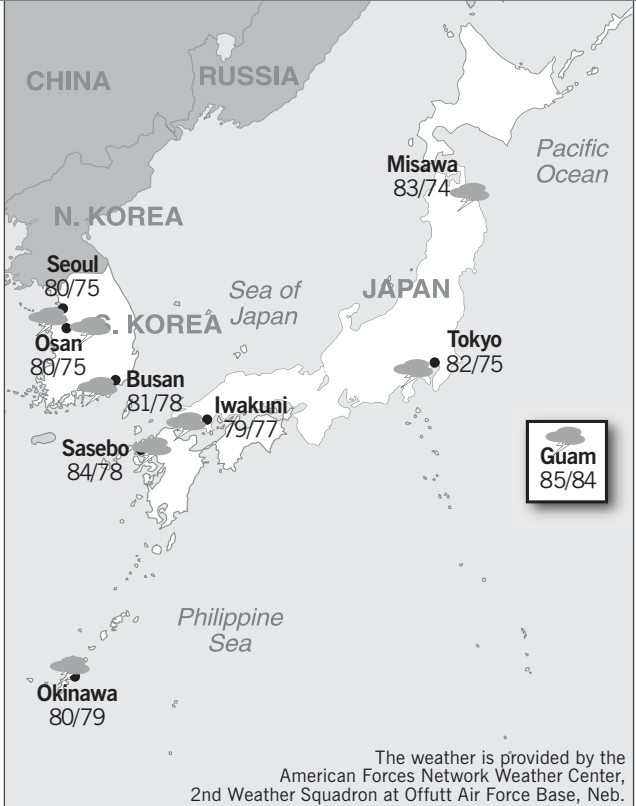
THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



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	15
Classified	13
Comics	17
Crossword	17
Faces	18
Opinion	16
Sports	19-24



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.



Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY



A screenshot from a video posted Aug. 6 on Twitter purports to show a Chinese coast guard vessel using a high-pressure hose to harass a Philippine vessel in the South China Sea.

US, Philippine defense chiefs confer on Chinese water-cannon incident

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Secretary of Defense on Tuesday joined his Filipino counterpart in condemning China's use of water cannons and "other dangerous maneuvers" against the Philippine coast guard over the weekend.

Two military-chartered civilian vessels, escorted by two Philippine coast guard ships, on Saturday attempted to move supplies to troops stationed on Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands when they encountered eight Chinese vessels attempting to block their way.

The ensuing stand-off escalated when a Chinese ship used high-powered water cannons against one of the supply vessels, according to the Philippine coast guard.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, in a call with Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., said China's ships put the Philippine vessels and crews in danger, undermined the status quo

and "directly threaten regional peace and stability," according to a Defense Department readout of the call released Tuesday.

The Philippine coast guard issued a similar statement on Sunday, when it called on China to "restrain its forces" and "respect the sovereign rights of the Philippines in its exclusive economic zone."

Beijing insists its actions were "in accordance with the law to safeguard China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," its operations in the regions are "beyond reproach," according to a Tuesday news release from China's Defense Ministry.

The Spratlys, about 100 islands and other features, are claimed in full by China, Taiwan and Vietnam; portions are also claimed by the Philippines and Malaysia. Around 45 islands are occupied by small contingents of military forces from all five countries, according to the CIA's World Factbook website.

The Philippine military occu-

pies Second Thomas Shoal and eight other features in the chain.

The Philippines has already lodged diplomatic complaints with Beijing, which is unlikely to alter its behavior, according to Carlyle Thayer, an emeritus professor at the University of New South Wales and lecturer at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Beijing is also unlikely to escalate its tactics out of fear of triggering the U.S.-Philippines mutual defense treaty, he said.

"China is likely to continue to exercise self-restraint because its goals are long term," Thayer told Stars and Stripes by email Wednesday.

Several Chinese coast guard vessels on June 30 attempted to prevent two Philippine patrol ships from reaching the shoal, mirroring another incident in April. In February, the Philippines accused China of temporarily blinding crew members on a coast guard vessel with a "military-grade" laser.

US: Sailor's mom encouraged him to pass on data

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The mother of a U.S. Navy sailor charged with providing sensitive military information to China encouraged him to cooperate with a Chinese intelligence officer, telling her son it might help him get a job with the Chinese government someday, the prosecution said Tuesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Sheppard made the accusation at a hearing in federal court in San Diego in urging the judge not to release Jinchao Wei, who was arrested last week on a rarely used espionage charge.

say he provided the officer detailed information on the weapons systems and aircraft aboard the Essex and other amphibious assault ships that act as small aircraft carriers.

In arguing against his release, Sheppard told the court on Tuesday that when Wei went home for Christmas to see his mother, who lives in Wisconsin, she was aware of her son's arrangement. She also encouraged him to keep helping the Chinese intelligence officer because it might get him a job someday with China's Communist party after he leaves the U.S. Navy, Sheppard said.

The AP asked Wei's defense attorney Jason Conforti in an email if he could speak on behalf of Wei's mother and provide a response to the prosecution's allegations. The AP also asked if he could provide contact information for her. The attorney did not immediately respond to the email.

Sheppard told the court that the intelligence officer told Wei that he and the Chinese government were willing to fly him and his mother to China to meet them in person, and that Wei searched online for flights to China this spring.

The Justice Department also charged sailor Wenheng Zhao, 26, based at Naval Base Ventura County, north of Los Angeles, with conspiring to collect nearly \$15,000 in bribes from a Chinese intelligence officer in exchange for information, photos and videos involving Navy exercises, operations and facilities between August 2021 through at least this May.

The information included plans for a large-scale U.S. military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region, which detailed the location and timing of naval force movements.

Uniforms: Effective immediately, more choices made available for sailors

FROM PAGE 1

Sailors will still receive the standard maternity uniforms, but effective immediately, additional choices are available, the message said.

Those include a "waterfront option" that comes with two sets of working uniforms, one service uniform, one dress blue or white uniform and a cardigan sweater.

One of two "ashore staff" options includes a Navy working uniform and two service uniforms; the other includes one or two dress

uniforms.

Sailors can update their selection if their command directs a change in uniform requirements, the Navy said.

The Navy began issuing temporary uniforms to expectant officers and enlisted sailors after Congress in 2021 directed the Defense Department to provide free loaner uniforms.

The goal is to provide immediate savings to pregnant service members and evaluate the cost savings for the military.

Active-duty and reserve sailors worldwide are eligible to apply through Sept. 30, 2026.

Command must verify the member's pregnancy status. Volunteers are not eligible for a maternity uniform allowance during their pregnancy.

Unlike the Navy, which ships tailored maternity uniforms directly to sailors, the Air Force targeted 10 bases for its pilot program. Most of those are stateside.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Savana Romey points out the features of the maternity Navy working uniform type III in 2022.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com

PACIFIC

Tropical storms taking aim at Japan, S. Korea

BY KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

Sasebo Naval Base in southern Japan is bracing for the impact of Tropical Storm Khanun as it made its way north Wednesday after a lap around Okinawa last week.

Khanun is expected to pass 84 miles west of the naval base on Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands, at 1 a.m. Thursday, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. The forecast for the naval base calls for showers, nearby thunderstorms and southeasterly winds of 40 to 52 mph, gusting to 69 mph overnight Wednesday into Thursday.

The naval base — population 8,400, including 2,300 family members — is the homeport for the amphibious assault ship USS America and its amphibious ready group, and ships of the Japan Mar-

itime Self-Defense Force.

Nonessential services, such as the base commissary, Navy Exchange, restaurant, library and chapel, were closed Wednesday until all-clear is announced after the storm and recovery efforts, Graham said. Security forces, medical care, port operation and watch standers remained on duty.

Khanun as a typhoon made two passes at Okinawa on Aug. 1 and Sunday, injuring more than 40 people and leaving downed trees, flooded zones, closed highways and power outages. Authorities suspect two people died as a result of the storm.

Rains and winds were growing in southern South Korea on Wednesday as the storm drew closer to the Korean Peninsula, where it was forecast to slam into major urban areas, The Associat-

ed Press reported.

Dozens of flights and ferry services were grounded and tens of thousands of fishing vessels evacuated to ports as government officials raised concerns about potential damages from flooding, landslides and tidal waves triggered by the typhoon-strength winds, AP reported.

Sasebo was in Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness level 1 on Wednesday, base spokesman Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy Graham, told Stars and Stripes via email Wednesday.

"Preparations for the incoming storm have been made throughout the preceding TCCOR levels," Graham said. "Including inspections of facilities to identify issues like potential clogged drains and securing loose items."

Sasebo city at 10 a.m. Wednes-



SASEBO NAVAL BASE/Facebook

Cots made ready for potential evacuees at the Main Base Fleet Fitness Center at Sasebo Naval Base in Sasebo, Japan, on Tuesday.

day opened evacuation shelters and issued a level three alert to evacuate the elderly and other at-risk individuals, according to a post on the base's official Facebook page.

The Emergency Management Department on base also opened an emergency shelter in the Main Base Fleet Fitness Center for any of the population affiliated with the U.S. military that wish to use it, Graham said.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Lan is making its way toward the heart of Japan's largest island, Honshu, according to the typhoon center. Lan at 9 a.m. Wednesday was 889 miles south-southeast of Yokosuka Naval Base and moving west-northwest at 6 mph. It had strengthened to sustained winds of 63 mph sustained winds and 81-mph gusts at its center.

agee.kelly@stripes.com

Boy Scouts salvage international experience after heatwave

BY DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Hundreds of Boy Scouts are camped inside a middle school at Camp Humphreys for a week-long stay after pulling out of the 25th World Scout Jamboree in a heatwave.

Cots were spread across the Humphreys Middle School gym Tuesday afternoon. Several Boy Scouts tossed a football while others played board games inside the gym.

Life Scout William Yungbluth of Milwaukee said parts of the jamboree campsite were flooded knee high and that Humphreys was a good change of scenery.

"It's kind of surprising because I've only been to American military bases, and they were a lot less nicer than this," he said Tuesday. "I'm sleeping next to my troop and we're having a great time."

Many of the Scouts were showing off their newly acquired troop patches and neckerchiefs. Scouts traditionally trade personal items with their counterparts from other nations and U.S. states.

Outside the gym, clothing still wet from the Scouts' trip to a waterpark in nearby Asan city hung on clotheslines strung between metal pillars.

'Behind the power curve'

The approximately 750 U.S. Scouts and their leaders exited the jamboree in the coastal city of Sae-mangeum on Sunday after three days of 90-degree heat. Many had fallen ill.



CHRISTOPHER GREEN/Stars and Stripes

Boy Scouts spent their Tuesday evening down time at the Humphreys Middle School gym at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

The jamboree itself broke camp early Tuesday, due to the approaching Tropical Storm Khanun, and the remaining 40,000 Scouts from 153 countries were relocated to other accommodations by South Korean authorities.

"Over time, we decided that the condition had the potential and was, we observed, eroding, and moving toward an unsafe condition," U.S. contingent chief Brad

Valdyke told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

The U.S. Scouts arrived at the jamboree Aug. 2, a day after the scheduled start of the 12-day event, according to Valdyke.

The campsite was still "behind the power curve" and lacked resources that "needed to be present on day one," such as medical staff available at all hours of the day, Valdyke said.

The U.S. Scouts decided on Fri-

day to leave the jamboree; the U.S. Embassy in Seoul arranged to send the Scouts to Humphreys, the largest U.S. military base overseas, until they return Friday to the U.S., Valdyke said.

Change of scenery

Eighteen buses shuttled on Sunday the Scouts 85 miles to Camp Humphreys, where they may shower at the school and their laundry is collected daily.

The Scouts kept a full schedule, taking in a South Korean baseball game, touring tech giant Samsung and visiting Starfield Coex Mall, one of Seoul's largest malls.

Eighth Army soldiers fed the Scouts, or their meals were provided by South Korean businesses or government organizations.

The Scouts will pay a cleaning fee for their accommodations and reimburse the Army for their meals, according to Valdyke.

"The outpouring of support has been very gracious," he said. "They have done a wonderful job of meeting our needs and our wants."

The school gym isn't exactly the jamboree experience but it's an improvement over their previous campsite, according to Eagle Scout Jack Meagher of Edina, Minn.

"I like being in my tent [and] I'm used to camping like that," Meagher told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. "I'm not used to being in the larger group setting; but that being said, it's a lot more air-conditioned and comfy than the tents."

Despite the previous week's "twists and turns," the Scouts' morale was still high as they continued their "international adventure," Valdyke said.

"When I ask them what the best part of the jamboree is, they tell me it's making friends, meeting people from other countries," he said. "Some of these will be life-long friends they meet."

choi.david@stripes.com

MILITARY

Official: Troops in Niger to remain for now

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

American service members deployed to Niger will stay there for now amid diplomatic efforts to restore the democratically elected president to power in the West African country, the Pentagon has decided.

Hundreds of U.S. troops are assigned to Base 201, a \$100 million drone site in Agadez, in central Niger. In addition, Army personnel routinely carry out training elsewhere in the country, which is being ruled by a military junta following a reported coup July 26.

In all, about 1,100 U.S. service members are in Niger. Continued U.S. military presence there is a powerful signal to the people, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said at a news conference Tuesday.

“The fact that our force posture has not changed sends a message that we’re committed to the region, we’re committed to Niger,” Singh said. “If something does happen that needs to adjust, we will adjust, but right now that is where we stand.”

The U.S. has paused some security cooperation efforts and isn’t conducting military training, she said. But Singh added that the



MARCUS HARDY-BANNERMAN/U.S. Air Force

U.S. airmen wait to offload cargo from a C-17 Globemaster III at Base 201 in Agadez, Niger, on April 26.

halt is temporary and that the DOD will continue to engage militarily with Niger as negotiations to end the “attempted coup” continue. Her word choice in describing the ouster of President Mohamed Bazoum was notable because U.S. law restricts the provision of military and other assistance if a coup is formally designated.

Such a determination would deal a significant blow to American efforts to counter Islamic militants in the Sahel region of West Africa, as the U.S. could be forced

to abandon the drone site and sever ties with Niger’s military.

On Monday, a senior State Department official gave a sobering assessment of that possibility in recapping talks with Brig. Gen. Moussa Salaou Barmou and three other junta representatives. The discussions were described as frank and difficult.

“It was not easy to get traction there,” acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland told reporters. “They are quite firm in their view on how they want to proceed,

and it does not comport with the constitution of Niger.”

Barmou was told of the potential risks if the junta continues in its present direction, Nuland said, adding that he is in a position to understand the impact after years of working with U.S. Special Forces. American officials are hopeful that the nearly 30-year relationship with Barmou, which included his attendance at National Defense University in Washington, will help restore democracy, The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday.

During the more than two-hour meeting, junta leaders didn’t reveal much about their thinking regarding the Russian military group Wagner. But they appeared to be aware of the threat to Niger’s sovereignty that use of mercenaries posed, she said.

Nuland’s comments followed reports on Sunday that the junta had asked Wagner for assistance.

Singh downplayed those reports, saying that the U.S. had seen no indication that Wagner is involved in events in Niger or that Wagner forces are helping the junta.

bath.alison@stripes.com
Twitter: @alisonbath_

Niger’s ousted president said to be low on food

Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger — Niger’s deposed president is running out of food and experiencing increasingly dire conditions two weeks after he was ousted in a military coup and put under house arrest, an adviser said Wednesday.

President Mohamed Bazoum, the West African nation’s democratically elected leader, has been held at the presidential palace in Niamey with his wife and son since mutinous soldiers moved against him on July 26.

The family is living without electricity and only has rice and canned goods left to eat, the adviser said. Bazoum remains in good health for now and will never resign, according to the adviser, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bazoum’s political party issued a statement confirming the president’s living conditions.

This week, Niger’s new military junta took steps to entrench itself in power and rejected international efforts to mediate. On Wednesday, it accused former colonizer France of trying to destabilize the country and of violating its closed airspace.

Royal Hawaiian HOLOKU BALL

Witness as we turn back the hands of time and take a peek into a Golden Era, when Hawaii was under Monarchical rule. The Iolani Palace was often the gathering center of the people and the Ball took place in the Throne Room, with The Royal Hawaiian Band performing. These are still held annually in Hawaii and now you too can experience a Holoku Ball right here at The New Sanno Hotel.

AUG 12 SAT

DOORS OPEN 1830

Royal Hawaiian Band Live Music,
Hawaiian Cultural Dance & Entertainment,
Authentic Hawaiian Buffet
Adult 65.00



**SEP
23
SAT**

Cultural Dance Performance by
Folk Dance Group Inrayog

DOORS OPEN 1830

Theme Buffet Dinner
featuring Native Filipino Dishes
from Different Regions
Live Music Entertainment
Education | Exploration | Enjoyment
Adult 65.00



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
WEAR YOUR BEST COSTUME FROM THE 60'S, 70'S...ROCK & ROLL!
FEATURING FEATURING...LIVE, THE WORLD FAMOUS
THE PARROTS

OCT 21 SAT

DOORS OPEN 1830

ADMISSION, THEMED BUFFET,
FABULOUS ENTERTAINMENT AND ATMOSPHERE
70.00 / PERSON



THE NEW SANNO

Limited Room & Event Packages are Available
Visit our Website for updates at www.thenewsanno.com
229-8003 or 03-6868-2311 EXT. 8003 Restricted to 20yrs old and above

MILITARY

Army kicks off German complex construction

By MICHAEL SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Work is underway on an estimated \$1.3 billion expansion at the Army's sprawling training center in rural Bavaria in what U.S. military officials call a "transformational project."

Leaders of U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria and German counterparts broke ground Friday on the Operational Readiness Training Complex at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, kicking off what is expected to be 10 years of construction.

The complex is designed to support an entire rotational brigade and is part of a larger construction plan aimed at replacing Camp Algiers and Camp Aachen.

When complete, the Operational Readiness Training Complex will include 50 buildings and have the capacity to house 5,000 U.S. and foreign soldiers while they train at Grafenwoehr.

"It's very much like a city in that they can do everything they need to do from this platform," said Col. Dan Kent, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' European district.

The complex will feature modern barracks, a fitness center and facilities for equipment maintenance, training and meal service, Kent said.

Groundbreaking took place nearly three years after announcement of the enormous expansion. The project was in its early stages when former Presi-



MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER/U.S. Army

Dignitaries from the Army and Germany break ground on the Operational Readiness Training Complex at the Grafenwoehr Training Area in the German state of Bavaria on Aug. 4.

dent Donald Trump ordered the number of U.S. forces in Germany to be reduced by 12,000.

But in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, and the subsequent war, the draw-down of American forces in Europe has been reversed.

A U.S. base was established in the Polish city of Poznan, and NATO allies on the eastern flank have pressed President Joe Biden to switch from rotational brigades to a permanent presence in their countries.

The project that began Friday represents the first stage in a larger long-term plan to provide facilities supporting three brigades by

adding space to the field camps, which eventually will be replaced, said Peter Barth, the regional program manager for U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria.

The timeline for the entire expansion is more than 30 years, Barth said, adding that construction of the Operational Readiness Training Complex buildings won't begin until 2024.

The construction costs are set to reach \$950 million, while expenses such as environmental compensation, contingencies and quality assurance account for the remainder of the \$1.3 billion price tag, Barth said.

He cited the COVID-19 pan-



ALFREDO BARRAZA/U.S. Army

Brig. Gen. Steven Carpenter, head of 7th Army Training Command, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Operational Readiness Training Complex in Grafenwoehr, Germany.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This rendering shows buildings in the Operational Readiness Training Complex, which will be built at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

dem and the Russia-Ukraine war as among the reasons the project is estimated to cost so much.

Over the past five years, the German federal construction cost

index has increased roughly 25%, he said.

slavin.michael@stripes.com
@mikeatstripes

Breach: Japan demanded proof of infiltration before moving on it

FROM PAGE 1

cited multiple current and former U.S. and Japanese officials it didn't identify.

'Not confirmed'

Yasukazu Hamada, Japan's defense minister, declined to comment on the Washington Post report, telling reporters in Tokyo on Tuesday that it doesn't comment on individual cyberattacks and how they are handled.

"I won't comment on the details due to the nature of the matter," Hamada said. "We have not confirmed that classified information held by the Defense Ministry has been leaked due to a cyberattack." The Embassy of Japan in Washington didn't immediately respond to messages requesting comment.

Tensions between the U.S. and China are increasing due in part to concerns of a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan, which would likely be accompanied by cyberattacks, particularly in the early stages.

In 2019, the U.S. and Japan agreed that a cyberattack against either country in Japan could, in certain circumstances, constitute an armed attack.

The U.S. has about 56,000 troops based in Japan, according to the U.S. Defense De-



KAZUHIRO NOGI/TNS

U.S. Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, left, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with Japan Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada at the Defense Ministry in Tokyo last month.

partment.

In August 2021, Yasuhide Nakayama, who was then Japan's state minister of defense, said he and Nakasone were "opening a new chapter in our joint efforts in cyberspace" as part of a visit to U.S. Cyber Com-

mand to discuss security challenges in cyberspace and bilateral cooperation, according to U.S. Cyber Command.

Japan established a Cyber Defense Group in 2014, as part of its Self-Defense Forces. But amid a growing spate of cyber-

attacks, it reorganized and launched a full cyber defense command in March 2022, along with a commitment to engage in offensive cyber operations and plans to expand to 4,000 people by the end of 2027, according to Japan's Ministry of Defense.

In addition to visits to Japan by both Nakasone and Neuberger, then National Cyber Director Chris Inglis also visited Japan in December 2022.

In a statement provided to Bloomberg News, the U.S. Defense Department described the U.S.-Japan Alliance as the cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and said it was strengthening cyber cooperation as part of "Alliance modernization efforts."

In January, the U.S. and Japan agreed to "intensify collaboration to counter increasingly sophisticated and persistent cyber threats" following security talks to strengthen the alliance in Washington DC.

"The United States welcomed Japan's initiatives to bolster its national cybersecurity posture," said a joint statement, citing the creation of a new organization to coordinate whole-of-government cybersecurity policies and a new framework set to "provide a foundation for a wider range of U.S.-Japan cooperation."

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russian factory blast adds fears; Ukraine blamed

BY DASHA LITVINOVA AND EMMA BURROWS
Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia — An explosion on the grounds of a factory that makes optical equipment for Russia’s security forces injured 56 people Wednesday north of Moscow, six of them severely, officials said.

The blast occurred at a warehouse storing fireworks but was on the grounds of the Zagorsk optics manufacturing plant, Andrei Vorobyov, the governor of the region surrounding the Russian capital, said.

Vorobyov said the company rented out the warehouse for storage, but he later claimed the plant itself was mostly producing pyrotechnics. He said the Zagorsk Optical-Mechanical Plant “has had nothing to do with optics or mechanics for a long time.”

The company’s website says it still manufactures those products, as well as medical equipment. A 1995 report by the U.S. Department of Commerce described the factory as “a producer of precision optical equipment for the military.”

The explosion blew out nearby windows, damaged 38 apartment buildings and prompted the evacuation of the surrounding area, the regional governor said. Five people were feared trapped under rubble.

Emergency crews with sniffer dogs walked over the rubble of low brick buildings, video of the aftermath showed. Firefighters hosed down the mangled industrial wreckage.

Russian officials did not provide a suspected cause of the explosion, which produced a tall plume of black smoke and added to jitters over recent nighttime drone attacks on Moscow. Earlier, officials said Russian air defenses shot down two drones aimed at the capital overnight, and they accused Ukraine of an attempted attack.

Some Russian media reported that a drone attack caused the blast at the manufacturing plant site. Multiple Russian authorities, including Vorobyov and Russia’s Investigative Committee, denied that.

The Investigative Committee, Russia’s top law enforcement agency, said in a statement it has launched a criminal inquiry on charges of violating industrial safety requirements at hazardous production facilities.

Russian officials described the downed drones as Ukraine’s latest attempt to strike the Russian capital in an alleged campaign to unnerve Muscovites and take the war in Ukraine to Russia.

The drones were intercepted on their approach to Moscow and there were no casualties, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said. The Russian



RUSSIAN EMERGENCY MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE/AP

A Russian Emergency Ministry employee and his dog work at the site of the Zagorsk Optical and Mechanical Plant on Wednesday, after the blast in the city of Sergiev Posad, Moscow Region, about 41 miles northeast of Moscow.

Defense Ministry described the incident as a “terrorist attack.”

One of the drones came down in the Domodedovo district south of Moscow, and the other fell near the Minsk highway west of the city, according to Sobyenin. Moscow Domodedovo Airport is one of the Russian capital’s busiest airports.

It wasn’t clear where the drones were launched, and Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment. Ukraine usually neither confirms nor denies such attacks.

Flights were briefly halted at Moscow’s Vnukovo airport on July 30 and Aug. 1, when drones smashed into Moscow’s business district after being jammed by air defenses in two separate incidents.

In May, Russian authorities ac-

cused Ukraine of attempting to attack the Kremlin with two drones in an effort to assassinate President Vladimir Putin. Recent drone attacks have aimed at targets from the Russian capital to the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula.

In another incident that caused alarm, Ukrainian media reported social media blogs as saying that a thick plume of smoke billowed over Sevastopol.

The Moscow-appointed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said the smoke came from a “fleet training exercise” and urged local residents not to worry.

“Yes, the smell is unpleasant, but it is absolutely safe,” he said on Telegram. “Everything is calm in the city.”

Those incidents occurred against the backdrop of Ukraine’s ongoing counteroffensive, which Ukrainian and Western officials have warned will be a long slog against the Kremlin’s deeply entrenched forces.

Russia is pushing back against the Ukrainians in eastern areas, where tough battles are taking place, Hanna Maliar, Ukraine’s deputy defense minister, said Wednesday on her official Telegram channel.

“In some parts of the front-line multiple changes in position take place within a day,” she said.

She claimed that Ukraine’s efforts had achieved “partial success” in the south. She gave no details.

It wasn’t possible to independently verify either side’s claims.

Russia to boost army near borders after NATO expansion

Bloomberg News

Russia will boost its military forces near its borders with NATO states, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said as he lashed out at the U.S. and its allies for providing support to Ukraine.

Shoigu told a meeting of defense officials Wednesday that “strengthening of troop formations” on Russia’s western bor-

ders was necessary in response to what he said was a buildup of forces by North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries.

He singled out the “militarization of Poland” and said the entry of Finland and Sweden to NATO membership would be “seriously destabilizing” for Russia’s security.

Taking into account the armed

forces of eastern European countries, about 360,000 service people are stationed in the immediate vicinity of the borders of Russia and its ally Belarus, he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, now in its 18th month, has triggered Europe’s biggest conflict since World War II and reinvigorated NATO, as members of the defense alli-

ance send billions of dollars in weapons to help the government in Kyiv defend itself. The war prompted Finland to join NATO, while Sweden’s membership application is going through the ratification process.

Shoigu complained that deliveries of arms to Ukraine by the U.S. and its allies “creates serious risks of further escalation of the con-

flict.” He didn’t acknowledge that Russia had started the war.

Russia announced in January that it planned to expand its military to 1.5 million people from the existing target level of 1.15 million amid deepening tensions with NATO.

The Kremlin hasn’t indicated how quickly the expansion will take place.

Find out all about the best place to eat, shop, and explore in your area on Best of the Pacific 2023 website!

We have the **Winners!**
Check them out now!

STARS & STRIPES
BEST OF THE PACIFIC
★ 2023-24 ★

bestofpacific.stripes.com



An attendee at Planned Parenthood’s Bans Off Our Bodies rally for abortion rights holds a sign reading “Idaho The Women as property State” at the Idaho Statehouse in Boise, in May 2022. Six university professors and two teachers’ unions are suing Idaho over a law that they say violates their First Amendment rights by criminalizing teaching and classroom discussion about pro-abortion-rights views.

Professors sue over law they say criminalizes abortion discussions

BY REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Six university professors and two teachers’ unions are suing Idaho over a law that they say violates their First Amendment rights by criminalizing teaching and classroom discussion about pro-abortion rights viewpoints.

The 2021 No Public Funds for Abortion Act prohibits state contracts or transactions with abortion providers and also bans public employees from promoting abortion, counseling in favor of abortion or referring someone to abortion services. Public employees who violate the law can be charged with misuse of public funds, a felony, and be fired, fined and ordered to pay back the funds they are accused of misusing.

The law is “simultaneously sweeping and unclear” and places a “strait jacket upon the intellectual leaders” of Idaho’s public universities, the educators, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho, wrote in the lawsuit.

The case was brought by five University of Idaho professors who teach philosophy, political science, American literature and journalism, as well as a Boise State University professor of social work. Other plaintiffs include the Idaho Federation of Teachers, which represents faculty at UI, BSU and Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho Faculty Federation.

The University of Idaho and Boise State University both warned staffers last year not to refer students to abortion providers or tell them how to get emergency

contraception because of the law. The law also sparked questions about the potential impact on other public employees, including journalists for public media outlets.

The educators say the law is vague and doesn’t define exactly what it means to promote or counsel in favor of abortion. As a result, one philosophy professor cut an entire module on human reproduction from her biomedical ethics course because she fears prosecution, the lawsuit states.

Others have significantly altered their course content in a variety of subjects like sociology, law, human reproduction and women in media by pulling reading materials, curtailing lectures and declining to give meaningful feedback on some student research and writing.

Earlier this year, Lewis-Clark State College officials censored several works of art from an exhibit at the school that focused on healthcare issues. The artists were told that the works were removed from the show because administrators feared they would run afoul of the new law.

The purpose of public universities is to foster an open and robust exchange of ideas on issues of social, legal and political impor-

tance, ACLU-Idaho wrote in the lawsuit.

“In Idaho, the legislature has determined these ideals no longer apply to academic inquiry about abortion — one of today’s most urgent social, moral, and political issues,” the ACLU wrote.

But the Idaho Family Policy Center, a conservative anti-abortion organization that helped draft and promote the law, took issue with the educators’ claims. The law aimed in part to stop university-run health care centers from prescribing abortion-inducing drugs or referring students to abortion providers, the center’s President Blaine Konzatti said in a news release.

Konzatti called the lawsuit a “baseless legal challenge.”

“The ‘No Public Funds For Abortion Act’ simply does not infringe on academic speech protected by the First Amendment, including classroom discussion on the topics related to abortion,” he said.

The educators are asking a federal judge to declare the law unconstitutional as it is applied to academic institutions, and to bar the state from enforcing it with respect to speech that promotes or counsels in favor of abortion.

One philosophy professor cut an entire module on human reproduction from her biomedical ethics course because she fears prosecution, the lawsuit states.

FAA sends 22 unruly-passenger cases to the FBI

BY LORI ARATANI
The Washington Post

Nearly two dozen airline passengers who yelled, cursed or assaulted crew members or passengers could face criminal prosecution.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced Tuesday it is referring 22 unruly-passenger cases to the FBI. The action brings the total number of cases referred this year to 39.

“Unruly behavior poses serious safety concerns for passengers and crew alike, which is why we are addressing this issue aggressively,” Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement accompanying the announcement.

Instances of passengers acting out on commercial aircraft have dropped 80% since hitting record highs in early 2021. That year, the FAA received nearly 6,000 reports of unruly passengers, but by 2022, that number dropped to fewer than 2,500. Officials reported a sharp drop in onboard conflicts after the federal mask mandate — often a source of tension — was rescinded in April 2022.

Even though the number of cases has declined, bad behavior remains an issue.

Last week, a 39-year-old man was taken into custody after he allegedly grabbed a flight attendant and injured her with a “sharp object” on a Delta Air Lines flight headed from Atlanta to New Orleans. Investigators said the man

also harmed himself using the same object he used to injure the flight attendant.

The most recent set of cases referred to the FBI involved passengers who traveled between December 2021 and April of this year. One instance involved an attempt to breach the cockpit, while in two cases, the individuals had to be restrained and handcuffed. Several cases involved sexual or physical assaults, with one involving the sexual assault of an unaccompanied minor.

The FBI did not immediately respond to questions about how it has handled cases it has received by the FAA. The FAA refers what it considers the most serious cases to the FBI.

The FAA also has its own process for handling some reports of bad behavior, which can result in significant fines.

In 2022, the agency announced it would seek a fine of \$81,950 from a passenger aboard a July 7, 2021, American Airlines flight from Dallas to Charlotte, N.C. The agency alleged that a passenger threatened a flight attendant who was trying to help her after she fell into the aisle. The passenger then tried to open the cabin door and had to be restrained by two other flight attendants.

In addition to criminal prosecution, individuals can face civil penalties of up to \$37,000 per violation.

Ticket sold in Fla. wins \$1.58B jackpot, 3rd-largest in history

Associated Press

NEPTUNE BEACH, Fla. — A single ticket sold in Florida is good for a \$1.58 billion Mega Millions jackpot, ending weeks of anticipation over who would win the eye-popping top prize.

A Publix grocery store in Neptune Beach sold the winning ticket, according to the Florida Lottery. The winning numbers drawn Tuesday night were: 13, 19, 20, 32, 33 and the yellow ball 14. A message was left seeking comment Wednesday from Publix. Messages left for the Florida Lottery weren’t immediately returned.

Before the big win, there had been 31 straight drawings since the last time someone won the game’s jackpot on April 18. That enabled the prize to steadily grow to be the

third-largest ever in U.S. history.

Mega Millions jackpot winners are so rare thanks to odds of one in 302.6 million.

The \$1.58 billion payout would go to the winner if they opt for an annuity, doled out over 30 years. But people usually prefer a lump sum option, which for Tuesday’s jackpot was an estimated \$783.3 million. The prize money is subject to federal taxes. Many states also tax lottery winnings.

A Florida law that went into effect last year allows the winners of lottery prizes in excess of \$250,000 to remain anonymous for 90 days. Also of note, there is also no state income tax in Florida.

Mega Millions is played in 45 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NATION

American nurse, daughter freed after abduction

Associated Press

American nurse Alix Dorsainvil and her daughter were freed Wednesday, nearly two weeks after they were kidnapped in Haiti's capital, according to aid organization El Roi Haiti.

The Christian group founded by Dorsainvil's husband asked that neither she nor her family be contacted: "There is still much to process and to heal from in this situation," the group said in a statement.

The group added that it confirmed the safe release "with a heart of gratitude and immense joy." No other details were immediately available, including whether any ransom was paid.

The U.S. State Department said it welcomed news that the two had been freed and thanked its Haitian



AP

In this undated photo provided by El Roi Haiti, Alix Dorsainvil, right, poses with her husband, Sandro Dorsainvil.

and U.S. interagency partners for facilitating the release.

"We have no greater priority

than the safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas," the agency said. "As you can imagine, these

individuals have been through a very difficult ordeal, both physically and mentally."

Officials provided no other details.

Witnesses told The Associated Press that armed men had seized the New Hampshire native and her young daughter in late July from a clinic in a gang-controlled area of Port-au-Prince where Dorsainvil works.

The Christian group has offered medical care, education and other basic services to people in the country's poorest areas.

Gang warfare has increasingly plagued Haiti since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

Gang members regularly kill, rape and hold residents for ransom. A local nonprofit has docu-

mented 539 kidnappings since January, a significant rise over previous years.

On July 27, the U.S. State Department had ordered the departure of non-emergency U.S. government personnel from Haiti, which remains under a "do not travel" advisory.

In a video posted on the El Roi Haiti website, Dorsainvil describes Haitians as "full of joy, and life and love," people she was blessed to know.

In a blog post, El Roi Haiti said Dorsainvil fell in love with Haiti's people on a visit there after the devastating 2010 earthquake hit the Caribbean nation.

Dorsainvil graduated from Regis College in Weston, Mass., where a program supports nursing education in Haiti.



MARIAM ZUHAIB/AP

The U.S. Supreme Court is seen on July 13, in Washington.

Supreme Court reinstates regulation of firearms without serial numbers

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is reinstating a regulation aimed at reining in the proliferation of ghost guns, firearms without serial numbers that have been turning up at crime scenes across the nation in increasing numbers.

The court on Tuesday voted 5-4 to put on hold a ruling from a federal judge in Texas that invalidated the Biden administration's regulation of ghost gun kits. The regulation will be in effect while the administration appeals the ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans — and potentially the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined

with the court's three liberal members to form the majority. Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas would have kept the regulation on hold during the appeals process. Neither side provided an explanation.

The Justice Department had told the court that local law enforcement agencies seized more than 19,000 ghost guns at crime scenes in 2021, a more than tenfold increase in just five years.

"The public-safety interests in reversing the flow of ghost guns to dangerous and otherwise prohibited persons easily outweighs the minor costs that respondents will incur," Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer,

wrote in a court filing.

The new rule was issued last year and changed the definition of a firearm under federal law to include unfinished parts, like the frame of a handgun or the receiver of a long gun, so they can be tracked more easily. Those parts must be licensed and include serial numbers.

Manufacturers must also run background checks before a sale — as they do with other commercially made firearms. The requirement applies regardless of how the firearm was made, meaning it includes ghost guns made from individual parts or kits or by 3D printers.

The rule does not prohibit people from purchasing a kit or any type of firearm.

Everyone wants to work at UPS after union scores \$170K driver pay

By AZUL CIBILS BLAQUIER

Bloomberg

United Parcel Service has become a hot employer since its union last month secured \$30 billion in new money over a five-year contract.

Online jobs board Indeed saw a more than 50% increase in searches with "UPS" or "United Parcel Service" in the job title the week after the deal announcement, according to data shared with Bloomberg News. The trend doesn't appear to be industry-wide, as searches for "delivery driver" didn't see similar spikes. "UPS driver jobs near me" has also been a top trending search on Google in the two weeks since the deal was reached.

"We have seen strong interest in UPS jobs as a result of media coverage of the tentative agreement with the Teamsters," Jim Mayer, a UPS spokesman, told Bloomberg News in an emailed statement.

To head off a potential strike, on July 25 UPS agreed to boost starting wages for part-time workers to \$21 an hour and improve working conditions, including adding air conditioning in new vehicles. The tentative agreement has yet to be accepted by union members. The results of the ongoing ratification vote will be announced on Aug. 22.

The news might not be as moving for shareholders. On Tuesday, UPS lowered its full-year profit forecast, in part due to rising costs after the tentative labor agreement. UPS said the guidance change was "primarily to reflect the volume impact from labor negotiations and the costs associated

with the tentative agreement."

UPS shared some details of the new labor contract on its earnings call. Full-time drivers will make around \$170,000 in annual pay and benefits by the end of the five year contract. Part-time union employees will earn at least \$25.75 per hour and receive full health care and pension benefits.

This all stands far above industry standards, but enthusiastic UPS-wannabes should know that the path to a coveted driving position is far from a smooth ride.

To become a driver, an employee first has to work "inside the building" as a package loader. These jobs pay less and are mostly part time, since UPS has two package sorting rotations a day and the hub is mostly shut down in between those. They do, however get the same benefits as other UPS workers. In a way, workers have to prove themselves before they can slip into the driver's seat — which often takes several years.

Even once a driver, the company starts workers at the lowest level. The job won't be a nice Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. shift. The route will most likely involved toting heavier packages and making many stops. It will, however, pay significantly better than its contractor counterparts at FedEx Ground or Amazon — neither of which are unionized.

The company is most likely not going to hire en masse right now. UPS volumes have been dropping for several quarters as pandemic demand wanes. But during peak seasons, the company boasts adding as many as 100,000 temporary workers.

NATION

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 on the rise again

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

Here we go again: COVID-19 hospital admissions have inched upward in the United States since early July in a small-scale echo of the three previous summers.

With an updated vaccine still months away, this summer bump in new hospitalizations might be concerning, but the number of patients is far lower than before.

For the week ending July 29, COVID-19 hospital admissions were at 9,056. That's an increase of about 12% from the previous week.

But it's a far cry from past peaks, like the 44,000 weekly hospital admissions in early January, the nearly 45,000 in late July 2022, or the 150,000 admissions during the omicron surge of January 2022.

"It is ticking up a little bit, but it's not something that we need to raise any alarm bells over," said Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

It's likely that infections are rising too, but the data is scant. Federal authorities ended the public health emergency in May, so the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and many states no longer track the number of positive test results.

Since early June, about 500 to 600 people have died each week. The number of deaths appears to be stable this summer, although

past increases in deaths have lagged behind hospitalizations.

The amount of the COVID-19 virus in sewage water has been rising since late June across the nation. In the coming weeks, health officials say they'll keep a close eye on wastewater levels as people return from summer travel and students go back to school.

Higher levels of COVID-19 in wastewater concentrations are being found in the Northeast and South, said Cristin Young, an epidemiologist at Biobot Analytics, the CDC's wastewater surveillance contractor.

"It's important to remember right now the concentrations are still fairly low," Young said, adding it's about 2.5 times lower than last summer.

And while one version of omicron — EG.5 — is appearing more frequently, no particular variant of the virus is dominant. The variant has been dubbed "eris" but it's an unofficial nickname and scientists aren't using it.

"There are a couple that we're watching, but we're not seeing anything like delta or omicron," Young said, referencing variants that fueled previous surges.

This fall, officials expect to see updated vaccines that contain one version of the omicron strain, called XBB.1.5. It's an important change from today's combination shots, which mix the original coronavirus strain with last year's most common omicron variants.



JUNCTION FIRE COMPANY

A man crashed his car through the second floor of a Pennsylvania house on Sunday in what state police are describing as intentional.

Police: Car crashes into second floor of house in 'intentional act'

By TIMOTHY BELLA
The Washington Post

How did a man crash a Toyota Corolla into the second floor of a Pennsylvania home?

It's a question firefighters were asking themselves on Sunday when they responded to a one-car crash at a home in Lewistown, Pa., and found the 2006 gray sedan jutting into a dormer window and stuck on the mangled roof.

One of the homeowners was at the house at the time of the crash but was downstairs and was not injured, Sam Baumgardner, the administrator of the Junction Fire Company, told The Washington Post on Tuesday.

"This is the stuff you see in movies," Baumgardner said.

Charges are pending against

driver Evan Miller, 20, of Lewis-town after the Pennsylvania State Police determined that the crash was not an accident, agency spokesman Myles Snyder told The Post. A State police report said the crash was "an intentional act."

Miller, who was injured in the crash, was taken to Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, authorities said. A hospital spokesman told The Post that it has "no information on this patient."

As authorities investigate how the car got to the second floor of the house, Baumgardner said the fire company believes Miller hit a culvert, or a tunnel carrying a stream, next to the house that caused it to go airborne.

"The raise and elevation from the bottom and top of the culvert

was enough to give the vehicle the ability to clear the vehicles in the driveway and land in the second floor of the house," he said.

State Police did not share additional details, such as a motive for the crash and whether Miller knows the family that lives there. Photos shared by the fire company showed the destruction caused by the crash, including a massive hole in the second floor of the house that was exposed once the vehicle was removed.

Charges pending against Miller include aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person and criminal mischief, records show. If he's convicted of aggravated assault, he could face five to 20 years in prison, according to Pennsylvania attorneys.

Riverfront brawl brings unwelcome attention to historic city

By KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Three white boaters in Alabama's capital city will be charged with misdemeanor assault for a riverfront brawl with a Black boat captain that drew nationwide attention, with more charges likely to come, police said.

Videos of the incident, which circulated widely on social media, have proven crucial in investigating what happened, Montgomery Police Chief Darryl Albert said. One person has turned himself in and the other two have agreed to turn themselves in by the end of the day Tuesday.

"The investigation is ongoing and more charges are likely," Al-

bert said.

The fight was largely split along racial lines and began when a moored pontoon boat blocked the Harriott II riverboat from docking in its designated space along the city's riverfront, Albert said. The Harriott II had 227 passengers aboard for a tour.

The viral video of white boaters assaulting a Black riverboat captain and the following melee brought unwelcome attention to the historic city — which is known across the country for the Montgomery bus boycott in the 1950s and voting rights marches in the 1960s. The city in recent decades has tried to move beyond its reputation as a site of racial tension and to build a tourism trade in-

stead based on its critical role in the Civil Rights Movement.

"I don't think you can judge any community by any one incident. This is not indicative of who we are," Mayor Steven Reed said Tuesday. He noted that the people on the pontoon boat were not from Montgomery. "It's important for us to address this as an isolated incident, one that was avoidable and one that was brought on by individuals who chose the wrong path of action," Reed said.

Before the fight began, the riverboat captain tried to contact the pontoon boat owner by loudspeaker. People on the other boat responded with "obscene gestures, curse words and taunting," the police chief said. The river-

boat co-captain took another vessel to shore to attempt to move the pontoon boat and "was attacked by several members of the private boat." Albert said several people from the riverboat came to the co-captain's defense, "engaging in what we all have seen since on social media."

Video captured showed that once the Harriott II docked, several people from the riverboat rushed to confront the people on the pontoon boat and more fighting broke out. The video showed people being shoved, punched and kicked, and one man hitting someone with a chair. At least one person was knocked into the water.

"The co-captain was doing his job. He was simply trying to move

the boat just enough so the cruise ship could park safely, but it quickly escalated," Albert said.

The police chief said so far the charges are against people from the pontoon boat who assaulted the co-captain and a 16-year-old who got involved. Police are trying to locate and question the man with the chair.

The fight took place along Montgomery's downtown riverfront in an area where slaveowners once unloaded people from steam boats to be sold at auction.

Now, the city has developed the area into a tourist and recreation place with restaurants, bars and hotels. The Harriott II takes tourists on sightseeing trips along the Alabama River.

NATION

Ohio vote seen as win for abortion rights effort

By JULIE CARR SMYTH
AND SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio voters on Tuesday resoundingly rejected a Republican-backed measure that would have made it more difficult to change the state’s constitution, setting up a fall campaign that will become the nation’s latest referendum on abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned nationwide protections last year.

The defeat of Issue 1 keeps in place a simple majority threshold for passing future constitutional amendments, rather than the 60% supermajority that was proposed. Its supporters said the higher bar would protect the state’s foundational document from outside interest groups.

Voter opposition to the proposal was widespread, even spreading into traditionally Republican territory. In fact, in early returns, support for the measure fell far short of former President Donald Trump’s performance during the 2020 election in nearly every county.

Dennis Willard, a spokesperson for the opposition campaign One Person One Vote, called Issue 1 a “deceptive power grab” that was intended to diminish the influence of the state’s voters.

“Tonight is a major victory for democracy in Ohio,” Willard told a jubilant crowd at the opposition campaign’s watch party. “The majority still rules in Ohio.”

President Joe Biden hailed Tuesday’s result, releasing a statement saying: “This measure was a blatant attempt to weaken voters’ voices and further erode the freedom of women to make their own health care decisions. Ohioans spoke loud and



JAY LAPRETE/AP

Dennis Willard, spokesperson for One Person One Vote, celebrates the results of the election during a watch party Tuesday in Columbus, Ohio. Ohio voters have resoundingly rejected a Republican-backed measure that would have made it more difficult to pass abortion protections.

clear, and tonight democracy won.”

A major national group that opposes abortion rights, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, called the result “a sad day for Ohio” while criticizing the outside money that helped the opposition — even though both sides relied on national groups and individuals in their campaigns.

Republican lawmakers who had pushed the measure — and put it before voters during the height of summer vacation season — explained away the defeat as a result of too little time to adequately explain its virtues

to voters. A main backer, Republican Senate President Matt Huffman, predicted lawmakers would try again, though probably not as soon as next year.

“Obviously, there are a lot of folks that did not want this to happen — not just because of the November issues, but for all of the other ones that are coming,” he said, expressing disappointment that Republicans didn’t stick together. In a statement, Republican House Speaker Jason Stephens advised supporters to move past Tuesday’s results to focus on trying to defeat the abortion

rights measure: “The people of Ohio have spoken.”

While abortion was not directly on the special election ballot, the result marks the latest setback for Republicans in a conservative-leaning state who favor imposing tough restrictions on the procedure. Ohio Republicans placed the question on the summer ballot in hopes of undercutting the citizen initiative that voters will decide in November that seeks to enshrine abortion rights in the state.

Other states where voters have considered abortion rights since last year’s Supreme Court ruling have protected them, including in red states such as Kansas and Kentucky.

Dr. Marcela Azevedo, one of the leaders of a coalition advancing the fall abortion question, said Tuesday that Issue 1’s defeat should allow the measure to pass in November.

Interest in Tuesday’s special election was intense, even after Republicans ignored their own law that took effect earlier this year to place the question before voters in August. Voters cast nearly 700,000 early in-person and mail ballots ahead of Tuesday’s final day of voting, more than double the number of advance votes in a typical primary election. Early turnout was especially heavy in the Democratic-leaning counties surrounding Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

One Person One Vote represented a broad, bipartisan coalition of voting rights, labor, faith and community groups. The group also had as allies four ex-governors of the state and five former state attorneys general of both parties, who called the proposed change bad public policy.

Mississippi governor wins GOP nomination, will face Elvis’ cousin in November

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves on Tuesday won the Republican nomination as he seeks a second term, setting up a general election contest against Democrat Brandon Presley in the heavily conservative state.

Reeves defeated two first-time candidates: John Witcher, a physician who has criticized COVID-19 vaccinations, and David Hardigree, a military veteran. Presley, a cousin of rock ‘n’ roll icon Elvis Presley, ran unopposed.

“The national Democrats think Mississippi is theirs for the taking,” Reeves told supporters Tuesday night in Jackson. “They’ve circled our state, and they’ve hand-picked their candidate. ... These national Democrats think they can use him to inject their liberal ideology into Mississippi under the guise of being a moderate.”

The general election is Nov. 7. Presley said he will advocate for

people who struggle to make ends meet.

“This race is going to come down to ... which candidate, and I believe that’s me, has got guts and the backbone to stand up for the people of Mississippi and which candidate has consistently showed us that he will do whatever his lobbyist buddies want him to do and will not stand up for the people of Mississippi,” Presley said.

Mississippi is one of three states holding races for governor in an off-year election. Despite Republicans holding all statewide offices, including the governorship for the past 20 years, Democratic Governors Association chair Phil Murphy has predicted the contest could be a “sleeper” — a state where the right Democrat could win.

In his hometown of Nettleton, Presley took the stage at his victory party to “See See Rider,” the song Elvis Presley often used as walk-on music. The candidate



BARBARA GAUNTT/AP

Tate Reeves’ supporters mingle as they wait for the arrival of the governor at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson, Miss., on Tuesday.

said he would not sing, though.

“We’re trying to get votes,” Presley said in a phone interview before spoke to supporters. “We’re not trying to lose them.”

Reeves, 49, has steadily worked his way up the political ladder since winning the race for state treasurer in 2003. He served two terms as treasurer and two terms as lieutenant governor before winning the governor’s race in 2019.

Reeves closed schools at the beginning of the pandemic and put some restrictions on businesses as COVID-19 cases spread, but he never ordered churches to close

and he has often bragged that Mississippi was among the first states to remove limitations from businesses.

He also opposes Medicaid expansion, often referring to the government health insurance program as “welfare.”

“Brandon Presley and his party are happy to see people go on welfare,” Reeves said. “He campaigns on wanting more welfare. He thinks welfare is a destination. I think ... a job is a destination for everyone in Mississippi — a job with benefits and health care and a chance to move up in the world.”

West Virginia officials reject syringe service

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — City councilors in West Virginia’s Democrat-controlled capital city voted against a proposal from the state’s long-time abortion provider to start a syringe service program in one of the country’s most opioid-devastated areas.

The 17-9 vote on Monday came two years after the council and the Republican-controlled state Legislature passed regulations restricting the programs, which are supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as scientifically-proven methods to curb drug use and prevent the spread of infections like hepatitis c and HIV. The opposition said they feared the program would bring increased drug use and crime into Charleston’s west side, a low-income area that has suffered from redlining and historic disinvestment. Supporters of the Women’s Health Center of West Virginia said drug use is already prevalent and that a syringe service program would help more people get into recovery.

WORLD

Heavy rain triggers landslides, flooding in Norway

By JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Days of heavy rain triggered landslides and flooding in mountainous southern Norway, where authorities said Wednesday they were considering blowing up a dam at risk of bursting to prevent downstream communities from getting deluged.

The Glåma, Norway's longest and most voluminous river, is dammed at the Braskereidfoss hydroelectric power plant, which was under water and out of operation. Police said a controlled explosion before the dam fails would allow officials to control the flow

of water.

"When there is so much water, we can perhaps imagine, in the worst case, a kind of tidal wave coming sailing down the river," police spokeswoman Merete Hjertø told Norwegian broadcaster NRK.

Police in southern Norway said more than 600 people were evacuated in a region north of Oslo overnight and said the situation there was "unclear and chaotic." The Norwegian Public Roads Administration said Wednesday that all main roads between Oslo and Trondheim, Norway's third-largest city, were closed.

"We are in a crisis situation of

national dimensions," Innlandet country Mayor Aud Hove said. "People are isolated in several local communities, and the emergency services risk not being able to reach people who need help."

More heavy rain was expected over southern Norway and central Sweden.

Storm Hans has battered parts of Scandinavia and the Baltics for several days, causing rivers to overflow, damaging roads and injuring people with falling branches.

In Sweden and Norway, sheds, small houses and mobile homes floated in rivers or were carried away by strong sea currents.



CORNELIUS POPPE, NTB SCANPIX/AP

A mudslide hit several residential buildings in Bagn in Valdres, Norway, on Tuesday.

US, EU lawmakers say West is too soft on Serbia over Kosovo tensions

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Senior lawmakers from the United States and Europe are calling for a change in the Western diplomatic approach toward Serbia and Kosovo amid concern that tensions between the two could rapidly spiral out of control.

In the letter, signed by U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, chair of the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee, and his counterparts in Germany, the U.K., Ukraine and other countries, the lawmakers said U.S. and European Union negotiators were not putting enough pressure on Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

Serbia and its former province of Kosovo have been at odds for decades. Their 1998-99 war left

more than 10,000 people dead, mostly Kosovo Albanians. Kosovo unilaterally declared independence in 2008 but Belgrade has refuses to recognize the move.

"It is hugely underestimated how serious the situation is that the EU and allies have brought themselves into with the continued appeasement of autocrats in the re-

gion like Vucic and (Bosnian Serb leader Milorad) Dodik," one of the letter's signatories, Dutch EU lawmaker Thijs Reuten, told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The letter, addressed to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, highlights a series

of incidents, including attacks on NATO peacekeepers, since Serbs living in the north of Kosovo boycotted municipal elections there in April.

"All point toward a rapidly deteriorating situation which not only threatens the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, but regional peace itself," the lawmakers wrote.

STARS AND STRIPES

ANNOUNCING THE BEST OF 2023

Pick up the magazine or get it online

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

WORLD

Stocks plunge after Italy urges bank tax to aid with rate hike

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME — Italian bank stocks plunged Tuesday after the Cabinet approved a proposal to apply a 40% tax on some bank profits this year to help consumers and businesses cope with higher borrowing costs.

Transport Minister Matteo Salvini announced the tax at a Monday evening news conference, saying it was a measure of “social equity” to make up for a series of interest rate hikes from the European Central Bank. Those increases are aimed at fighting inflation and make it more expensive for people to get loans to buy homes and cars or for companies to get new equipment or build facilities.

UniCredit shares closed down nearly 6%, Intesa Sanpaolo fell

more than 8.5%, Banco BPM dropped 9%, and BPER and Banca MPS both plummeted almost 11% on the Milan Stock Exchange.

After markets closed Tuesday, the Italian finance ministry defended the tax as in line with “already existing rules in Europe on extra bank margins,” and said that regardless, the contribution from the new tax can’t exceed 0.1% of total bank assets, according to a statement.

The Association of Italian Banks hasn’t yet commented publicly on the tax, whose approval apparently took banks by surprise. Analysts said banks would surely try to change the proposal or challenge it in court if it’s passed by Parliament, the next step.

The five major Italian banks reported a combined net profit of about \$11.5 billion in the first half



DOMENICO STINELLIS/AP
Italian Infrastructure Minister Matteo Salvini speaks during a press conference at the Foreign Press Club in Rome, April 4.

of the year, up 64% from the same period in 2022, according to credit rating agency DBRS Morningstar. It pointed to higher interest income, resilient fees and cost management.

The 40% tax would be applied to banks’ profits from the difference between the interest they pay customers on deposits and the interest they earn on loans. Salvini said the tax revenue would amount to “a few billion” euros that would be used to fund tax breaks and help first-time homeowners get mortgages.

11 die in fire at France vacation home for disabled

Associated Press
PARIS — A devastating fire that raged through a vacation home for adults with disabilities in eastern France on Wednesday left 11 people dead, an official said.

Nathalie Kielwasser, deputy prosecutor for Colmar, said 11 people who were sleeping on the upper floor and in a mezzanine area of the private accommodation in the town of Wintzenheim were trapped by the fire, while five managed to escape.

Twelve people who were staying on the ground floor were able to evacuate, she said.

The adults, who had “slight intellectual disabilities,” were on a vacation sponsored by two specialized associations, she said.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances of the fire and whether the building met all the required safety standards, she said.

Authorities said one of the survivors was sent to a hospital with serious injuries.

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne arrived at the scene

Wednesday to show the government’s support for the families of the victims and for the firefighters and rescuers on site.

Lt. Col. Philippe Hauwiller, who was leading the rescue work of firefighters, said the fire likely started on the home’s upper floor.

The ground floor was made of stone and the upper part of the building was built entirely of wood in the traditional style of the region, which might partly explain why the fire spread so quickly.

The local administration of the Haut-Rhin region said the fire broke out at 6:30 a.m. Christophe Marot, the secretary general of the local administration, said on news broadcaster France Info that 10 people with disabilities and a person accompanying the group were believed to be among the dead.

French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter: “In the face of this tragedy, my thoughts are with the victims, the injured and their families. Thank you to our security forces and emergency services.”

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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

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



Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA




WSA
WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

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

Are you in the picture?



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

No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

SCIENCE

What's fueling warming?

Scientists look beyond climate change and El Nino for other factors that heat up Earth

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

Scientists are wondering if global warming and El Nino have an accomplice in fueling this summer's record-shattering heat.

The European climate agency Copernicus reported that July was six-tenths of a degree Fahrenheit hotter than the old record. That's a bump in heat that is so recent and so big, especially in the oceans and even more so in the North Atlantic, that scientists are split on whether something else could be at work.

Scientists agree that by far the biggest cause of the recent extreme warming is climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas that has triggered a long upward trend in temperatures. A natural El Nino, a temporary warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather worldwide, adds a smaller boost. But some researchers say another factor must be present.

"What we are seeing is more than just El Nino on top of climate change," Copernicus Director Carlo Buontempo said.

One surprising source of added warmth could be cleaner air resulting from new shipping rules. Another possible cause is 165 million tons of water spewed into the atmosphere by a volcano. Both ideas are under investigation.

The cleaner air possibility

Florida State University climate scientist Michael Diamond says shipping is "probably the prime suspect."

Maritime shipping has for decades used dirty fuel that gives off particles that reflect sunlight in a process that actually cools the climate and masks some of global warming.

In 2020, international shipping rules took effect that cut as much as 80% of those cooling particles,

which was a "kind of shock to the system," said atmospheric scientist Tianle Yuan of NASA and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

The sulfur pollution used to interact with low clouds, making them brighter and more reflective, but that's not happening as much now, Yuan said. He tracked changes in clouds that were associated with shipping routes in the North Atlantic and North Pacific, both hot spots this summer.

In those spots, and to a lesser extent globally, Yuan's studies show a possible warming from the loss of sulfur pollution. And the trend is in places where it really can't be explained as easily by El Nino, he said.

"There was a cooling effect that was persistent year after year, and suddenly you remove that," Yuan said.

Diamond calculates a warming of about 0.18 degrees Fahrenheit by midcentury from shipping regulations. The level of warming could be five to 10 times stronger in high shipping areas such as the North Atlantic.

A separate analysis by climate scientists Zeke Hausfather of Berkeley Earth and Piers Forster of the University of Leeds projected half of Diamond's estimate.

Did the volcano do it?

In January 2022, the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano in the South Pacific blew, sending more than 165 million tons of water, which is a heat-trapping greenhouse gas as vapor, according to University of Colorado climate researcher Margot Clyne, who coordinates international computer simulations for climate impacts of the eruption.

The volcano also blasted 550,000 tons of sulfur dioxide into the upper atmosphere.

The amount of water "is so ab-



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Cargo ships are seen lined up outside the Port of Los Angeles in February 2021 in Los Angeles.

solutely crazy, absolutely ginormous," said Holger Voemel, a stratospheric water vapor scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research who published a study on the potential climate effects of the eruption.

Voemel said the water vapor went too high in the atmosphere to have a noticeable effect yet, but that effects could emerge later.

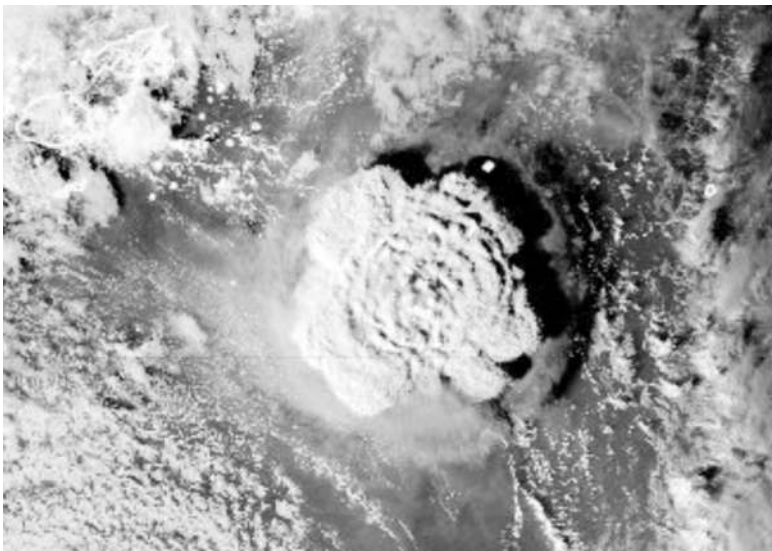
A couple of studies use computer models to show a warming effect from all that water vapor. One study, which has not yet undergone the scientific gold standard of peer review, reported this week that the warming could range from as much as 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit of added warming in some places to 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit of cooling elsewhere.

But NASA atmospheric scientist Paul Newman and former NASA atmospheric scientist Mark Schoeberl said those climate models are missing a key ingredient: the cooling effect of the sulfur.

Normally huge volcanic eruptions, like 1991's Mount Pinatubo, can cool Earth temporarily with sulfur and other particles reflecting sunlight. However, Hunga Tonga spouted an unusually high amount of water and low amount of cooling sulfur.

The studies that showed warming from Hunga Tonga didn't incorporate sulfur cooling, which is hard to do, Schoeberl and Newman said. Schoeberl, now chief scientist at Science and Technology Corp. of Maryland, published a study that calculated a slight overall cooling — 0.07 degrees Fahrenheit.

Just because different computer simulations conflict with each other "that doesn't mean science is wrong," University of Colorado's Clyne said. "It just means that



AP

This satellite image made by the Japanese weather satellite Himawari-8 shows the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano at the Pacific nation of Tonga on Jan. 15, 2022.

we haven't reached a consensus yet. We're still just figuring it out."

Lesser suspects

Lesser suspects in the search include a dearth of African dust, which cools like sulfur pollution, as well as changes in the jet stream and a slowdown in ocean currents.

Some nonscientists have looked at recent solar storms and increased sunspot activity in the sun's 11-year cycle and speculated that Earth's nearest star may be a culprit. For decades, scientists have tracked sunspots and solar storms, and they don't match warming temperatures, Berkeley Earth chief scientist Robert Rohde said.

Solar storms were stronger 20 and 30 years ago, but there is more warming now, he said.

Look no further

Still, other scientists said

there's no need to look so hard. They say human-caused climate change, with an extra boost from El Nino, is enough to explain recent temperatures.

University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann estimates that about five-sixths of the recent warming is from human burning of fossil fuels, with about one-sixth due to a strong El Nino.

The fact that the world is coming out of a three-year La Nina, which suppressed global temperatures a bit, and going into a strong El Nino, which adds to them, makes the effect bigger, he said.

"Climate change and El Nino can explain it all," Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto said. "That doesn't mean other factors didn't play a role. But we should definitely expect to see this again without the other factors being present."



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

A hiker walks past the Hole-in-the-Rock at Papago Park during sunrise July 17 in Phoenix. Scientists say by far the biggest cause of the recent extreme warming is human-caused climate change and a natural El Nino. But some say there's got to be something more.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Judge: City can't clear camps during heat

CA SACRAMENTO — A federal judge has temporarily banned Sacramento from clearing homeless encampments for at least 14 days, citing the extreme heat forecast this month in California's capital city.

Judge Troy L. Nunley in the U.S. District Court for Eastern California issued the order last week after advocates for the homeless argued that the city disregarded its own protocol by pushing a vulnerable population out of shaded areas during blistering heat. Advocates said clearing the camps in such weather puts homeless people in "obvious danger."

Sacramento defines temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit as being "excessive heat" in its protocols, the complaint reads. The temperature at the state capital is forecast to hit 90 degrees Fahrenheit or greater on 21 days in August, including nine days where the temperature is expected to reach 95 Fahrenheit.

The complaint includes details about a so-called sweep in mid-July, when the temperature was 91 degrees Fahrenheit. Officials moved about 30 people who had been sheltering under large trees, the complaint said. While Sacramento had offered homeless people to relocate to another encampment, the site was already crowded and had no shade, advocates said in the complaint. The complaint cites coverage of the sweep in the Sacramento Bee.

Shark not found after biting, injuring woman

NY NEW YORK — A woman was critically injured when a shark bit her on the leg while she was swimming at a New York City beach, officials said.

The 50-year-old woman was swimming off Rockaway Beach just before 6 p.m. Monday when a shark bit her on the left leg, the city parks department said in a statement.

Lifeguards pulled the woman from the water and administered first aid. The woman was taken to Jamaica Hospital in critical but stable condition with severe lacerations to her thigh, a police spokesperson said.

Lifeguards cleared all swimmers from the water, and the police used a helicopter to search the area for sharks but did not find any, the parks department said.

GOP: Kids should need OK to join social media

GA ATLANTA — Georgia could join other states requiring children to have their parents' explicit permission to create social media accounts.

Two top Republicans in the Georgia state Senate — Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and Sen. Jason Anav-



RANDY HOEFT/AP

First-day jitters

Ithan Frias, who is attending his first day of kindergarten at Palmcroft Elementary School, in Yuma, Ariz., gets a reassuring hug outside his classroom from his mother, Zobeida Iribe, Monday morning. Monday was the first day of classes for all schools in Yuma Elementary School District One.

itarte of Dallas — said in a Monday news conference they will seek to pass such a law in 2024. The proposal could also restrict accounts on other online services.

Anavitarte said Georgia's rules would be modeled on a law Louisiana passed this year. That measure, which takes effect in 2024, says social media services must verify an account holder's age and can't let someone younger than 18 join without parental consent.

Arkansas, Texas and Utah also passed laws this year requiring parental consent for children to use social media. Some in Congress are also proposing parental consent for minors.

Teacher with 'kill list' sentenced to probation

IN CROWN POINT — A former fifth-grade teacher in northwestern Indiana who was charged with felony intimidation after authorities say she told a student she had a "kill list" of students and staff has been sentenced to 2½ years on probation.

Angelica Carrasquillo, 25, of Griffith, pleaded guilty Friday to an intimidation charge in Lake County Superior Court, court records show.

The terms of a plea bargain bar Carrasquillo from working at a school or day care while on probation. It also requires court-monitored mental health treatment,

and she is barred from contacting victims in the case, news outlets reported.

If she successfully completes probation, she can petition to reduce the conviction to a misdemeanor, under terms of the plea bargain.

State sued over removal of Communist marker

NH CONCORD — Supporters of a former historical marker dedicated to a feminist and labor activist from New Hampshire who also led the U.S. Communist Party sued the state Monday, saying officials violated a law around administrative procedures and should put it back up.

The green and white sign describing the life of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was installed May 1 in Concord close to where she was born Aug. 7, 1890. It was one of more than 275 across the state that describe people and places, from Revolutionary War soldiers to contemporary sports figures. But it was taken down two weeks after it went up.

Known as "The Rebel Girl" for her fiery speeches, Flynn was a founder of the American Civil Liberties Union and advocated for women's voting rights and access to birth control. The marker said she joined the Communist Party in 1936 and was sent to prison in 1951. She was one of many party mem-

bers prosecuted "under the notorious Smith Act," the marker said, which forbade attempts to advocate, abet or teach the violent destruction of the U.S. government.

Flynn later chaired the Communist Party of the United States. She died at 74 in Moscow during a visit in 1964.

The marker had drawn criticism from two Republican members of the Executive Council, a five-member body that approves state contracts, judicial nominees and other positions, who argued it was inappropriate, given Flynn's Communist involvement. Republican Gov. Chris Sununu agreed and called for a review of the historical marker process. It was removed in consultation with Sununu, according to Sarah Crawford Stewart, commissioner of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Missing boater rescued in half-submerged boat

FL ST. AUGUSTINE — A boater who had been missing for more than a day and a half was rescued off the Florida coast in a half-submerged boat, authorities said.

The Coast Guard rescued 25-year-old Charles Gregory 12 miles off St. Augustine, Fla., on Saturday morning after he went missing on a 12-foot flat-bottomed boat.

A Coast Guard aircrew spotted

him sitting in his partially submerged boat, and he was rescued by a Coast Guard boat crew. He didn't need any medical attention, the Coast Guard said in a news release. Gregory was last seen last Thursday night leaving the Light-house Park boat ramp in St. Augustine. His family reported him missing Friday evening when he hadn't returned.

Doctor charged with assaulting patients

NY NEW YORK — A New York City doctor was charged Monday in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of at least six women, including several patients who were drugged, filmed and assaulted during appointments at a prestigious local hospital, prosecutors said.

Zhi Alan Cheng was arraigned Monday on charges of sexually abusing three of his patients at New York-Presbyterian Queens Hospital and raping three other women inside his apartment in Queens. He pleaded not guilty.

The 33-year-old gastroenterologist was terminated from his hospital job in December after his arrest for allegedly raping a female acquaintance in his Queens home. At the time, the woman told authorities she had discovered videos of Cheng abusing her and multiple other women.

As investigators searched his home and devices, they uncovered a trove of video evidence showing the doctor abusing women inside his home and workplace, according to the new indictment.

Authorities capture bears as suspects for break-ins

CA SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — California authorities have captured four suspects in multiple break-ins at homes around South Lake Tahoe: a mama bear and three of her cubs.

DNA has confirmed the large female black bear and her three little accomplices were responsible for at least 21 instances of property damage since 2022, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said in a statement.

The mother bear and her babies were "safely immobilized" on Friday, the statement said. The adult female, known to researchers as 64F, will likely be taken to a sprawling wildlife sanctuary near Springfield, Colo.

Her cubs could end up at a rehabilitation facility in Sonoma County, Calif., "in hopes they can discontinue the negative behaviors they learned from the sow and can be returned to the wild," the statement said.

64F is one of three adult bears identified last year as being responsible for 150 incident reports, including property damage, in the lake region straddling Northern California and Nevada.



Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
Lt. Col. Katie R. Fidler, Europe commander
John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Pacific commander
Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

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 Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.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

Ernie Gates

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.

OPINION

Trump-Biden rematch possible, but it’s not a certainty

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

The recent episode in which 81-year-old Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell froze in mid-sentence, unable to complete his thoughts, is inspiring new discussions about President Joe Biden’s decision to seek re-election at a similar age.

In essence, it’s a reminder that Biden and the entire Democratic Party have undertaken what amounts to a high-stakes crapshoot by committing to the 80-year-old president’s unopposed renomination.

“Reluctant to retire, leaders raise a tough question: how old is too old?” asked a New York Times analysis without providing an answer.

In a Washington Post roundtable, eight liberal columnists agreed Biden was mentally up to running again and, on balance, should do so because he is again the likeliest — perhaps the only — Democrat who can beat Donald Trump. But that justification won’t ease nagging concerns about Biden, in part because of what happened when two other iconic Democrats — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and California Sen. Dianne Feinstein — stayed too long.

By refusing to leave when a Democratic president could name her successor, Ginsberg was at least partially responsible for the court’s disastrous reversal of the 1973 decision legalizing abortion rights. Feinstein is closing her historic career as a physically frail, cognitively shaky shell of herself, complicating Democratic efforts to manage the Senate and confirm liberal judges.

The potential parallels are obvious and raise concerns Biden’s decision to run again may also end badly, either through some physical episode during the campaign that enables a vindictive Trump’s return to the presidency or with a disastrous second term.

Biden has been, on balance, a surprisingly good president. After the Afghanistan withdrawal bungle, he provided principled leadership against Vladimir Putin’s unprincipled effort to seize Ukraine. Domestically, he achieved far more than most thought possible, winning enactment of consequential measures like the chips, infrastructure and climate bills whose long-term economic benefits will be felt long beyond his tenure.

In taking their 2024 risk, Democrats count on the fact that, with a strong campaign, incumbent presidents generally win re-election, especially against flawed opponents. This White House does an expert job in managing Biden’s schedule and believes he can counter concerns about his age with Reaganesque humor and strong performances in visible situations like last February’s State of the Union speech. But the potential is always present for some unexpected physical event — like his recent stumble at the Air Force Academy, or worse. The episode involving McConnell is a frightening reminder of what could happen.

Besides, reelection is far more uncertain for presidents with low job approval; Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Trump all lost. Current polls show Biden’s job approval in the low 40s and his general election numbers even or slightly better against Trump.

On the other hand, if Biden stepped down, the inevitable multi-candidate Democratic contest might reduce the party’s chances of keeping the presidency and, more importantly, keeping Trump out.

It would be great if Biden could invoke the Nancy Pelosi precedent and smooth the succession path to someone clearly recognized as a consensus next-generation leader. But widespread doubts within and outside the Democratic Party about the presidential readiness and political viability of Vice President Kamala Harris make that impossible.

To be sure, heated primary contests sometimes produce strong tickets, like the Democrats’ 1960 pairing of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, or the GOP’s 1980 tandem of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

The Democrats might choose a potent, younger combination of, say, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock. But it might be politically damaging to bypass Harris, the first woman and first minority vice president.

So far, there is no public sign any top Democrat will oppose Biden’s renomination. But recurring press accounts of private conversations among top Democrats reveal substantial unease — with good reason.

And the first stirring of opposition has surfaced. Rep. Dean Phillips, a business-friendly moderate from the Minneapolis suburbs, said Sunday that Democrats “want not a coronation, but a competition” and warned “the consequences are going to be disastrous” without a competitive race. The 54-year-old congressman, appearing on CBS’ Face the Nation,” urged “those who are well-positioned, well-prepared, of good character and competency — they know who they are — to jump in.” He said he hasn’t decided if he’ll run if no one else does.

The underlying question is less whether the little-known congressman can mount a viable challenge than whether his initiative spurs one from a better-known Democrat.

In the end, barring the unexpected, Democrats will likely stick with the Biden-Harris ticket with a hope and a prayer nothing untoward happens to the president — and Trump again becomes the GOP nominee. But the election is still 15 months away, and history tells us to expect the unexpected. Until Nov. 5, 2024, many Democrats will remain nervous.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a former Washington bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News.

Trump polls don’t deserve this much attention. Not yet.

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg Opinion

About half of all Republicans say they won’t vote for Donald Trump if he’s convicted of a felony, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll taken last week after his third indictment was announced. Don’t take those results too seriously.

To begin with, at this point most voters haven’t given much thought — any thought, really — to elections scheduled for November 2024. Because Trump is treated as a celebrity by the mass media, and as the Republican leader by the partisan media, even those paying only mild attention to politics have probably heard about the charges. But that doesn’t mean they’ve considered the news as carefully as they would a voting decision.

Then there is the uncertainty around any poll that asks about hypotheticals — that is, how you would vote if such-and-such situation holds. First, people tend to be bad at predicting how they would vote because they tend to underrate how important partisanship is to their choices. In real life, most people tend to be partisan, and it takes quite a jolt to get them to veer from the party line. Even if 15 months earlier they said otherwise.

Second, if a poll presents a hypothetical, then respondents are likely to overrate its importance, especially this far from an election. Why? Because the question asks people to

think about one aspect of a candidate. But one of the main jobs of a political campaign is to get voters to consider the candidate whole.

If Trump is the nominee next year, for example, he’ll work hard to remind potential supporters about all the things they like about him — and all the things they dislike about President Joe Biden. Trump’s legal problems will be only part of the context of the election. Meanwhile, Trump’s campaign will also work hard to convince hard-core supporters that his legal troubles are merely evidence that his enemies are out to get him. Indeed, it’s already trying to do that.

All of this is basically standard stuff about survey research that most pollsters and academics would find familiar. But there are also issues particular to Trump and this election that make interpretation of this poll difficult.

Usually, it’s fairly easy to set expectations by referring to polling from earlier election cycles. Sure, there are always new wrinkles — analysts predicting the 2020 election from previous polls had to cope with how unusually unpopular then-President Trump was even during good economic times, and had to factor in the impact of a worldwide pandemic.

But there is now the possibility of an election with a former president as a major-party nominee, which hasn’t happened since well before survey research began. Democrat Grover Cleveland won in 1892; Republican Teddy Roosevelt ran as a third-party candidate in

1912 (as Martin Van Buren had done in 1848).

Nor do previous examples offer insight about how indictments — and perhaps convictions — would affect a major-party nominee. And aside from the three (likely soon to be four) criminal cases he is facing, Trump has also been held liable for a sexual assault since the last time he faced voters.

All that said, there are some basic principles about polling that still apply: Early polling before an election year isn’t predictive. Elections with an incumbent are mainly about the incumbent’s record. Challengers are much less important than incumbents. Ideological extremism is at least somewhat costly to candidates. All of these factors argue for viewing these results with some skepticism.

So what’s the best way to think about all this? If he’s the party’s presidential nominee in 2024, Trump will almost certainly cost Republicans some number of votes compared to a generic Republican candidate. Whatever the polls show now, however, it’s difficult to say what that number will be — 1%? 2%? 5% or more? He could still win anyway, especially if Biden remains unpopular or becomes more so. The question for Republicans, both the party’s leaders and its voters, is whether that is a chance they want to take.

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Bizarro

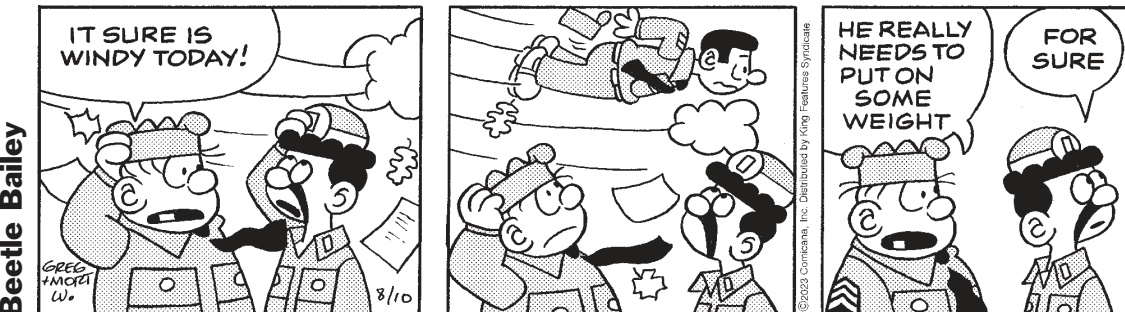
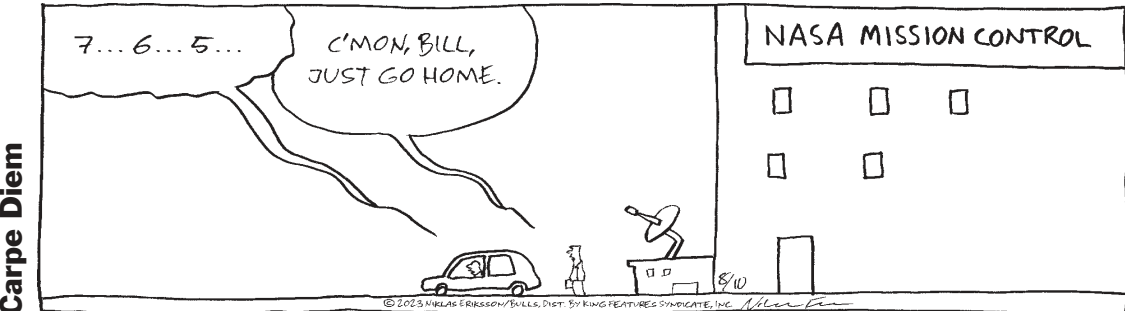
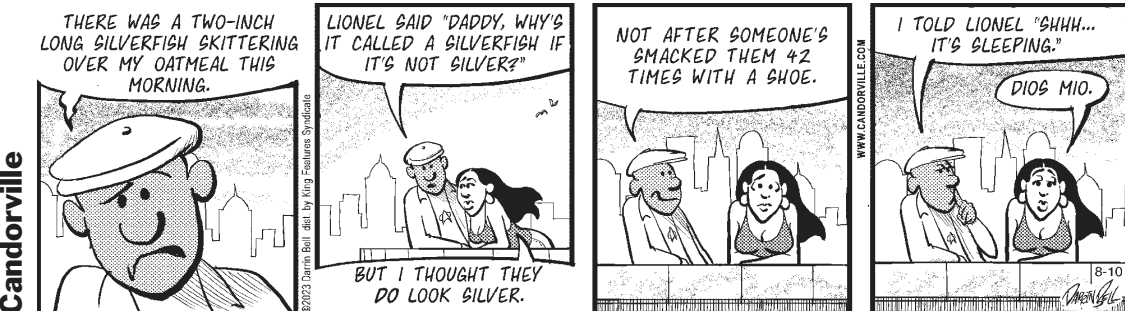
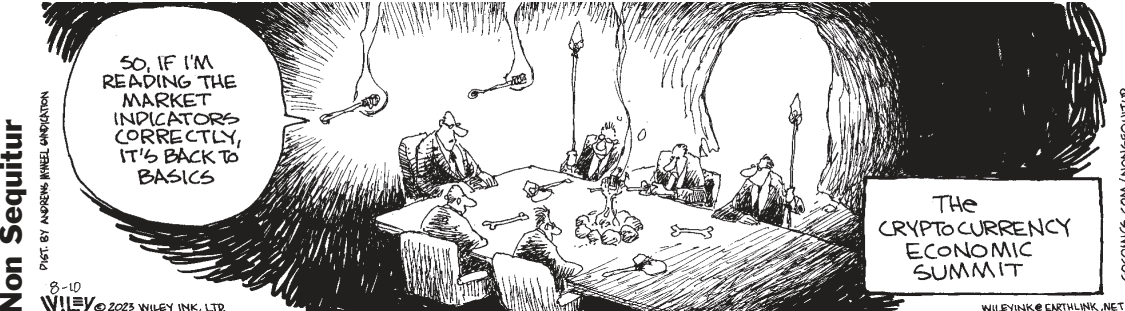


Loose Parts



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
- 51 Under the weather
- 52 Early Peruvian
- 53 Curved molding
- 54 Refusals
- 55 Requests
- 23 Decade parts
- 24 First-place medal
- 25 Congers
- 26 Obi
- 27 Italian wine region
- 28 Baking dish
- 32 Tennis tactic
- 33 Chile neighbor
- 35 Fawn's mom
- 36 Prompt
- 38 "Siddhartha" author
- 39 Pre-diploma hurdles
- 42 Pentagon VIPs
- 43 Bottle part
- 44 Relaxing resorts
- 45 Saigon soup
- 46 Label
- 48 "Evil Woman" band
- DOWN
- 1 Mellows
- 2 Like ganders
- 3 Pundit's piece
- 4 Overhauls
- 5 "Norwegian Wood" instrument
- 6 Peanut product
- 7 "Great work!"
- 8 Use
- 9 Imaginary
- 10 One-time link
- 11 Letters after Q
- 19 Singer Starr
- 21 "Nova" aier
- 1 Roman god of love
- 5 Jaden, to Will
- 8 Miles away
- 12 Be slack-jawed
- 13 Sundial numeral
- 14 Cisterns
- 15 Hgt.
- 16 Patient's need, briefly
- 17 Body sci.
- 18 Singer/songwriter Neil
- 20 Grand tale
- 22 Grammy-winning "Family Affair" singer
- 26 Maudlin
- 29 Dawn goddess
- 30 Nemesis
- 31 Unrepaired
- 32 Indent key
- 33 Wall Street optimist
- 34 Holy Fr. woman
- 35 "Le Coq —"
- 36 Winter woes
- 37 "Queen of —" (nickname of 22-Across)
- 40 Cask sediment
- 41 Ruling periods
- 45 Bake sale orgs.
- 47 Shell game item
- 49 Prez's backup
- 50 Millinery

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-10 CRYPTOQUIP

V O W M A G U O M E Q H B W T T

P Q A S Z Q K E V O Q G P Z G U Q F

P S T T G F U U Q Q K P M Q B H P M Q A S C P ?

C S M W G T - Q C G S F M S K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC KIDS' FAIRY TALE CONCERNING A HIDEOUS OGRE FASTENING HIS BELT: "THE UGLY BUCKLING."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

FACES

Lanez gets 10 years in prison for shooting Megan Thee Stallion

BY ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

A judge sentenced rapper Tory Lanez to 10 years in prison Tuesday for shooting and wounding hip-hop superstar Megan Thee Stallion in the feet, bringing a conclusion to a three-year legal and cultural saga that saw two careers — and lives — thrown into turmoil.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Herriford handed down the sentence to Lanez, 31, who was convicted in December of three felonies: assault with a semi-automatic firearm; having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

From the initial incident in the Hollywood Hills in July 2020, to the two-day sentencing hearing, the case created a firestorm in the hip-hop community, churning up issues including the reluctance of Black victims to speak to police, gender politics in hip-hop, online toxicity, protecting Black women and the ramifications of misogyny, a particular brand of misogyny-black women experience.

Herriford said it was “difficult to reconcile” the portrait Lanez’s friends and family painted during the hearing of a kind, charitable person and good father to a 6-year-old son with the person who fired the gun at Megan.

“Sometimes good people do bad things,” Herriford said. “Actions have consequences, and there are no winners in this case.”

Megan testified during the trial that Lanez fired the gun at her feet and shouted for her to dance as she walked away from an SUV in which they had been riding, after leaving a pool party at Kylie Jenner’s home. She had to have surgery to remove bullet fragments. She revealed who had fired the gun only months later.

“Since I was viciously shot by



Lanez

Megan

the defendant, I have not experienced a single day of peace,” Megan said in a statement read in court by a prosecutor Monday. “Slowly but surely, I’m healing and coming back, but I will never be the same.”

Lanez asked Herriford for mercy just before the judge delivered his sentence, requesting probation or a minimal prison sentence.

“If I could turn back the series of events that night and change them,” I would, Lanez continued. “The victim was my friend. The victim is someone I still care for to this day.”

He added, “Everything I did wrong that night, I take full responsibility for.”

Lanez appeared stunned while the sentence was read, but had no audible reaction. His family and fans in the courtroom also remained quiet after the sentence.

The rapper was given about 10 months of credit for time he’s served, most of it spent in jail since his conviction in December.

“We’re extremely disappointed,” Lanez’s lead attorney Jose Baez said outside the courthouse. “I have seen vehicular homicide and other cases where there’s death, and the defendant still gets less than 10 years.”

Baez called the sentence “really just another example of someone being punished for their celebrity status and someone being utilized to set an example. And he’s not an example. He’s a human being.”

Lanez’s lawyers plan to appeal the verdict, and to attempt to have him released on bail while they do.



SUPER LEAGUE/AP

This screengrab shows an Alexander Hamilton game avatar from the “Hamilton” simulator for Roblox.

If you’ve ever wanted to be in ‘Hamilton,’ you can on Roblox

BY MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

The landmark musical “Hamilton” has landed on Roblox, turning the innovative stage show into an immersive online environment for a new generation.

“‘Hamilton’ has global recognition. Roblox has 66 million daily active users from all around the world. What a perfect match,” Matt Edelman, president and chief commercial officer for Super League — which designed and built the online experience — told The Associated Press ahead of Thursday’s launch.

In the Hamilton Simulator, players use their own avatars as they rub shoulders with the musical’s characters and negotiate through 10 levels set during the Revolutionary War. It starts at the New York docks and the goal is to free the city from British yoke. Appropriately, the music-filled game requires no real money from players.

“The intent here was to create a fun experience for this community and by doing so, introduce them to ‘Hamilton’ if they don’t already know it, or to honor and inspire the passion that they have if they’re already fans,” Edelman said.

The game has the blessing of writer-composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, whose blockbuster musical charts the rise and fall of statesman Alexander Hamilton and stresses his orphan, immigrant roots as well as his near-Greek tragedy of a fall.

Roblox is the largest immersive gaming platform on the planet and businesses like Mattel, the NFL, Dave & Buster’s and Cirque du Soleil have planted a flag there, as have fashion labels Vans, Ralph Lauren, Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, Givenchy and Gucci.

“If you are an intellectual property owner and you want to connect to the younger generations — people really under 25 and particularly under 18 — that’s where they socialize, that’s where they learn. More than half of Gen Z expects to discover a brand for the first time in an immersive space,” Edelman said.

The Hamilton Simulator currently ends around the midpoint of the musical, with British rule defeated and a nascent country needing its Founding Fathers to guide it into becoming a nation of laws.

“We have plenty more in the future to expand on and we’re really excited about what we can do with this experience moving forward over the coming months to really be able to expand gameplay, expand the story and really be able to listen to our players and what are they doing,” Edelman said.

Each scene is carefully realized, with ceremonial swords, candles burning, flowers, artwork, sandbags and smoke. David Korins, who designed “Hamilton” for the stage, consulted on the look. (There are also Easter eggs, like The Public theater, a nod to the off-Broadway space where “Hamilton” premiered.)

Super League and “Hamilton” creators suspect their simulator will attract some visitors who have never heard of the musical, but will get caught in its gravitational force — much like the cast album became a hit by people who hadn’t yet seen the show.

“The music brought people to ‘Hamilton’ in some cases before the actual production of the show brought them there,” Edelman said. “I don’t think this will be any different if we achieve our primary goal, which is to make this a fun gameplay experience that attracts the Roblox community.”

Swift, SZA lead VMA nominations; ‘Searching for Sugar Man’ subject dies

Associated Press

Taylor Swift tops the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards nominations with eight.

Swift received seven nods for her “Anti-Hero” music video and one in the artist of the year category — followed by SZA, who has six, MTV announced Tuesday.

Swift currently has 14 VMAs to her name, placing her behind Beyoncé, who has 28 (two with Destiny’s Child), Madonna, who has 20 awards, and Lady Gaga,

who has 19.

Beyoncé is also nominated for artist of the year.

Doja Cat, Kim Petras, Miley Cyrus, Nicki Minaj, Olivia Rodrigo and Sam Smith are tied at five nominations each, and BLACKPINK, Diddy and Shakira each received four.

The awards, scheduled for Sept. 12, will have a record-breaking 35 first-time nominees including Petras, Metro Boomin’ and Rema, who boast three each.

The VMAs will be held at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. Fan voting began online Tuesday across 15 gender-neutral categories, including the new best Afrobeats category, and ends Sept. 1.

Voting in the best new artist category will remain active throughout the show.

Other news

■ Singer and songwriter **Sixto Rodriguez**, who became the subject of the Oscar-winning docu-

mentary “Searching for Sugar Man,” has died in Detroit. He was 81. Rodriguez’s albums flopped in the U.S. in the 1970s but — unknown to him — he later became a star in South Africa where his protest songs inspired white liberals horrified by the country’s brutal racial segregation system of apartheid.

■ **Willie Perry Jr.**, a Chicago disc jockey known as “DJ Casper” and creator of the iconic “Cha Cha Slide” dance, has died. He was 58.

His “Cha Cha Slide” continues to be a favorite at weddings, clubs and many other events about two decades after it became popular.

■ **Jay-Z’s** annual Made in America festival, scheduled for Labor Day weekend in Philadelphia, has been canceled. The festival cited “severe circumstances outside of production control” for the abrupt cancellation, which came two months after the lineup was released. No additional details were shared.

SCOREBOARD/AUTO RACING

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL preseason schedule

Thursday, Aug. 3

Cleveland 21, N.Y. Jets 16

Thursday's games

Houston at New England

Minnesota at Seattle

Friday's games

Atlanta at Miami

Green Bay at Cincinnati

N.Y. Giants at Detroit

Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay

Washington at Cleveland

Denver at Arizona

Saturday's games

Indianapolis at Buffalo

Tennessee at Chicago

N.Y. Jets at Carolina

Jacksonville at Dallas

Philadelphia at Baltimore

L.A. Chargers at L.A. Rams

Sunday's games

Kansas City at New Orleans

San Francisco at Las Vegas

TENNIS

WTA National Bank Open

Tuesday

At IGA Stadium & Aviva Centre Montreal

Purse: \$2,788,468

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Women's Singles

Round of 64

Danielle Collins, United States, def. Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, 6-2, 6-2.

Liudmila Samsonova (15), Russia, def. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Alycia Parks, United States, def. Lauren Davis, United States, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2.

Caroline Wozniacki, Denmark, def. Kimberly Birrell, Australia, 6-2, 6-2.

Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, def. Bernarda Pera, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Karolina Muchova (14), Czech Republic, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, def. Peyton Stearns, United States, 6-3, 6-2.

Beatriz Haddad Maia (11), Brazil, def. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 6-4, 6-2.

Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Zhang Shuai, China, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Zheng Qinwen, China, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

Marketa Vondrousova (9), Czech Republic, def. Mayar Sherif, Egypt, 6-4, 6-2.

Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-0, 6-4.

Camila Giorgi, Italy, def. Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 6-3, 6-2.

Round of 32

Sloane Stephens, United States, def. Victoria Azarenka (16), Belarus, walkover.

Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, def. Caroline Garcia (5), France, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

ATP National Bank Open

Tuesday

At Sobeyes Stadium Toronto

Purse: \$6,600,000

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Men's Singles

Round of 64

Sebastian Korda, United States, def. Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2.

Marcos Giron, United States, def. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6).

Andy Murray, Britain, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 7-6 (3), 6-0.

Mackenzie McDonald, United States, def. Aslan Karatsev, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.

Ugo Humbert, France, def. Nicolas Jarry, Chile, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Aleksandar Vukic, Australia, def. Borna Coric (14), Croatia, 6-2, 6-3.

Alexander Zverev (13), Germany, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Alex de Minaur, Australia, def. Cameron Norrie (11), Britain, 7-5, 6-4.

Gabriel Diallo, Canada, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Max Purcell, Australia, def. Felix Auger-Aliassime (10), Canada, 6-4, 6-4.

Ben Shelton, United States, def. Bernabe Zapata Miralles, Spain, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Round of 32

Casper Ruud (3), Norway, def. Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Polish Open

Tuesday

At Grodzisk Mazowiecki Kozerki

Purse: \$115,000

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Women's Singles

Round of 32

Eva Lys (9), Germany, def. Weronika Ewald, Poland, 6-1, 6-2.

Tereza Martincova (3), Czech Republic, def. Barbora Palicova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 7-6 (6).

Susan Bandecchi, Switzerland, def. Lucie Havlickova, Czech Republic, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Martyna Kubka, Poland, def. Magali Kempen, Belgium, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Dayana Yastremska (8), Ukraine, def. Nigina Abduraimova, Uzbekistan, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

Katarzyna Kawa, Poland, def. Luksika Kumkhum, Thailand, 7-5, 7-6 (1).

Noma Noha Akugue, Germany, def. Viktoria Hrucnakova (5), Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4.

Darja Semenistaja, Latvia, def. Naiktha Bains, Britain, 6-4, 6-4.

Maja Chwalinska, Poland, def. Jule Niemeyer (1), Germany, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Gabriela Knutson, Czech Republic, def. Ankita Raina, India, 6-2, 6-3.

Anna Siskova, Czech Republic, def. Sinja Kraus, Austria, 7-5, 6-1.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	22	6	.786	—
Connecticut	21	7	.750	1
Atlanta	15	13	.536	7
Washington	13	15	.464	9
Chicago	12	16	.429	10
Indiana	7	22	.241	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	25	3	.893	—
Dallas	15	14	.517	10½
Minnesota	14	15	.483	11½
Los Angeles	11	18	.379	14½
Phoenix	8	20	.286	17
Seattle	7	21	.250	18

x-clinched playoff spot

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

Connecticut 81, Seattle 69

Los Angeles 87, Indiana 80

Minnesota 88, Chicago 79

Las Vegas 104, Dallas 84

Phoenix 91, Washington 72

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled.

Thursday's games

Minnesota at Indiana

Atlanta at Seattle

Connecticut at Phoenix

Friday's games

Chicago at New York

Washington at Las Vegas

GOLF

LPGA Tour money leaders

Through Aug. 7

	Trn	Money
1. Allisen Corpuz	16	\$2,660,374
2. Ruoning Yin	12	\$2,226,566
3. Celine Boutier	15	\$2,051,834
4. Yuka Saso	13	\$1,566,195
5. Ayaka Furue	15	\$1,375,730
6. Brooke M. Henderson	16	\$1,316,076
7. Hyo Joo Kim	12	\$1,289,460
8. Charley Hull	12	\$1,270,202
9. Xiyu Lin	13	\$1,219,958
10. Nasa Hataoka	14	\$1,219,100
11. Jin Young Ko	12	\$1,197,276
12. Lilia Vu	12	\$1,169,386
13. Rose Zhang	4	\$1,021,766
14. Leona Maguire	13	\$978,341
15. Nelly Korda	11	\$967,404
16. Hae Ran Ryu	15	\$930,114
17. Angel Yin	11	\$913,176
18. Ashleigh Buhai	15	\$910,563
19. Carlota Ciganda	14	\$876,447
20. Minjee Lee	12	\$840,433
21. Cheyenne Knight	15	\$815,874
22. Megan Khang	14	\$791,714
23. Grace Kim	12	\$747,662
24. Atthaya Thitikul	13	\$739,426
25. Maja Stark	14	\$709,299
26. Anna Nordqvist	13	\$707,269
27. Hannah Green	12	\$702,144

PGA Tour FedEx Cup leaders

Through Aug. 7

	Points	Money
1. Jon Rahm	3,320	\$16,295,608
2. Scottie Scheffler	3,146	\$19,138,342
3. Rory McIlroy	2,304	\$11,771,008
4. Max Homa	2,128	\$9,132,081
5. Wyndham Clark	1,944	\$10,384,690
6. Brian Harman	1,827	\$8,245,023
7. Viktor Hovland	1,795	\$10,125,568
8. Keegan Bradley	1,774	\$8,676,697
9. Rickie Fowler	1,732	\$7,624,286
10. Tony Finau	1,655	\$5,717,252
11. Jason Day	1,506	\$6,798,358
12. Nick Taylor	1,463	\$5,783,585
13. Patrick Cantlay	1,443	\$7,880,998
14. Tom Kim	1,422	\$5,624,032
15. Sepp Straka	1,413	\$5,136,774
16. Brent Grant	158	\$374,126
16. Xander Schauffele	1,406	\$7,644,570
17. Tyrrell Hatton	1,381	\$8,150,779
18. Si Woo Kim	1,372	\$4,931,062
19. Sam Burns	1,335	\$6,760,650
20. Russell Henley	1,296	\$4,977,496
21. Emiliano Grillo	1,275	\$4,883,302
22. Collin Morikawa	1,246	\$5,476,781
23. Kurt Kitayama	1,216	\$6,565,702
24. Adam Schenk	1,213	\$4,156,005
25. Taylor Moore	1,193	\$4,135,601
26. Tommy Fleetwood	1,184	\$5,170,891
27. Denny McCarthy	1,179	\$5,927,812

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated SS Trevor Story from the 60-day IL. Designated INF Yu Chang for assignment.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reinstated RHP Gregory Santos from the bereavement list. Optioned CF Tyler Naquin and RHP Edgar Navarro to Charlotte (IL).

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Activate RHP Emmanuel Clase and OF Ramon Laureano. Placed C David Fry on the 10-day IL.

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned LHP Joe Wentz to Toledo (IL). Recalled RHP Alex Faedo from Erie (EL).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Selected the contract of 1B Jon Singleton from Sugar Land (IL). Designated OF Bligh Madris for assignment.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Placed RHP Zack Greinke on the 15-day IL, retroactive to August 7. Recalled LHP Taylor Hearn from Omaha (IL).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Sent RHP Jose Marte to Inland Empire (CAL) on a rehab assignment.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Sent SS Royce Lewis to St Paul (IL) on a rehab assignment.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Claimed RHP Spencer Watkins off waivers from Houston and optioned him to Las Vegas (PCL). Optioned RHP Dany Jimenez to Las Vegas (PCL). Recalled RHP Adrian Martinez from Las Vegas. Semt C Carlos Perez to Las Vegas on a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Placed RHP Bryan Woo on the 15-day IL, retroactive to August 5. Claimed RHP Ryan Jensen off waivers from Chicago Cubs. Recalled RHP Ryder Ryan from Tacoma (PCL). Designated RHP Matt Festa for assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Paced OF Kevin Kiermaier on the 10-day IL, retroactive to August 7. Recalled OF Nathan Lukes from Buffalo (IL).

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with RHP Nabil Crismatt on a minor league contract.

CHICAGO CUBS — Sent RHP Nick Burdi to the Arizona Complex League (ACL) on a rehab assignment.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Sent 3B Sean Bouchard to Albuquerque (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled LHP Victor Gonzalez from Oklahoma City (PCL). Optioned LHP Bryan Hudson to Oklahoma City.

MIAMI MARLINS — Sent RHP Tommy Nance to Pensacola (EL) on a rehab assignment.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent 1B Rowdy Tellez to Nashville (IL) on a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK METS — Sent OF Tim Locastro to Syracuse (IL) on a rehab assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Recalled RHP Luis F. Ortiz from Lehigh Valley (IL). Sent IF Cristian Pache to Clearwater (FSL) on a rehab assignment.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Activated RHP Thomas Hatch. Optioned RHPs Yerry De Los Santos and Osvaldo Bido to Indianapolis (IL). Recalled RHP Colin Selby from Indianapolis. Agreed to terms with C Dom Nunez on a minor league contract.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Activated RHP Miles Mikolas.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Optioned SS Matthew Batten to El Paso (PCL). Recalled CF Jose Azocar from El Paso. Sent LHP Adrian Morejon to El Paso (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled RHP Amos Willingham from Rochester (IL).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

PHOENIX SUNS — Signed C Udoka Azubuike to a two-way contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed OLB Justin Houston and K Matthew Wright. Waived DE Jalen Redmond. Waived DT B.J. Wilson.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed TE Lachlan Pitts and LB Barrington Wade. Waived K Andre Szmyt. Waived TE Jake Tonges with an injury designation.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed OL Rashaad Coward.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Activated DE Tyquan Lewis from the active/physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed DE Trey Flowers and placed hi on the active/physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed RB Kareem Hunt and LB Anthony Barr.

NEW YORK JETS — Claimed OT Grant Hermanns off waivers from Tampa Bay. Waived OT Yodny Cajuste. Place QB Chris Streveler on injured reserve after clearing waivers.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Activated WR Devon Allen from active/non-football injury list. Signed WR Johnny King. Released Ts Chim Okorafor and Trevor Reid.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed S Jalen Elliott. Waived WR Jamarcus Bradley with an injury designation.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed RB Jeremy McNichols.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Signed S Joshua Kalu and P Colby Wadman. Placed CB Troy Apke and DT Curtis Brooks on injured reserve.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

FC CINCINNATI — Signed D Alvas Powell to a contract extension through 2025 season.

NEW YORK CITY FC — Acquired M Maxi Moralez on a permanent basis through the 2024 season.



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Chase Elliott currently sits in 22nd place in the NASCAR Cup Series points standings, 55 points out of the 16th and final playoff spot.

Elliott short of time to earn playoff spot

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Chase Elliott is running out of time.

The 2020 NASCAR Cup Series champion, whose year was stunted by a snowboarding accident and hindered by a suspension, needs to win one of the next three races to earn a spot in the playoffs.

“It’s the only option,” he acknowledged.

On a short week, the series shifts to the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the Verizon 200 on Sunday before the regular season closes with races at Watkins Glen and Daytona.

Elliott lasted just 34 laps in the FireKeepers 400 at Michigan, where Chris Buescher won his second straight race on Monday, because a tire failure sent his car into the wall.

“Add it to the list,” he said.

The Hendrick Motorsports star had a setback March when he had surgery on his left leg after a snowboarding accident in Colorado, knocking him out of the Pennzoil 400 in Las Vegas days later and the next five races. After coming back, NASCAR suspended him for one race after it determined he deliberately wrecked Denny Hamlin in the Coca-Cola 600.

The missed races, and some shaky performances, have put the fans’ five-time choice as NASCAR’s most popular driver in a precarious position for the playoffs.

Elliott is 22nd in points, 55 out of the 16th and final spot, and with four spots available in the 16-car postseason, he needs to win to get in along with the 12 playoff-eligible winners this year.

Kevin Harvick and Brad Keselowski are fifth and eighth in the standings, giving them relatively secure spots even if they don’t win

DID YOU KNOW?

Chase Elliott has qualified for the playoffs in each of his seven seasons in the NASCAR Cup Series, winning it all three years ago and finishing fourth the last two years.

SOURCE: Associated Press

one of the final three races in the regular season. Bubba Wallace, who is 14th, and rookie Ty Gibbs (16th) are on the bubble.

Michael McDowell, Daniel Suarez, AJ Allmendinger, Alex Bowman and Austin Cindric have a shot, but like Elliott they likely have to win before the regular season ends Aug. 26 at Daytona.

“If Daytona wasn’t already a madhouse, you can only imagine it now that you have all these prestigious drivers that are just below the cut line, going to lay it all out,” said Keselowski, a driver and part-owner for RFK Racing.

TV ratings dipped when Elliott was out and NASCAR would undoubtedly like a postseason with him in it.

Elliott, who is from Dawsonville, Ga., has been in the Hendrick organization since he was 15 when he signed a development deal and quickly made his way into the Cup Series. He has qualified for the playoffs in each of his first seven seasons, winning it all three years ago and finishing fourth the last two years.

But he hasn’t led a lap since late June and hasn’t finished inside the top 10 since he was third at Chicago last month. It might help that seven of his 18 Cup wins have come at road courses, including two victories at Watkins Glen.

“The next two or three weeks is going to get more and more wild,” Keselowski said. “Chase Elliott is a heck of a road course racer. I know Hendrick Motorsports is coming loaded for bear for him the next two races.”

ROUNDUP

Tucker's slam in 9th stuns O's

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Kyle Tucker's grand slam off Félix Bautista in the top of the ninth inning gave the Houston Astros a 7-6 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night.

Houston trailed 5-0 after Ryan Mountcastle and Adley Rutschman homered off Framber Valdez in the first and second innings, but the Astros pulled off a remarkable comeback in the ninth.

Pinch-hitter Jon Singleton led off the ninth with a walk, and Jose Altuve followed with a single. Bautista (6-2) struck out Alex Bregman, but Yordan Alvarez came within a few feet of tying it with a drive to center. Jorge Mateo — a shortstop making only his second start of the year in center field — couldn't catch it, and the ball bounced off the wall for a very long single.

Tucker then battled Bautista for nine pitches, finally hitting a 100 mph fastball to right-center field for his 20th home run of the year. Bautista had allowed only five earned runs all season before Houston scored four on him in two-thirds of an inning.

Ryne Stanek (3-1) won in relief, and Ryan Pressly pitched a perfect ninth for his 27th save in 31 chances.

Baltimore's lead over Tampa Bay atop the AL East dropped to two games.

Rangers 6, Athletics 1: Max Scherzer gave up three hits in seven innings and visiting Texas beat Oakland, extending its longest winning streak in seven years to eight games.

In his second start for the Rangers since being acquired from the New York Mets, Scherzer (11-4) struck out six, retired nine of the first 10 batters and didn't allow a hit until JJ Bleday's leadoff homer in the fourth.

Corey Seager had three hits, including his 19th home run for the Rangers.

JP Sears (2-9) allowed nine hits and four runs in four innings. Oakland (32-82) assured itself of a losing season.

Braves 8, Pirates 6: Orlando Arcia hit a two-out, two-run double in the ninth, and visiting Atlanta rallied from three runs down to beat Pittsburgh.

Braves star Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a leadoff homer but left the game in the sixth when he was hit on the left elbow by a pitch from Pirates reliever Colin Holderman. The Braves said X-rays were negative.

Kevin Pillar tied the game in the ninth with a two-out RBI single before Arcia put the Braves ahead. Major league-best Atlanta stopped a three-game skid.



The Astros' Kyle Tucker, right, celebrates his ninth-inning grand slam with, from left, Jose Altuve, Jon Singleton and Yordan Alvarez against the Orioles on Tuesday in Baltimore. The Astros won 7-6.

Mariners 2, Padres 0: Logan Gilbert struck out a career-high 12 in seven innings of one-hit ball and host Seattle won its sixth straight.

Gilbert retired 21 of the 22 batters he faced, yielding only an infield single to San Diego's Xander Bogaerts in the second inning. Star center fielder Julio Rodriguez aided Gilbert (10-5) by robbing Fernando Tatis Jr. of a potential homer with a leaping catch at the wall.

Seattle (61-52) has won 11 of 13 and pulled within two games of Toronto for the third and final AL wild-card spot. San Diego lost its third straight.

Cubs 3, Mets 2: Mike Tauchman hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning off Drew Smith (4-4) and Jameson Taillon retired his final 16 batters to win his fourth straight start as visiting Chicago beat New York.

Cody Bellinger also went deep and Yan Gomes had an RBI double for the surging Cubs, who won for the 16th time in 21 games.

Pete Alonso hit an early two-run homer for the sinking Mets. New York has lost seven of eight since trading Justin Verlander and other veterans at last week's deadline.

Rockies 7, Brewers 3: Milwaukee's Andrew Chafin and Abner Uribe combined for three straight bases-loaded walks in the 10th inning and handed visiting Colorado the victory.

The Rockies' Nolan Jones went deep twice, the first multi-homer game of his career.

Rays 4, Cardinals 2: Yandy

Díaz, Brandon Lowe and Randy Arozarena hit RBI singles in the eighth inning and host Tampa Bay beat St. Louis.

Díaz went 4-for-4 and raised his average from .315 to .322 as the Rays improved to 7-3 over their last 10 games.

Guardians 1, Blue Jays 0: Tanner Bibee pitched seven innings and Ramón Laureano drove in the game's only run in his debut for host Cleveland, which ended Toronto's four-game winning streak.

Bibee (8-2) allowed six singles — three by Whit Merrifield — and remained unbeaten in his past nine starts.

Laureano, claimed off waivers on Monday from Oakland, hit an RBI double in the second inning.

Marlins 3, Reds 2: Jorge Soler hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and visiting Miami rallied past Cincinnati in a matchup of NL wild-card contenders.

The Marlins held on to snap a five-game skid and move within one-half game of the Reds for the final wild-card spot. Cincinnati has lost seven of eight.

Angels 7, Giants 5: Brandon Drury had three hits and Lucas Giolito picked up his first win for host Los Angeles, which stopped a seven-game skid.

Giolito (7-8) went six innings and allowed three runs on three hits with seven strikeouts. He had given up 12 runs in nine innings since being acquired from the Chicago White Sox on July 26.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 4: Freddie Freeman had three hits, Julio Urías threw six solid innings

and visiting Los Angeles held on to beat fading Arizona.

The Dodgers have won three straight and seven of eight. The D-backs have lost seven straight and fell to .500 (57-57) for the first time since April 7, when they were 4-4.

Yankees 7, White Sox 1: Aaron Judge and Kyle Higashioka homered and visiting New York beat Chicago.

Clarke Schmidt (8-6) pitched neatly into the sixth inning and combined with two relievers for 13 strikeouts.

Phillies 8-4, Nationals 4-5: Joey Meneses' second homer of the game was a solo shot off Philadelphia All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel (6-3) in the ninth inning that gave visiting Washington a doubleheader split.

Meneses also hit a two-run shot off reliever Jeff Hoffman in the seventh that tied the game at 4-all.

In the opener, Philadelphia's Kyle Schwarber homered twice off Washington's Trevor Williams (5-7) to reach 30 for the season and drove in five runs.

Tigers 6, Twins 0: Eduardo Rodriguez pitched seven solid innings and host Detroit stopped Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Rodriguez (8-5) allowed four hits — all singles — struck out five and walked three.

Royals 9, Red Sox 3: Drew Waters, MJ Melendez and Michael Massey each hit two-run home runs and visiting Kansas City beat Boston to snap a three-game skid.

Adam Duvall homered for Boston, which has lost five of six.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	70	43	.619	—
Tampa Bay	69	46	.600	2
Toronto	64	51	.557	7
New York	59	55	.518	11½
Boston	58	55	.513	12
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	60	55	.522	—
Cleveland	55	59	.482	4½
Detroit	50	63	.442	9
Chicago	46	69	.400	14
Kansas City	37	78	.322	23
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	68	46	.596	—
Houston	65	49	.570	3
Seattle	61	52	.540	6½
Los Angeles	57	58	.496	11½
Oakland	32	82	.281	36
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	71	40	.640	—
Philadelphia	62	52	.544	10½
Miami	59	56	.513	14
New York	51	62	.451	21
Washington	50	64	.439	22½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	61	54	.530	—
Chicago	59	55	.518	1½
Cincinnati	60	56	.517	1½
Pittsburgh	51	62	.451	9
St. Louis	49	65	.430	11½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	66	46	.589	—
San Francisco	62	52	.544	5
Arizona	57	57	.500	10
San Diego	55	59	.482	12
Colorado	45	68	.398	21½
Tuesday's games				
Tampa Bay 4, St. Louis 2 Detroit 6, Minnesota 0 Cleveland 1, Toronto 0 Houston 7, Baltimore 6 Kansas City 9, Boston 3 N.Y. Yankees 7, Chicago White Sox 1 Seattle 2, San Diego 0 Texas 6, Oakland 1 L.A. Angels 7, San Francisco 5 Philadelphia 8, Washington 4, 1st game Washington 5, Philadelphia 4, 2nd game Miami 3, Cincinnati 2 Chicago Cubs 3, N.Y. Mets 2 Atlanta 8, Pittsburgh 6 Colorado 7, Milwaukee 3, 10 innings L.A. Dodgers 5, Arizona 4				
Wednesday's games				
Texas at Oakland Minnesota at Detroit St. Louis at Tampa Bay Houston at Baltimore Kansas City at Boston Toronto at Cleveland N.Y. Yankees at Chicago White Sox San Francisco at L.A. Angels San Diego at Seattle Miami at Cincinnati Colorado at Milwaukee Washington at Philadelphia Atlanta at Pittsburgh Chicago Cubs at N.Y. Mets L.A. Dodgers at Arizona				
Thursday's games				
Houston (Brown 8-7) at Baltimore (Kremer 10-4) Minnesota (Maeda 3-6) at Detroit (Olson 1-5) Toronto (Manoah 3-8) at Cleveland (Syndergaard 1-5) St. Louis (Liberatore 1-4) at Tampa Bay (Littell 2-2) Kansas City (Marsh 0-5) at Boston (Paxton 6-3) Atlanta (Elder 8-3) at Pittsburgh (Falter 0-7) Washington (Corbin 7-11) at Philadelphia (Nola 9-8) Colorado (Blach 1-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 10-4)				
Friday's games				
Cleveland at Tampa Bay N.Y. Yankees at Miami Minnesota at Philadelphia Oakland at Washington Chicago Cubs at Toronto Detroit at Boston L.A. Angels at Houston Milwaukee at Chicago White Sox St. Louis at Kansas City Baltimore at Seattle Texas at San Francisco Cincinnati at Pittsburgh Atlanta at N.Y. Mets San Diego at Arizona Colorado at L.A. Dodgers				

WOMEN’S WORLD CUP/WOMEN’S BRITISH OPEN

Bonuses change lives for smaller teams

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press
MELBOURNE, Australia — Players who reached the knockout round at the Women’s World Cup got larger individual bonuses that can be life-changing for many of them.

FIFA designated \$30,000 for the 732 players among 32 teams in the tournament field. The payout rises to \$60,000 for players on the 16 teams that advanced out of group play.

The money grows to \$90,000 for players in the quarterfinals and its a significant payday for many of the players, particularly those that have had financial disputes with their federations over pay and support.

Hildah Magaia, appropriately nicknamed the “Breadwinner” of South Africa’s squad, helped the Banyana Banyana advance out of group play, into the knockout stage, and doubled her bonus.

She appropriately plans to use the money to care for her mother. “I’ll be able to do everything for my mother because I’m the one who’s taking care of her,” she said. “I’m the breadwinner, so I’ll be doing everything for my mom.”

Deneisha Blackwood, part of the Jamaica squad eliminated by Colombia in the knockouts, described the minimum payouts as a good start for her team. Jamaica has had financial difficulties and relied on crowdfunding to raise money for its travel to the tournament.

“Obviously we as players have a life outside of football and I think prize money like that rewards us in ways we can’t imagine. A lot of us have bills to pay and family to take care of,” Blackwood said, “and I think for the younger generation, especially, football doesn’t make you a lot of money. So for (girls) to see us doing what we love and realize that you can make a living off it — it’s motivational.”

No one can ensure all the players will receive their guaranteed bonuses.

The global players union, FIFPRO, last year sent a letter to FIFA on behalf of players from 25 national teams asking for better conditions within the tournament. FIFA announced the individual bonuses of the \$110 million prize pool in June.

But FIFA President Gianni Infantino said before the start of the World Cup that the federations would be responsible for distributing the payments. He was unable to make any guarantee that funds would reach the players.

FIFPRO said it was working to establish bank accounts for the players as well as an auditing process. But there have already been snags.

FIFPRO announced late Tuesday that it was assisting Nigeria’s players in a dispute with their federation concerning bonus payments, camp allowances and expenses, some dating back to 2021. Nigeria narrowly missed the quarterfinals after a penalty shootout loss to England.

“The team is extremely frustrated that they’ve had to pursue the Nigeria Football Federation for these payments before and during the tournament,” FIFPRO



VICTORIA ADKINS/AP

Jamaica's Deneisha Blackwood, left, and Tiernny Wiltshire celebrate after a draw against Brazil meant they would advance to the knockout round of the Women's World Cup, which doubled their bonus.

said. “It is regrettable that players needed to challenge their own federation at such an important time in their careers.”

In the run-up to the World Cup, South Africa players boycotted a warm-up match against Botswana because the individual payments weren’t included in their contracts. The dispute ended when billionaire Patrice Motsepe, the

president of the African Football Confederation, agreed to contribute \$320,000 to be equally distributed among the players.

Some of the Jamaican players took to social media before the World Cup to complain about a lack of support and funding for the team. That spurred two crowdfunding campaigns to raise money for the Reggae Girlz.



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

South Africa's Hildah Magaia eyes the ball during the Women's World Cup Group G match against Argentina. She plans to use her added bonus money from advancing to take care of her mother.

Scoreboard

Round of 16

Saturday, Aug. 5

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

Sunday, Aug. 6

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

Monday, Aug. 7

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

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Colombia 1, Jamaica 0
France 4, Morocco 0

Quarterfinals

Thursday, Aug. 10

Spain vs. Netherlands, **AFN-Sports, 2:45 a.m. Friday CET; 9:45 a.m. Friday JKT**

Friday, Aug. 11

Japan vs. Sweden, **AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m. Friday CET; 4:30 p.m. Friday JKT**

Saturday, Aug. 12

Australia vs. France, **AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. Saturday CET; 4 p.m. Saturday JKT**
England vs. Colombia, **AFN-Sports, Noon Saturday CET; 7 p.m. Saturday JKT**

The Jamaican Football Federation released a statement saying reports about the team’s financial struggles had taken away from the team’s accomplishments. The Reggae Girlz reached the Round of 16 but fell 1-0 to Colombia on Tuesday night.

“We of course welcome anyone who wants to contribute to the development of our national football teams, which have done well and made Jamaica proud,” the Jamaican federation said in a statement.

Nigeria forward Uchenna Kanu said the money was not the team’s main motivation — playing well was. Nigeria reached the Round of 16, but fell to England on penalties after a scoreless draw on Monday.

“But of course, if we get paid that much money, of course it’ll have a huge impact on our lives,” Kanu said. “We have families, we have things to take care of with money. That’s important for us as well.”

The total prize pool at this Women’s World Cup is more than three times the \$30 million prize fund that was paid out at the 2019 Women’s World Cup in France.

Boutier, Zhang stand out as contenders in golf major

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press
Stretching back to 2019, there have been 21 different winners in the last 22 major championships in women’s golf.

The field, then, is wide open for the final major of 2023 — even if two players stand out.

Celine Boutier and Rose Zhang are dominating the conversation heading into the Women’s British Open starting Thursday at Walton Heath, a course southwest of London that hosted the Ryder Cup in 1981 and where thick heather is the biggest hazard.

Boutier because of the golf she is producing at the moment.

Zhang because of what’s likely ahead for a 20-year-old star widely regarded as the next big thing in women’s golf.

No one is playing better than Boutier, a Frenchwoman who has won her last two events — starting with a first major of her career at the Evian Championship on home soil last month.

That she followed it up by winning the Women’s Scottish Open by three strokes on Sunday spoke plenty about her belief and state of mind. Boutier is up to No. 3 in the world, is a three-time winner on the LPGA Tour this year and is only the third player since 2010 — after Inbee Park and Ariya Jutanugarn — to capture a major then win the

next event on the LPGA Tour.

“It’s definitely a little bit tiring because it’s now been three weeks on the road,” Boutier said. “It’s not easy to stay focused and motivated. But at the same time, it’s also the last major of the year. So I’m just trying to focus on that and trying to finish strong.”

Then there’s Zhang, a two-time NCAA champion who became the first player in 72 years to win an LPGA event on her pro debut and has top-10 finishes in her three major appearances since turning pro this year.

She was the low amateur at last year’s British Open with a tie for 28th at Muirfield, a links course unlike Walton Heath.

It would hardly be a surprise if Zhang joins the ranks of recent first-time major winners in the women’s game.

“There’s a lot of mental toughness that you have to go through,” Zhang, who is already ranked No. 32, said of the expectations on her, “and just learning how to be aware of that allows you to play well.”

“I know that my game is there. I know that I have the mental grit to be able to compete well on these difficult golf courses.”

Nelly Korda arrives as the world No. 1 and also trending in the right direction after being tied for ninth at the Evian, which followed her winning the Aramco Team Series on the Ladies European Tour.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

SEC: Several programs promote former backups

FROM PAGE 24
there playing against you.”

Kentucky brought in Devin Leary from North Carolina State to replace Levis and Florida scooped up ex-Wisconsin starter Graham Mertz as Richardson’s likely successor. Mississippi’s returning starter, Jaxson Dart, faces renewed competition from veteran Big 12 passer Spencer Sanders.

Tennessee went a more traditional route with strong-armed Joe Milton poised for a promotion from backup. And AJ Swann returns at Vanderbilt.

The big competitions entering preseason camps:

Georgia: Coach Kirby Smart has made it clear that Carson Beck is the quarterback to beat. Beck has attempted 58 passes over the past three seasons. Third-year player Brock Vandagriff was a five-star recruit.

Alabama: One-time Notre Dame starter Tyler Buchner rejoined his old offensive coordinator, newly hired Tommy Rees, to challenge 2022 backup Jalen Milroe and former five-star recruit Ty Simpson. Buchner announced his decision after spring practice, when neither Crimson Tide quarterback was able to separate themselves.

Ole Miss: This is one of the more intriguing QB scenarios in the league. Even with Dart, himself a USC transfer, coach Lane Kiffin brought in Sanders, who was a four-year starter at Oklahoma State and a 2021 first-team All-Big 12 performer. Plus, he landed LSU transfer Walker Howard. It makes for an enviable quarterback room, whoever wins the job for Kiffin.

Florida: Mertz was a three-year starter at Wisconsin. Jack Miller passed for 180 yards and was sacked four times in a 30-3 bowl loss to Oregon State.

“This guy has an incredible motor and work ethic,” Gators coach

Billy Napier said of Mertz. “He is in the building and he is fanatical about his preparation. That’s helped the competition. I think that’s caused Jack to respond. Jack has had an incredible off-season and he’s in position for a great camp.”

Missouri: Brady Cook has started the last 14 games for the Tigers, going back to the 2022 Armed Forces Bowl. But, said coach Eliah Drinkwitz, “he’s going to have his hands full holding onto that position with Sam Horn and Jake Garcia.”

Garcia played in eight games at Miami last season, and like Horn is a former four-star recruit.

Texas A&M: Conner Weigman started four late-season games, passing for eight touchdowns without an interception. But former LSU starter Max Johnson is back after his season was cut short by a broken hand.

Auburn: Robby Ashford was a dual-threat player last season for Auburn, but only threw seven touchdown passes. Enter Michigan State graduate transfer Payton Thorne, a 29-game starter and two-time team captain for the Spartans.

Milton, a sixth-year player who spent his first three seasons at Michigan, said there is an adjustment to joining the SEC.

“Guys, they may be 200-plus, but they’re running. Those guys are running,” the 6-foot-5, 235-pounder said. “For example, my first let’s say big SEC game, I won’t mention who it was, but I was running, and I saw the goal line. I was so happy. I’m thinking that I’m going to score, right?”

“I just feel a big old hand come across my visor. I just went with it. At the same time I was thinking, This game is real. Those guys in the SEC can run and they’re fast.”

AP sports writer Teresa M. Walker contributed to this report in Nashville, Tenn.



JACOB KUPFERMAN/AP

Quarterback Devin Leary transferred from North Carolina State to Kentucky, which lost second-round NFL Draft pick Will Levis.



GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/AP

Stanford running back Mitch Leigber, middle, tries to pick up yards against Cal on Nov. 19. Cal and Stanford are two four schools remaining in the quickly disintegrating Pac-12.

ACC leaders mull Pac-12 teams; SMU also in mix

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Atlantic Coast Conference presidents and chancellors held a conference call Tuesday but took no action on West Coast expansion with California and Stanford, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the league isn’t publicly revealing internal discussions regarding realignment. Another person with knowledge of the situation said the conference’s athletic directors were planning to have a call later Tuesday to continue discussions. The ADs also met Monday.

A third person told AP on the condition of anonymity that the ACC’s conversations also include the possibility of adding SMU, the Dallas school currently in the American Athletic Conference.

The Pac-12 is down to four schools committed to the conference beyond the upcoming school year. This will be the last season in the Pac-12 for USC, UCLA, Oregon and Washington, which are all headed for the Big Ten in 2024. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah will join the Big 12 next year.

The new Big Ten setup means athletes will be routinely crossing multiple time zones to compete.

“I share concerns about the impact that the recent spate of conference realignment activities will have on student-athletes’ well-being,” NCAA president Charlie Baker said in statement. “The recent conference moves highlight what I found during my review of the issues facing the NCAA — the growing gap between well-resourced Division I schools and the rest of the division is highly disruptive for all of DI and college sports overall.”

Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey said on the SEC Network’s “Paul Finebaum

Show” that his league is not motivated to react to the recent moves.

“I would submit we’re in an enormously healthy place. We’re not in the current movement efforts,” said Sankey, whose conference tipped the first domino in this round of realignment in 2021 when Texas and Oklahoma decided to leave the Big 12 for the SEC.

“We don’t need to be in four time zones to generate interest on the West Coast, or really across the globe,” Sankey said.

Sankey also said if the Pac-12 were to fold, decreasing the number of Bowl Subdivision conferences from 10 to nine, that would likely re-open discussions about the format for the expanded 12-team playoff that goes into effect in 2024.

The format agreed upon calls for the six highest-ranked conference champions to receive automatic entrance and six at-large teams based on selection committee rankings.

“I do think the access we’ve created to the 12-team format still seems wise, but maybe there are elements and specifics of what was decided when we had clarity around 10 conferences that needs to be adjusted given what’s happening right now,” Sankey said.

The ACC, which has 14 schools — but none farther west than Louisville — had interest in the Pac-12 before the conference splintered last week. Stanford and Cal, two of the country’s most prestigious academic schools, would fit the profile of traditional ACC schools such as Duke, North Carolina and Virginia.

A deal with the ACC would leave just Washington State and Oregon State as Pac-12 members beyond the 2023-24 school year, and increase the likelihood that the Pac-12 simply goes out of business.

Both the Mountain West and American Athletic have interest in adding those schools.

AP sports writer Aaron Beard contributed to this report.

NFL

Cards trying to unlock Simmons' potential

By DAVID BRANDT

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Isaiah Simmons has a combination of size, speed and strength rarely seen among NFL players.

In a strange way, that might be a big reason the Arizona Cardinals have had a tough time figuring out how to use him.

Simmons — the No. 8 overall pick in the 2020 draft — is still waiting for his breakout season despite being labeled a can't-miss prospect during his time as a do-everything defender at Clemson. New Cardinals coach Jonathan Gannon has moved Simmons to safety from linebacker this season, hoping to unlock his potential.

"He shows some range, some hitting ability, a little coverage ability, a little downhill striking ability," Gannon said. "Long way to go, but I like where he's at."

It would be unfair to label Simmons as a bust following his first three seasons. He's had several good moments and more than 200 tackles over the past two years. But his ability to make big plays has been tempered by his tendency to



Ross D. FRANKLIN/AP

The Cardinals' Isaiah Simmons is still waiting for his breakout season after being the No. 8 overall pick in 2020. Arizona is shifting him to safety from linebacker hoping to get more from his defensive talent.

also make big mistakes, and his playing time was sometimes inconsistent as a result.

The previous coaching staff — led by Kliff Kingsbury and defensive coordinator Vance Joseph — tried Simmons in several spots during his first three seasons, but

usually as some variation of a linebacker. The 25-year-old said he was never completely comfortable in those roles.

"There were times I was playing a position because we were down with injuries," Simmons said. "It's just certain circumstances that

played into me playing some positions, as opposed to doing what was best for me."

Once Gannon was hired, Simmons told the new coach he might be more comfortable as a safety, which is where he started his college career at Clemson. At 6-foot-4 and 238 pounds, Simmons is taller and heavier than the vast majority of NFL safeties, but he also runs a 4.39 40-yard dash and has shown solid hands during his pro career, picking off four passes.

"He's been reliable back there, which is the first trait of a safety to me," Gannon said. "Being in the right spot, where you're supposed to be, all the time."

Gannon came to the desert after two seasons as the Philadelphia Eagles defensive coordinator and hasn't been shy about moving players to different positions. Zaven Collins, the No. 16 overall pick in 2021, will be more of an edge rusher this season after spending his first two seasons as an interior linebacker.

The upcoming season is a big one for Simmons, who is in the final year of his rookie contract after the

Cardinals declined to pick up his fifth-year option. The extension would have been worth roughly \$12.7 million.

Both sides have said there haven't been hard feelings despite that decision.

"It doesn't change how he goes about what he's doing," Gannon said in May. "He knows he has to play well for us and for him. That's like everybody. I really like where his mindset is at and excited to get to work with him."

Simmons will get the chance to solidify his role during the team's first preseason game against the Denver Broncos on Friday night. If he can make a smooth transition to the defensive backfield, the safety spot has a chance to be one of Arizona's strengths with Simmons, two-time All-Pro Budda Baker and veteran Jalen Thompson.

"I'm just excited to get back under the lights, have our fans back out there," Simmons said. "Every time I step out there it's like a dream come true all over again. I don't take any game — preseason, regular season, postseason — for granted."

Vikings rookie WR Addison turning heads after rocky start

By DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — Jordan Addison disturbed the Minnesota Vikings a few days before training camp with dangerous late-night behavior that tainted the start of his NFL career.

Once he finally got on the practice field, Addison has settled into the offense much more smoothly. The 21-year-old has been one of the early standouts of these preseason sessions that frequently make rookies feel and look as if they're swimming upstream in a torrent of complex information.

"He's got a lot of ability," quarterback Kirk Cousins said. "We've thrown him in basically, with all the complex run game schemes, motions, and formations and the route tree we're asking him to learn, and I think he's handled it really well. He's shown his athleticism. He's a natural catcher of the football, tracks the ball well, so I'm excited about just continuing to do more with him and get him involved. Hopefully that can take pressure off of our other guys and just make teams have to defend even more grass."

Addison's performance has easily been one of the most promising developments of training camp for the Vikings, whose decision to release Adam Thielen for salary cap relief will test their depth behind superstar Justin Jefferson.

Jalen Nailor, the 2022 sixth-round draft pick, was recently halted by a leg injury. Trishton Jackson, an early practice standout, joined him on the sideline with a minor knee injury. The Vikings on Sunday signed free agent N'Keal Harry, who was the 32nd pick in the 2019 draft by New England and played last season for Chicago. Harry became the fourth first-rounder in the position group, joining Addison, Jefferson and Jalen Reagor.

Assuming Addison, the 23rd overall pick in the draft this spring out of USC, makes an immediate impact, K.J. Osborn continues to improve his game and tight end T.J. Hockenson again shines as a trusted receiver, Jefferson ought to be able to produce another All-Pro season and Cousins should be in great shape with more comfort in his second year in head coach Kevin O'Connell's scheme.

Without a significant contribution from Addison, though, there will be that much more pressure on the system and Cousins and everybody else in it to make the offense click.

"I just start by knowing the plays, because if he sees that I'm on top of everything and I know where to be, then he's going to trust me to be down the field at the exact moment," Addison said.

Addison might not be coming into the league out of USC with the

same cachet that Jefferson carried in 2020 from his national champion LSU team, but the Vikings have big plans for him and haven't been afraid to push him on it.

"I want to see greatness at the catch point," Cousins said. "In this league you're going to make contested catches. Coverage is going to be tight. I'm going to have to throw it in tight windows, and you've got to show me with somebody draped over you or someone about to come hit you that you will have strong hands and make that catch. That's what Justin does well. That's what Adam does well. That's what K.J. does well, T.J. It's not for the faint of heart."

After Addison sat out of most of the spring practices with an injury, he was cited by a state trooper last month for driving 140 mph in a 55 mph zone that made the wrong kind of headlines for any player — let alone a rookie trying to make a strong first impression. He has pivoted as well as he could with multiple apologies and a strong showing on the field. O'Connell even praised Addison's ability and willingness to block.

"I feel like he's learning the playbook very well," Jefferson said. "Every time that he doesn't understand something, I'm trying to teach him how to understand it or asking him what he's got on this play so he knows when he comes out on the field."



BRUCE KLUCKHOHN/AP

Vikings rookie wide receiver Jordan Addison has been an early standout after making headlines for speeding right before camp.

SPORTS



Running out of time

Elliott needs to win one of next three races to earn spot in playoffs » **Auto racing, Page 19**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

SEC seeking successors



Teams banking on transfer QBs to replace stars

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

The Southeastern Conference must replace much of its star power at quarterback, including a pair of top-five draft picks and a two-time national champion.

That makes for some intriguing preseason camps around the league starting this week, especially with transfers who have already all but claimed the starting jobs or are trying to win them. Two-time national champion Georgia must replace Stetson Bennett. Perennial contender Alabama is seeking a successor to No. 1 pick Bryce Young, and Florida moves on without fourth overall selection Anthony Richardson.



Buchner

Plus, Kentucky is replacing second-round pick Will Levis and Tennessee is replacing Hendon Hooker, the SEC offensive player of the year who was a third-rounder. Bennett went in the fourth round.

The league has a handful of entrenched returning starters, led by LSU's Jayden Daniels, Arkansas' KJ Jefferson, Mississippi State's Will Rogers and South Carolina's Spencer Rattler. Others are right where Daniels was a year ago: Transfers trying to earn their stripes in a new program.

"I say just to be a successful SEC quarterback you have to go in there and just really prepare, prepare like a pro," said Daniels, a former Arizona State player who led LSU to a Western Division title. "If not, you know, you might get exposed in this league because there are some great players out

SEE SEC ON PAGE 22

INSIDE

Sources say ACC leaders considering making Cal, Stanford new members
Page 22

Florida quarterback Graham Mertz passes during the Orange and Blue spring game on April 13. Mertz transferred from Wisconsin.

JOHN RAOUX/AP

Tucker's ninth-inning grand slam lifts Astros

» MLB, Page 20

